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Land at Hallgarth
Airton
North Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation
Report No. Y642/23

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd on land at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire. Three trenches were excavated across the proposed site of a new housing development in order to evaluate potential surviving archaeological deposits and features. Two archaeological features, a pit and a ditch, were recorded. A sherd of pottery recovered from the ditch dates from the 11th to the 13th centuries, while a knife was recovered from the pit, although this was undated.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in March 2023 on land at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire. The work was commissioned by Peter Harrison Architects and was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CFA (2023, Appendix 4). The archaeological works were carried out in advance of the proposed construction of a single terrace of four dwellings and associated parking and infrastructure.

1.1 Site Location and Description

The Site is centred on NGR SD 90180 59335, located in the centre of the village of Airton in the River Aire Valley, approximately 14km north of the town of Skipton (Fig. 1). To the north, the Site is directly bounded by the residential property 'John Brown Cottage', with further residential dwellings standing to the west, across the Airton Mainstreet. The River Aire runs on a north-south orientation just under 200 metres to the east of the Site, with the intervening fields sloping gradually toward the river. The Site itself is located on pastureland (Fig. 4.1), which continues to the south and east. A small livestock handling pen, with an associated field gate provides access to the Mainstreet. The ground level drops significantly to the north where a stream runs along the Site's border, carrying water from the village to the river (Fig. 4.2).

The bedrock geology of the Site consists of Carboniferous Mudstone of the Hodder Mudstone Formation and Limestone of the Thornton Limestone Member. These were overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian Diamicton Till (BGS, 2023). It has slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (LandIS, 2023).

1.2 Historic Background

There are several designated heritage assets within 1km of the Site boundary, including Grade II and II* listed buildings. The following is a summary of the historic background of the area, as listed in WSI. Numbers in parentheses relate to HER monument numbers.

Prehistoric and Romano-British

No evidence for either prehistoric or Roman activity has been recorded within the Site boundary; however, some prehistoric and Roman finds have been recorded over 1km away from the site (MON ID 46481 and 46973).

Medieval

The earliest documentary reference to Airton appears in the Domesday Book, where the lands are listed as being tenanted by Roger of Poitou and are implicitly classed as waste until 1086 AD (Open Domesday, 2023). Place name evidence, however, does suggest some form of settlement, with the Old English suffix -ton literally meaning a 'farmstead' or 'village' located on the river Aire (Air-) (Ingham, 2008, p. 9). Little evidence of medieval occupation has been recovered within Airton, however, there is evidence for concentrated settlement and agricultural exploitation on the eastern side of the River Aire. The Grade II Listed Calton Hall (NHLE 1132385) situated to the east of the Site, was built over an earlier medieval structure. To the north-east, around 100 metres across the River Aire, a well-preserved series of medieval lynchets (MON ID 46477), forming agricultural terraces, were also identified.

The character of medieval occupation at Airton was likely also agricultural. Later medieval documentary evidence indicates that religious monastic houses, such as those based at Bolton and Fountains abbey, owned farmland in the village (BHO, 2023). It is possible that certain of the Grade II Listed buildings in Airton, such as Airton Manor House (NHLE 1132107) and Airton Cottage (NHLE 1167618), have medieval origins. Historic building surveys of Manor Hall, for instance, note several phases of extension and earlier alterations (Ingham, 2008, p.9).

A geophysical survey by the University of Bradford (2011) and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority records (ADS 2023a, 2023b) identified potential medieval features within the Site boundary and more widely within the field it is situated in. These comprise a field barn building to the east of the Site and a number of field boundaries. There is no confirmed date for this structure, it is possible that it is post-medieval.

Post-Medieval

Agricultural activity continued in the post-medieval period, as demonstrated by the presence of a Grade II listed barn (NHLE 1132110), dating to the eighteenth century. This barn is located to the west of Site, within Airton village. Another Grade II listed barn, this time located to the village's east (NHLE 1296791), stands around 200 metres to the south-west of the Site. The field barn identified in the University of Bradford (2011) geophysical survey is also possibly post-medieval in date. Industrialisation in Airton is apparent in the presence of the disused Airton Corn Mill (UID 593512), an eighteenth-century water-powered mill which stands less than 150 metres to the east of the Site. The Grade II* listed Riverside Cottage (NHLE 1132105), dating from a similar period, stands adjacent to the mill and is thought to have been the former residence of the mill manager. The course of the mill race (MON ID 593511), which once served the Airton mill, runs broadly north-south along the pastureland which lies outside the Site's eastern border.

Airton Village is particularly associated with the Quaker movement, evidence of which is to be found in the Grade II* listed Airton Quaker Meeting House (NHLE 1132105), which dates to the late seventeenth century (Barter, 2016, p. 3). The Meeting House stands around 150 metres south-east of the Site and is still used by the local Quaker community.

1.3 Archaeological Background

In 2001, Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) surveyed a series of earthworks during improvements made to the Airton Sewage Treatment Works (NAA, 2001). The earthworks, interpreted as possible field boundaries and enclosure ditches, were identified around 350 metres south of the Site, with further work being recommended. In 2008, Albion Archaeology undertook an evaluation of the land immediately north of the Airton Manor House (Ingham, 2008). The evaluation discovered the remains of an earlier cobbled surface at the southern portion of the site but recovered no significant finds.

In 2011, a geophysical survey of the Site was carried out by University of Bradford. The survey identified the presence of below ground enclosures, field boundaries, and a possible structure, which is consistent with depictions of a similar structure, thought to be a barn, which appear on historic maps. A historic building report on the Airton Quaker Meeting House was published in 2016, finding that the building retains several original fittings as well as a largely unaltered interior (Barter, 2016). The building was deemed locally significant, with no further work advised. In 2019, Archaeological Services WYAS conducted a geophysical survey of the field immediately south of the Site (WYAS, 2019). The survey found evidence of possible ridge and furrow earthworks, as well as two additional features which were interpreted as being in relationship with the possible field boundary and/or enclosure identified during the 2011 geophysical survey carried out by the University of Bradford.

1.4 Project Aims

In accordance with the WSI, the aims of the evaluation were:

- To undertake a trial trench evaluation in order to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits;
- To establish the potential impacts of the proposed housing development and to allow mitigation measures to be proposed, where appropriate;
- To disseminate the results of the archaeological evaluation to the wider public in a manner appropriate to their significance, to be agreed with the client.

Selected research objectives from the North West Historic Environment Research Framework (Research Frameworks, 2023) included:

- Late Medieval LM05: How can we recreate the medieval land-use patterns within townships?
- Post Medieval PM15: How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of buildings and building types?
- Industrial Ind04: How well do we understand the survival and significance of historic water management features for industrial purposes including power and textile processing?

2. WORKING METHODS

CFA Archaeology Ltd is a registered organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CFA Archaeology follows all relevant CIfA and Historic England Standards and Guidance (CIfA 2020 a-c and Historic England 2011, 2015a and 2015b).

A visual inspection of the Site was undertaken to identification of any surface features of potential archaeological interest, areas of potentially significant disturbance, and any hazards or constraints in undertaking further archaeological work on site. 3no. trial trenches, two measuring 10m x 1.60m and one measuring 7.50m x 1.60m, were excavated within the Site to assess the potential for surviving archaeological remains and depths of overburden. The trenches were positioned to avoid the livestock pen within the Site and to target the identified geophysical anomalies. Trench 1 and 2 were excavated in their planned positions; however, Trench 3 was shortened as a live electricity cable (which serves the Yorkshire Water Airton Waste Water Pumping Station) was located 1m from the southern end of the Trench. It was not possible to move the Trench further north as the ground level dropped steeply down to the stream at the northern site boundary (Fig. 4.2).

The trenches were machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket, operated under direct archaeological supervision. Topsoil was removed to the level of the natural substrate or the first significant archaeological horizon. Potential archaeological features were investigated by hand excavation of 1m long slots across their width. A full written, drawn, and photographic record was made of all features revealed during the course of the archaeological excavation conforming to CIfA standards (CIfA 2020a) and CFA's quality manuals. Section and plan drawings were completed at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20, respectively, and were tied in with the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The location of the trenches, section lines, and drawing points were surveyed using an industry standard Trimble GPS. The same equipment was used to establish levels above Ordnance Datum (AOD) for the trenches. The trenches were backfilled on completion of excavation, once sign-off was received from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Archaeologist.

Photographs were taken with a high-resolution digital SLR camera with sensors exceeding 12 Mega pixels and taken using the highest quality setting. The site photographic record was maintained throughout the course of the fieldwork and included shots to illustrate the detail and context of features, working shots, views of trenches and shots to illustrate constraints encountered during the trial trenching.

All photography followed the Historic England guidance for digital image capture (Historic England 2015). All images had accompanying metadata specifying; photo ID, capture device, converting software, colour space, bit depth, resolution, date of capture, photographer, caption, and any alterations made to the image.

All artefacts, including faunal remains, were retained for analysis. Collection and post-excavation work on artefacts followed current CIfA guidance (CIfA, 2020c).

2.1 Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, has been ordered and indexed, and conforms to all relevant professional guidance (CIfA 2020c). An inventory of the primary archive is presented below.

Phase	File/Box No.	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no. 1	Context register sheets	1
		Context sheets	7
		Trench record sheets	3
		Permatrace drawing sheets (A3)	1
		Digital photographic register sheets	1
		Finds register	1

Table 2.1: Inventory of Primary Archive

A summary of the results of archaeological works has been submitted for inclusion in OASIS (Appendix 5). The OASIS reference is cfaarcha1-514404.

3. RESULTS

Descriptions of the three trial trenches and their contexts appear in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

3.1 Blank trenches

Excavation of Trenches 2 (Fig. 4.4) and 3 (Fig. 4.5) did not identify any archaeological features. In these trenches, the turf and topsoil were seen to directly overlie the natural substrate.

In Trench 2, there were some unexpected differences in the composition of the natural. A sondage was excavated into the darker deposits noted in the centre of the trench to determine if they were natural. This was first excavated by hand, then completed via machine excavation as the mid-brown deposit was deep and very stoney. It was determined that this deposit was a geological occurrence which overlay the lighter natural deposit visible at both ends of the trench (Fig. 4.6).

3.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 (Fig. 4.3) contained two archaeological features: a ditch (003) and a pit (006). Ditch 003 (Figs. 3.1, 3.2, & 4.7) was orientated east to west and located approximately 4m from the southern end of the Trench. It had steeply sloping sides, a concave base, and contained two fill deposits (004 and 005). One sherd of 11th to 13th century pottery was recovered from the primary Deposit 004, and animal bone was recovered from Deposit 005.

Pit 006 (Figs. 3.3, 3.4, 4.8, & 4.9), located towards the northern end of the trench, was orientated north-east to south-west and contained one fill deposit (007). A single, undated, Fe object, likely a knife blade, and animal bone were recovered from Deposit 007.

4. SPECIALIST REPORTS

4.1 Pottery

Chris Cumberpatch BA PhD

Introduction

A single sherd of pottery, recovered from site at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire was examined by the author on 16th March 2023. The details are summarised in the catalogue below.

Catalogue

Context 004: A single small body sherd (3 grams) in a hard, dense buff fabric (Buff Gritty ware) containing common sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz grains up to 1mm in size but mainly between 0.5 and 1mm. The absence of rock fragments is notable as a number of wares within the Buff Gritty / Yorkshire Gritty ware tradition contain prominent red or black iron-rich grains.

The sherd is lightly sooted on the external surface. This is typical of the fabric type which was overwhelmingly used for jars and cooking pots. It shows little or no sign of abrasion.

Discussion

The Buff Gritty / Yorkshire Gritty ware tradition spans the period between the mid/late 11th and mid/late 13th centuries. An early phase involves hand-made pottery in a generally coarse fabric but this appears to have been superseded quite rapidly by high quality wheel-thrown production characterised by thin-walled vessels with elaborate rims, of which this sherd is a good example. The range of variation within the general fabric class seems to suggest dispersed or decentralised production although to date there has been no analytical work to support or refute this suggestion.

The sherd was recovered from the primary fill of a ditch (003), suggesting an earlier medieval date for the feature.

4.2 Animal Bone

Joshua Toulson BA MSc & Gina Daly MA MSc

Introduction

A small assemblage of animal bone (6 fragments) was recovered via hand collection during archaeological excavation near Airton, North Yorkshire by CFA Archaeology. This assessment includes quantification of the assemblage, identification at species level where possible, an assessment of significance, and recommendation(s) for any further work.

Methodology

The animal remains were identified to element, side, and to as low a taxonomic level as possible using the Author's own reference collection and published and online identification guides (Hillson 2003; 2005). Quantification used the diagnostic zone method as presented by Dobney and Rielly (1988). A taphonomic assessment of each fragment was undertaken, recording the presence and absence of cut and chop marks, burning and calcination, any evidence for animal activity (canid or rodent gnawing), and surface preservation (Behrensmeyer, 1978). Any other surface modifications of note were also recorded. At this stage, no attempt was made to sex any of the remains, or to measure any elements. Fragments of bones that could be identified to element but not any specific species were grouped as far as possible using size and class or order categories. Results were recorded in an electronic proforma and the catalogue can be found in Table 4.1, below.

Context	Element	Species	No.	Weight (g)	MNI	Surface Preservation (Behrensmeyer, 1978)	Surviving fragments (Dobney and Riley, 1988)	Age
005	Metacarpal	Bos	2	72	1	2	1,2,5,6	Adult
005	Rib	Bos	1	11	1	3	2	N/A
005	Mandible	Ovis/Capra	2	22	1	2		N/A
007	Rib	Ovis/Capra	1	2	1	3	2	N/A

Table 4.1: Animal Bone Summary

Results

In total, 6 fragments were recovered from two contexts in one trench. The assemblage was comprised of cow (*bos*, 50% of the assemblage by count) and sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*, 50% of the assemblage by count).

Overall, the surface preservation and fragment completion were classed as average.

No burning, calcination, gnawing, or signs of butchery were present on any of the bones.

One individual could be classed as adult, with the others unable to be aged. None of the individuals could be sexed.

Discussion and Conclusion

Both cow and sheep/goat are common taxa found in English archaeological contexts. Cattle and sheep were major domesticates in the Roman and medieval periods and would have been exploited for various resources: cattle for meat and traction and sheep for meat and wool. The presence of these species is indicative of agricultural activity in the area.

It is recommended that the remains are retained to be combined with any artefacts recovered from future work which may take place in the area. If no further work is required, the assemblage may be discarded.

4.3 Metal Artefacts

By Dr Elizabeth Foulds MCIfA

Introduction

A single knife was recovered during excavation at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire (NGR: SD 90180 59335) in advance of a proposed housing development. Three trenches were excavated in March 2023 by CFA Archaeology Ltd. Medieval and post-medieval evidence at the location of the site and around the village of Airton is known from previous physical and geophysical surveys, as well as previous evaluation excavations and standing buildings.

This report presents the identification of the iron object, a discussion of the context and an assessment of significance and recommendations for further work.

Methodology

The find was recorded 30 March 2023 in a Microsoft Access database. Where possible, all objects were identified by material and type using the FISH Thesaurus for materials, archaeological objects and periods. All objects and fragments were described, counted, weighed and recorded in a single data table. The iron object was not x-rayed in advance of the identification and recording and identification must be considered tentative until this can be completed (English Heritage 2006). Finds were identified using appropriate comparative excavation reports, finds syntheses and typologies (e.g., Manning 1985, Goodall 2011).

The specialist finds recording and reporting was completed in accordance with the national finds standards and guidance (English Heritage 2006, 2008; Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014, 2021, 2022). The report was prepared with support from a draft version of the evaluation report. The data spreadsheet document includes several tabs: 'AIRS_AllFinds' is the raw data that was created during the recording phase. A second tab includes metadata (AllFinds_Metadata) for all fields). Dates given in the report and data spreadsheet should be read as 'circa'.

Results

In total, the assemblage consists of a single partial iron knife (ID 1) that was recovered during excavation at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire (Appendix 3). As is typical for iron objects, it is covered in corrosion, although parts of the metal are exposed allowing for identification, although the corrosion does obscure some of the detail, especially around the shoulder. It measures approximately 116.6mm by 14.6mm by 6.5mm and weighs 21.3g. It is likely nearly complete except for the tip of the blade. The form is likely to be a whittle tanged knife with a straight back. The tang appears to be set below the line of the back and has mineralised wood in the corrosion product. It was recovered from fill (007) of Pit 006 along with animal bone. The only other find from the trench was a single fragment of pottery dated to between the 11th and 13th centuries AD, which was found in the primary fill (004) of Ditch 003.

Whittle tanged knives are a common type that are known from the Iron Age onwards to more recent periods. Based on what can be observed of the knife in its current state, it is not possible to determine the form or date as similarly shaped and sized knives are

known from Roman and medieval periods (e.g., Manning 1995; Goodall 2011). Further work is needed to determine the type of knife and date with more certainty.

Discussion and Statement of Significance

The iron knife from excavations at Airton is not closely datable until further work can be completed, including x-radiography of the object to aid in identification, which may also aid in establishing the date of the object. However, additional dating evidence may also be needed, such as radiocarbon dating of the animal bone from Pit 006, to understand the date of the object and the feature.

The iron knife has potential to be of archaeological significance and further work will aid in determining the extent of the significance. It may be of Roman or medieval date although an Iron Age date (or post-medieval date) cannot be completely ruled out at this stage.

Recommendations

This report and associated data should be integrated into any site-wide grey literature or publication reporting and retained within the site archive.

The knife would benefit from further identification work following x-ray and discussion within a local and regional context. If there is suitable material from the pit context, it should be sent for radiocarbon dating to establish the date of the feature.

5. DISCUSSION

The trenches were positioned to best capture the potential archaeological remains identified in the geophysical survey (University of Bradford, 2011).

The east to west anomaly, located in the centre of Trench 1, was confirmed as archaeological and was excavated and recorded as Ditch 003. This ditch was consistent with the interpretation of this anomaly as a land division (University of Bradford 2011). The ditch contained two fills (004 and 005) which where both formed through natural silting over time. It contained one sherd of medieval (11th to 13th century) pottery and animal bone from cow and sheep/goat. A single, oval pit (006) was identified at the northern end of Trench 1. Pit 006 was filled by one deposit (007) which contained animal bone (sheep/goat) and a metal object which has been identified as an incomplete whittle tanged knife. This remains undated with knives of this type recorded from the Roman through to medieval periods.

Historical mapping suggests that the Site was agricultural land from least 1814 and records from the Domesday Book (National Library of Scotland, 2023a and Open Domesday, 2023) show agricultural activity extended back to at least the Medieval period. The confirmation of the anomaly in Trench 1 as Ditch 003 provides more evidence for the agricultural use of the landscape in the Medieval period. In the geophysical survey, this anomaly extends east towards a denser concentration of anomalies which appear to be linear features, enclosures and a possible barn (University of Bradford, 2011) which appears on historic maps until the early 20th century (National Library of Scotland, 2023b and 2023c). The geophysical survey by Archaeological Services WYAS (2019) also shows the continuation of these features to the south of the

Site. It appears that the Site was situated in a corner of a series of field boundaries and enclosures which span the field, with a denser concentration of activity to the east. The medieval and post-medieval origins of Airton village also suggest that, much like today, this farmland was bounded by the village to the south and west.

Upon excavation, the north-west to south-east anomaly located in the west of Trench 2 was determined to be non-archaeological. The anomaly appears to have been caused by a natural depression in the geological substrate. Despite hand excavation, no features or finds were identified in this trench. A faint anomaly orientated north-east to south-west in the north of Trench 3 was also determined to be non-archaeological and associated with the drop off in ground level at the north of the site.

6. CONCLUSION

Archaeological trial trenching carried out by CFA on land at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire successfully evaluated the archaeological potential of the site. One ditch was identified in alignment with a geophysical anomaly and a discreet pit was identified in the same trench. Two geophysical anomalies were shown to be non-archaeological. A small number of finds taken from the site, along with historical OS mapping, characterise the features as medieval to post-medieval in origin. The findings suggest that the Site was part of an agricultural landscape which extended to the east and south.

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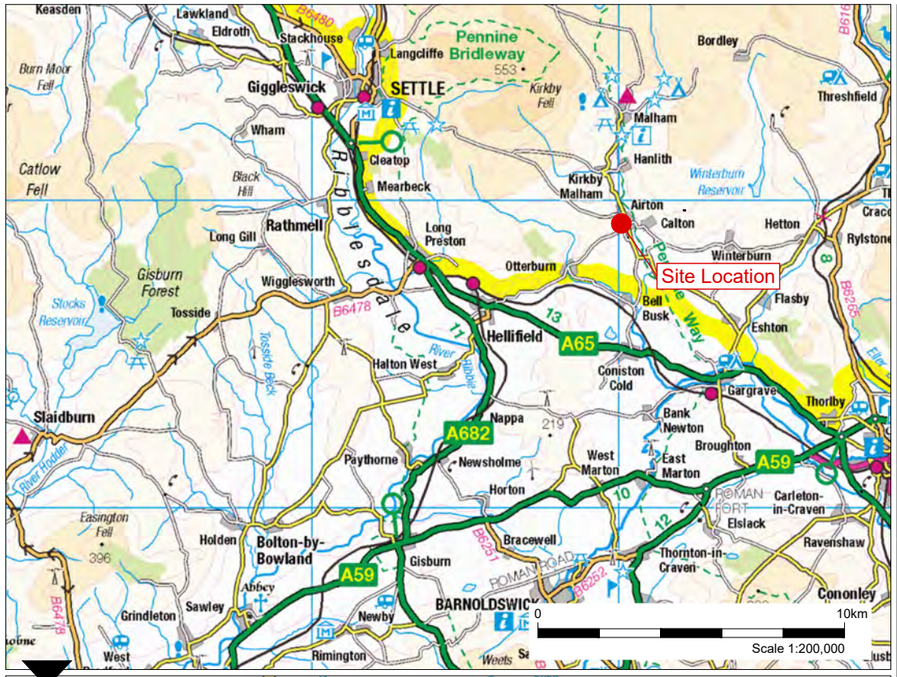
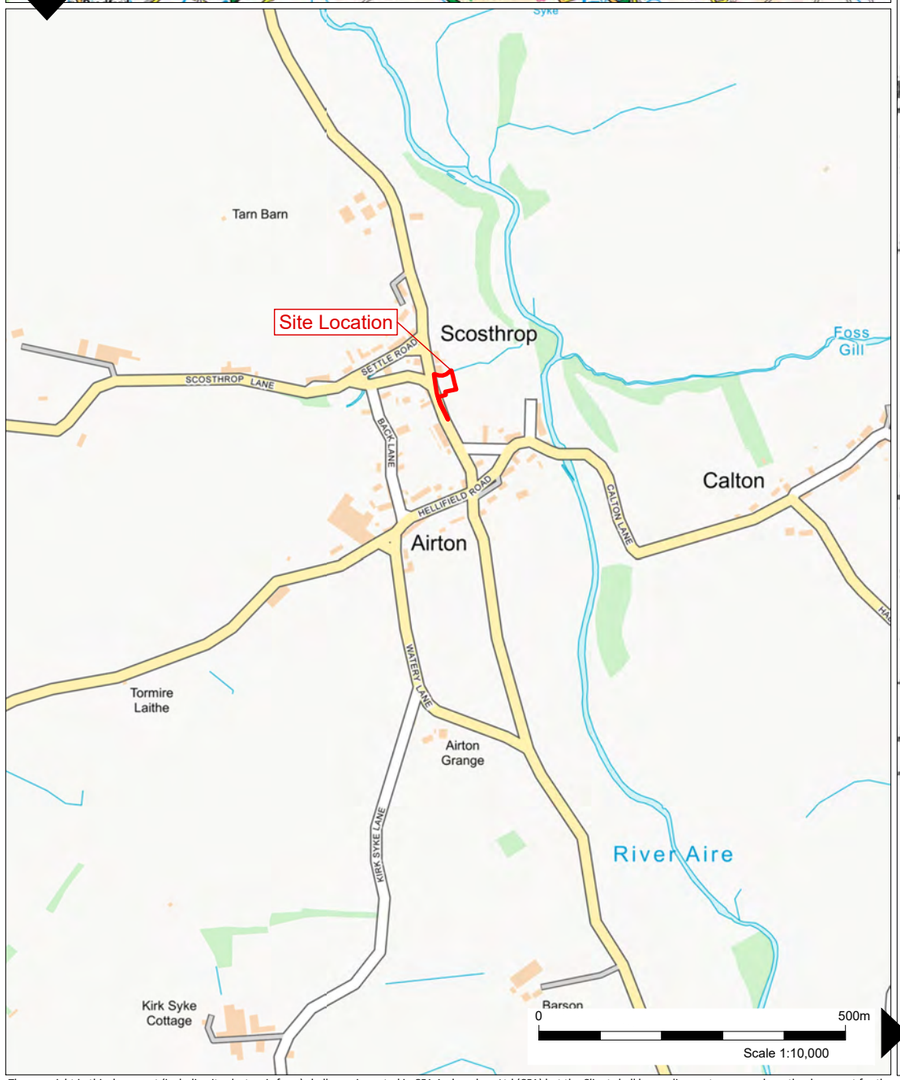
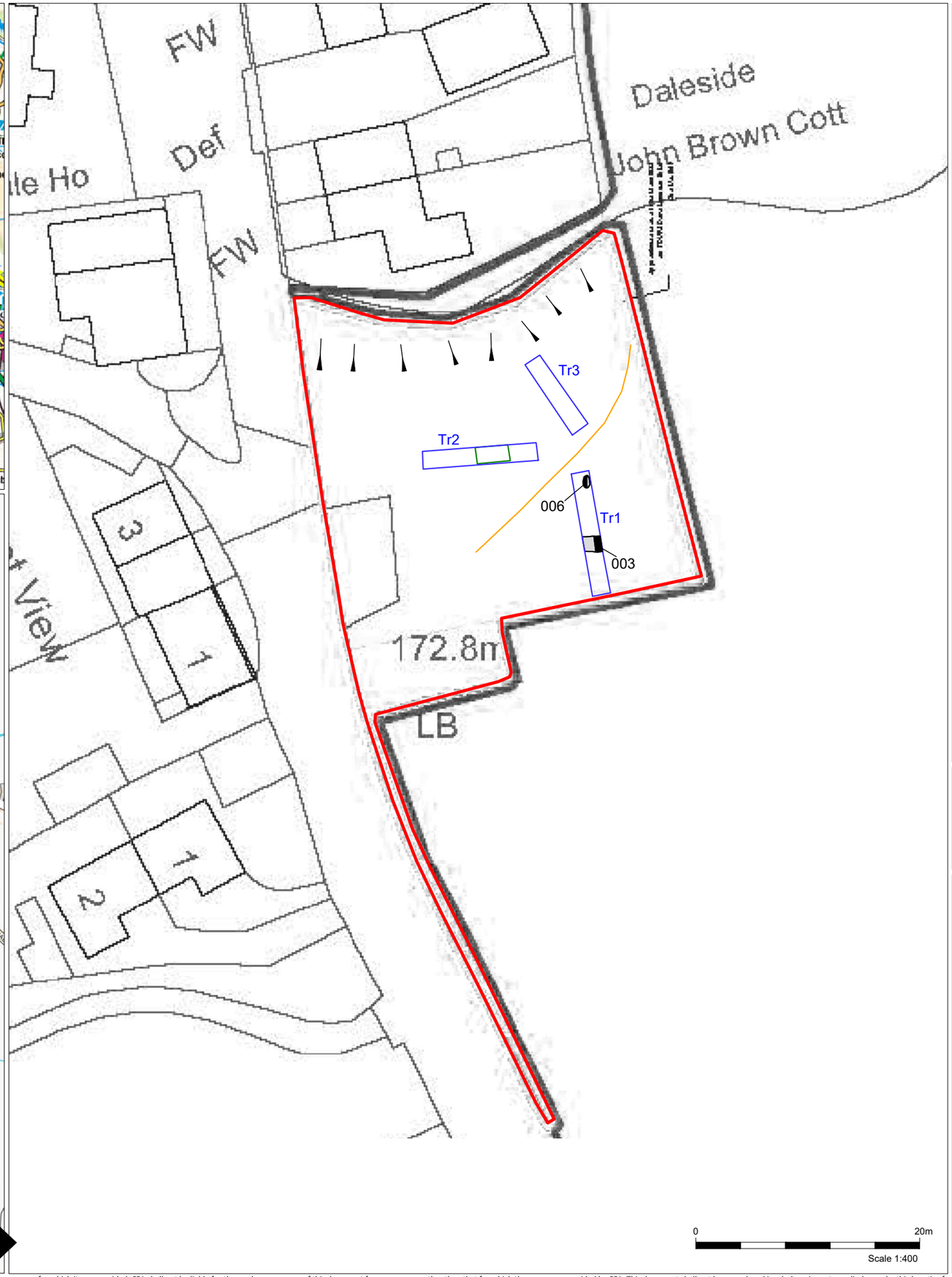
FIGURES 1-4







Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench
- Service
- Sondage
- Archaeological Feature
- Excavated Slot

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Title:
Site location and Trench Layout

Project:
Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire

Client:
Peter Harrison Architects

Scale at A3:
Varies

Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
SB	SW	24/03/2023

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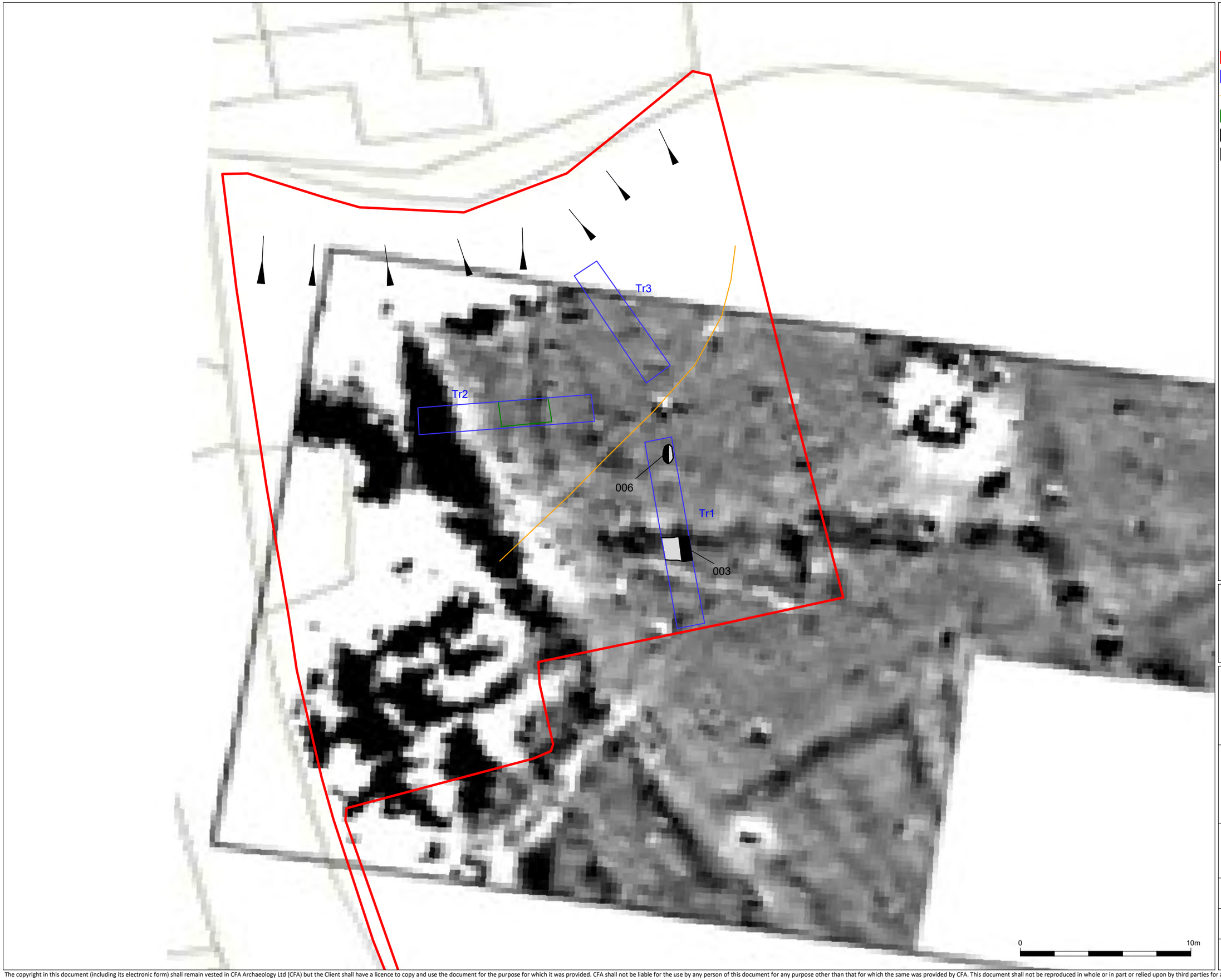

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- Site Boundary
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Title:
Geophysical Data and Trench Overlay

Project:
Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire

Client:
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1:200

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Report.No:	Fig. No:
Y642/23	2

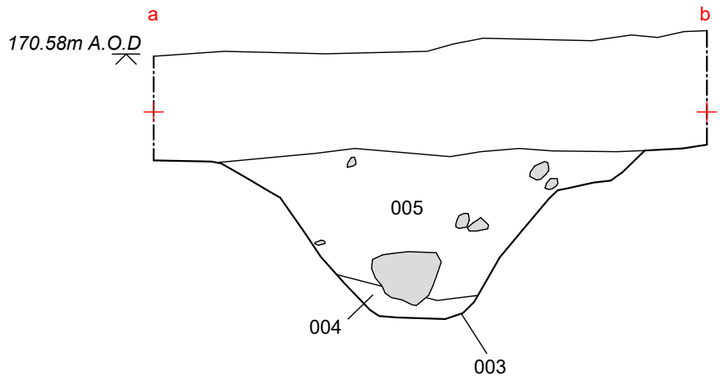

Fig.3.1: West facing section of Ditch 003

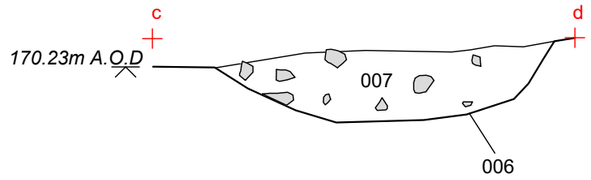

Fig.3.3: West facing section of Ditch 006

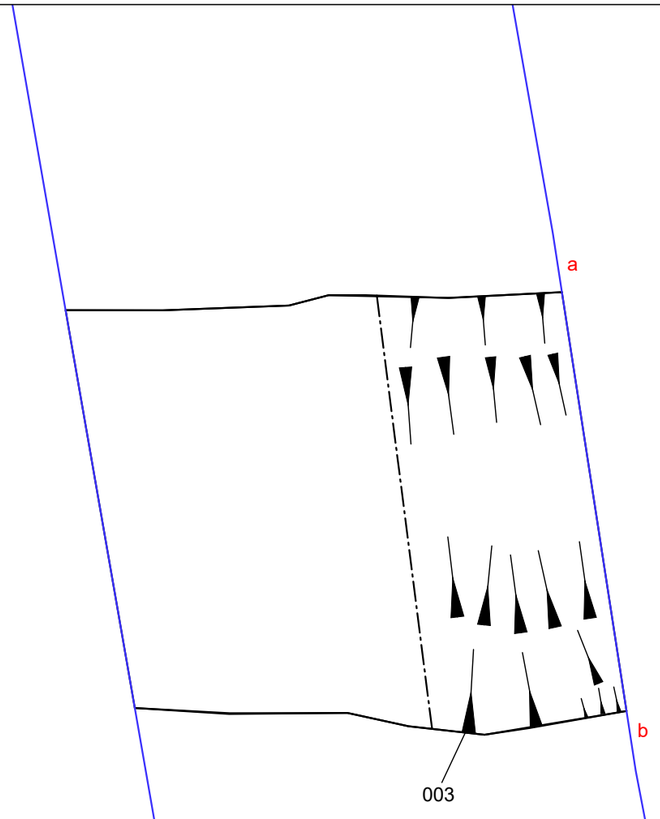

Fig.3.2: Plan of Ditch 003

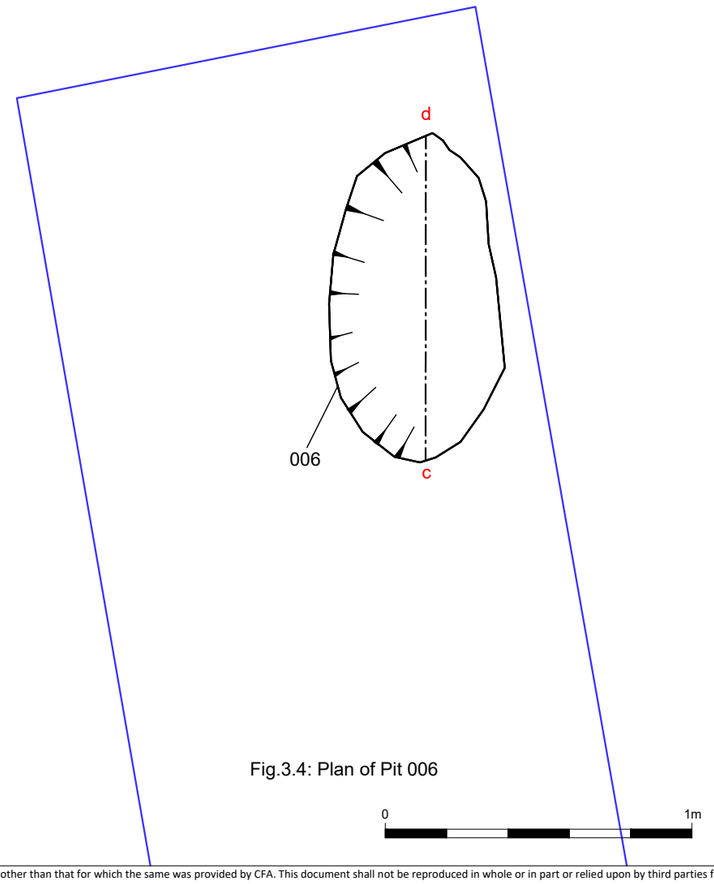

Fig.3.4: Plan of Pit 006

Key:

Stone

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Title:
Sections and Plans

Project:
Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire

Client:
Peter Harrison Architects

Scale at A3:
1:20

Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
SB	SW	24/03/2023

Report.No:	Fig. No:
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Fig. 4.1: View looking north-east across the Site

Fig. 4.2: Bank sloping down to a stream on the northern limitation of Site, facing west

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Fig. 4.3: Trench 1, facing north-east

Fig. 4.4: Trench 2, facing east

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Fig. 4.5: Trench 3, facing south

Fig. 4.6: South facing section of a sondage into natural deposits in Trench 2

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Fig. 4.7: West facing section of Ditch 003

Fig. 4.8: North-west facing section of Pit 006

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Y642/23		4.7 - 4.8

Fig. 4.7: Plan of Pit 006

Project:
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Report No:	Fig. No:
Y642/23	4.9

APPENDIX 1 – Context Summary

Context	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
001	Site wide	Site wide	0.35-0.52	Topsoil deposit comprising a soft dark brownish grey silty sand covered by grass and heavily rooted. Contained occasional fragments of 20th century ceramic (not retained).
002	Site wide	Site wide	N/A	Natural substrate comprising a mid-orangey brown clayey silty sand with common small to large stones with some areas of limestone rubble measuring 0.04-0.38m in a light brownish cream silty sand matrix.
003	0.60 (excavated)	1.38	0.52	Cut of a linear ditch with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Orientated east to west and located 4.00m from the southern end of Trench 1.
004	0.60 (excavated)	0.45	0.05-0.10	Primary fill of Ditch 003, comprising a moderately compact, mid-greyish brown, mottled orange, silty, clayey sand.
005	0.60 (excavated)	1.38	0.46	Secondary fill of Ditch 003, comprising a loose mid-greyish brown silty sand with common small to medium and rare large stone inclusions.
006	1.21	0.56	0.23	Cut of an oval pit with medium sloping sides and a flat, slightly concave base. The pit was orientated north-east to south-west and located in the northern end of Trench 1.
007	1.21	0.56	0.23	Single fill of Pit 006, comprising a loose mid-greyish brown silty sand with common sub-angular stone inclusions. A heated, rounded stone measuring 0.23m x 0.13m was found at the base (not retained).

APPENDIX 2 – Trench Summary

No.	Description
1	Trench 1 measured 10m x 1.60m and was orientated north-east to south-west (Fig. 4.3). It was situated on a hillside sloping in a northerly direction and the ground cover was grass turf pasture. The topsoil was a dark brownish grey silty sand which measured 0.35m in depth. There was no subsoil present. The natural substrate was a light brownish grey silty sand in the north-east and a mid-orangey brown clayey silty sand in the south-west. The service plan showed a water pipe running across the south of Trench 1; however, this was not visible. Pit 006 and Ditch 003 were excavated and recorded in the trench.
2	Trench 2 measured 10m x 1.60m and was orientated east to west (Fig. 4.4). It was situated on a hillside sloping in a northerly direction and the ground cover was grass turf pasture. The topsoil was a dark brownish grey silty sand which measured 0.39-0.52m in depth. There was no subsoil present. The natural substrate was a light creamy grey deposit with 0.005m grit to 0.20m sub-angular limestone rubble. In the centre of the trench the natural was a mid-orangey brown clayey silty sand with common small to large stones. The west end of the trench featured a broad depression (which continued beyond the trench) and the topsoil increased in depth at this point. The change in ground level does not appear to be archaeological. No archaeological remains were identified in this trench. A sondage was machine excavated in the centre of the trench to determine the origin of the darker deposit. It was determined that the deposit was natural.
3	Trench 3 measured 7.50m x 1.60m and was orientated north to south (Fig. 4.5). It was situated on a hillside sloping in a northerly direction and the ground cover was grass turf pasture. The trench was cut short due to a live electric cable located to the south and a steep drop in ground level to the north. The topsoil was a dark brownish grey silty sand which measured 0.40-0.47m in depth. There was no subsoil present. The natural substrate was a mid-orangey brown clayey silty sand with common small to large stones with some areas of limestone rubble measuring 0.04-0.38m in a light brownish cream silty sand matrix. No archaeological remains were identified in this trench.

APPENDIX 3 – Metal Artefact Summary

ID	Con-text	Un-strati-fied	Ma-terial	Object type	Condition	Description	Nail_clenched	Length	Width	Thick-ness	Weight	Count	MNI	Period
1	7	FALSE	Iron	KNIFE	Fair	Incomplete whittle tanged knife, straight back, missing the tip of the blade. Mineral-ised wood on the tang, possible from the handle. Area of corrosion where the tang joins at the shoulder, but tang appears to be set be-low the line of the back.	FALSE	116.6	14.6	6.5	21.3	1	1	Uncer-tain

APPENDIX 4 – Written Scheme of Investigation

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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Land at Hallgarth
Airton
North Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Author:
Jack Litchfield PhD

February 2023 **CFA Archaeology Ltd**

Land at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire: Archaeological Evaluation

Written Scheme of Investigation

1. Introduction

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by CFA Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Peter Harrison Architects. It outlines the details of an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken at Hallgarth, Airton, in North Yorkshire (NGR SD 90180 59335). The land is currently used as pastureland.

An outline planning application has been submitted to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (ref. forthcoming). The proposed development comprises a single terrace of four dwellings and six associated off-street parking spaces, located to the west of the houses.

2. Site Background

The proposed development (the Site) is located centrally within the village of Airton, which lies in the upper reaches of the River Aire Valley, around 14km northwest of Skipton market town. To the north, the Site is directly bounded by the residential property 'John Brown Cottage', with further residential dwellings standing to the west, across the Airton Mainstreet. The River Aire runs on a north-south orientation just under 200 metres to the east of the Site, with the intervening fields sloping gradually toward the river. The Site itself is located on pastureland, which continues to the south (Fig. 1). A small livestock handling pen, with an associated field gate, is extant on the Site location, providing access to the Mainstreet. A drainage ditch runs along the Site's northern border, carrying water from the village to the river.

The geology of the Site consists of limestone, with superficial deposits of Devensian Diamicton sediment (BGS, 2023). It has slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (LandIS, 2023).

2.1 Historic Background

There are several designated heritage assets within 1km of the Site boundary, including Grade II and II* listed buildings. The following is a brief summary of the historic background of the area surrounding the site. Numbers in parentheses relate to HER monument numbers.

Prehistoric and Romano-British

No evidence for either prehistoric or Roman activity has been recorded within the Site boundary; however, a carved sandstone head (**MON ID 46481**), dating from the late prehistoric into Romano-British periods, was recorded around 1km southwest, in Airton village. Two bronze spear heads (**MON ID 46973**), dating to the bronze age, were recovered further north along the River Aire.

Medieval

The earliest documentary reference to Airton appears in the Domesday record, where the lands are listed as being tenanted by Roger of Poitou and are implicitly classed as waste until 1086 AD (OD, 2023). Place name evidence, however, does suggest some form of settlement, with the Old English suffix *-ton* literally meaning a 'farmstead' or 'village' located on the river Aire (*Air-*) (Ingham, 2008, p. 9). Little evidence of medieval occupation has been recovered within Airton, however, possibly suggesting that concentrated settlement and agricultural exploitation initially took place on the eastern side of the River Aire, around the neighbouring village of Calton.

The Grade II Listed Calton Hall (**NHLE 1132385**), for instance, situated to the east of the Site, was built over an earlier medieval structure, the materials from which were partially retained during construction. To the northeast, around 100 metres across the River Aire, a well-preserved series of medieval lynchets (**MON ID 46477**), forming agricultural terraces, were also identified.

The character of medieval occupation at Airton was likely also agricultural. Later medieval documentary evidence indicates that religious monastic houses, such as those based at Bolton and Fountains abbey, owned farmland in the village (BHO, 2023). It is possible that certain of the Grade II Listed buildings in Airton, such as Airton Manor House (**NHLE 1132107**) and Airton Cottage (**NHLE 1167618**), have medieval origins. Historic building surveys of Manor Hall, for instance, note several phases of extension and earlier alterations (Ingham, 2008, p.9).

Post-Medieval

Agricultural activity continued in the centuries following the Middle Ages, as demonstrated by the presence of a Grade II listed barn (**NHLE 1132110**), dating to the eighteenth century. This barn is located to the west of Site, within Airton village. Another Grade II listed barn, this time located to the village's east (**NHLE 1296791**), stands around 200 metres to the south-west of the Site. The remains of a third barn are possibly present within the Site boundary. A geophysical survey carried out in 2011 identified the presence of possible land enclosures and a structure which corresponds to depictions of a barn on historic mapping (University of Bradford, 2011).

Industrialisation in Airton is apparent in the presence of the disused Airton Corn Mill (**UID 593512**), an eighteenth-century water-powered mill which stands less than 150 metres to the east of the Site. The Grade II* listed Riverside Cottage (**NHLE 1132105**), dating from a similar period, stands adjacent to the mill and is thought to have been the former residence of the mill manager. The course of the mill race (**MON ID 593511**), which once served the Airton mill, runs broadly north-south along the pastureland which lies outside the Site's eastern border.

Airton Village is particularly associated with the Quaker movement, evidence of which is to be found in the Grade II* listed Airton Quaker Meeting House (**NHLE 1132105**), which dates to the late seventeenth century (Barter, 2016, p. 3). The Meeting House stands around 150 metres south-east of the Site and is still used by the local Quaker community.

2.2 Archaeological Background

In 2001, Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) surveyed a series of earthworks during improvements made to the Airton Sewage Treatment Works (NAA, 2001). The earthworks, interpreted as possible field boundaries and enclosure ditches, were identified around 350 metres south of the Site, with further work being recommended.

In 2008, Albion Archaeology undertook an evaluation of the land immediately north of the Airton Manor House (Ingham, 2008). The evaluation discovered the remains of an earlier cobbled surface at the southern portion of the site but recovered no significant finds.

In 2011, a geophysical survey of the Site was carried out by Bradford University (University of Bradford, 2011). The survey identified the presence of below ground enclosures, field boundaries, and a possible structure, which is consistent with depictions of a similar structure, thought to be a barn, which appear on historic maps.

A historic building report on the Airton Quaker Meeting House was published in 2016, finding that the building retains several original fittings as well as a largely unaltered interior (Barter, 2016). The building was deemed locally significant, with no further work advised.

In 2019, Archaeological Services WYAS conducted a geophysical survey of the field immediately south of the Site (WYAS, 2019). The survey found evidence of possible ridge and furrow earthworks, as well as two additional features which were interpreted as being in relationship with the possible field boundary and/or enclosure identified during the 2011 geophysical survey carried out by Bradford University.

3. Project Objectives

The aims of the evaluation are:

- To undertake a trial trench evaluation in order to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits;
- To establish the potential impacts of the proposed housing development and to allow mitigation measures to be proposed, where appropriate;
- To disseminate the results of the archaeological evaluation to the wider public in a manner appropriate to their significance, to be agreed with the client.

Selected research objectives from the *North West Historic Environment Research Framework* (Research Frameworks, 2023) include:

- Late Medieval LM05: How can we recreate the medieval land-use patterns within townships?
- Post Medieval PM15: How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of buildings and building types?
- Industrial Ind04: How well do we understand the survival and significance of historic water management features for industrial purposes including power and textile processing?

4. Archaeological Methods

CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Work will be conducted with regard to the Institute's Standards documents (CifA, 2020a-c), relevant Historic England guidance documents (Historic England, 2011, 2015a and 2015b), and this WSI. Recording of all elements will be done following established CFA procedures.

A visual inspection of the Site will be undertaken, including identification of any surface features of potential archaeological interest, areas of potentially significant disturbance, and any hazards or constraints in undertaking further archaeological work on site.

3no. 10m x 1.8m trenches representing 56m^2 of the proposed development area have been located across the Site to assess the potential for surviving archaeological remains and depths of overburden. The locations of these trenches are depicted on Fig. 1. The trenches have been positioned to avoid the livestock pen within the Site and to target the identified geophysical anomalies.

The trenches will be machine excavated using a toothless ditching bucket, operated under direct archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil will be removed to the level of the natural substrate or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever is reached first. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation will be carried out by hand, unless otherwise agreed with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

Samples of all features of archaeological interest will be excavated in order to establish their likely date, nature, extent, and condition. A minimum 20% sample will be taken of any linear features, such as ditches or trackways, and a 50% sample of discrete features, such as pits and postholes. All ditch, gully, and other feature termini will be investigated. All such sample excavation will be conducted by hand. The samples will be limited to remove only such deposits as necessary to achieve the evaluation objectives.

All excavation and on-site recording will be carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography, and completing standard CFA record forms. The stratification will be recorded even if no deposits of archaeological significance are discovered. The trenches will be backfilled on completion of excavation, once sign-off has been received from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Archaeologist. The location of the trenches will be recorded using industry standard surveying equipment and tied to the National Grid. Vertical survey control will be tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum.

Sections will be recorded by means of a measured drawing at an appropriate scale, typically at 1:10. The height of a datum on the drawing will be calculated and recorded. The locations of sections will be recorded on the site plans, relative to the site grid.

Cut features will be recorded in profile, planned at an appropriate scale, normally 1:20, and their location accurately identified on the appropriate trench plan.

Photographs will include an appropriate scale, an arrow to indicate the direction or north, and a photo information board. All photographs will be recorded on a photographic register detailing subject, location, and direction of shot. Photographs taken will adhere to Historic England's guidance '*Digital Image Capture and File Storage*' (Historic England, 2015). Photographs should be taken with a high-resolution digital SLR camera with sensors exceeding 12 Mega pixels and taken using the highest quality setting.

Any human remains encountered will be reported to the appropriate authorities and left *in situ*. The discovery of any human remains will be reported to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Advisory team. If removal is deemed necessary, a Ministry of Justice Burial License will be obtained, and excavation will comply with the relevant regulations and government guidance.

All artefacts, including faunal remains, will be retained for analysis. Post-excavation storage requirements will be assessed. Modern finds (*c*. 20th century onward) will be recorded but not retained. Collection and post-excavation work on artefacts will follow current CIfA guidance (CIfA, 2020c).

CFA's Palaeoenvironmental specialist will: assess the environmental potential of the site; advise on whether the deposits have potential for conducting palaeobotanical or other soil analysis; and assess the potential for the preservation of faunal remains. Sampling will be carried out in accordance with current guidelines (Historic England, 2011).

5. Analysis and Reporting

All finds, if appropriate, will be retained, washed, and assessed in accordance to accepted professional standards.

For all categories of material recovered, including finds, paleoenvironmental, industrial, and other specialist samples, an assessment by an appropriately experienced specialist will be undertaken. Samples will be processed and sorted, and any artefacts recovered provided to the appropriate specialist(s) to be considered alongside the hand-recovered material. Basic stratigraphic information will be supplied to the project specialists.

All finds are to be treated in accordance with current best practice guidance (Campbell et al. 2011). Finds will be cleaned and marked according to accepted principles and in line with appropriate period/material guidelines.

The report will contain:

- A concise non-technical summary of the project results;
- The site location given as an 8-figure grid reference;
- A front cover/frontispiece which includes the planning application number and the national grid reference of the site;
- The dates on which the work was undertaken;
- A description of the site location and geology;
- A description of the historic and archaeological background of the site;

- An explanation of any agreed variations from the WSI, including justification for any work not undertaken;
- A description of the methodology employed, work undertaken, and the results obtained.
- Contexts and feature descriptions;
- Maps and other illustrations at an appropriate scale including all trench plans and trench sections and detailed plans of all excavated features;
- A specialist assessment report for all finds materials including palaeoenvironmental and other samples;
- A description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and outline of the results obtained;
- A selection of photographs of work in progress;
- Recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work;
- A discussion of how the work contributed to the aims and objectives set out in the project design;
- A bibliography;
- A context index;
- An archive index;
- An OASIS summary sheet

For ceramic assemblages, recording shall be carried out in a manner compatible with existing typological series in local pottery reference collections. The guidelines for handling Post-Roman Ceramics produced by the Medieval Pottery Research Group will be followed for relevant material (MPRG, 2001).

Where material suitable for scientific dating is recovered, sufficient dating will be undertaken to meet the aims of the evaluation.

A draft copy of the report will be issued to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning Authority for comment before being finalised. One digital copy (PDF-A format) and one unbound hard copy of the final report will be deposited with the Craven Museum & Gallery within a suitable timescale following the completion of fieldwork. This will ensure that the report is made available as a public document as part of the Historic Environment Record.

If significant remains are encountered, then arrangements will be made for the publication of results within an appropriate journal.

An archive will be prepared in accordance with the current guidelines (CIfA 2020c), with reference made to Craven Museum & Gallery Deposition Strategy (2020). Arrangements will be made for deposition of the archive with an appropriate repository, expected to be Craven Museum & Gallery, Skipton.

CFA are ISO 9001 accredited, with all our internal archiving and digital record systems being fully compliant with CIfA Standards and Guidance, particularly the guidance on Planning and Data Management Plans for Archaeological Projects (2022). The digital archive will be subject to a selection process, depending on the results of the works, and the resulting digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service

(ADS). All digital deposition will be undertaken in line with guidance from ADS (2023) and CIfA (2022).

Consent for full transfer of title of finds to the recipient museum will be agreed in principle with the landowner at the outset. Confirmation of transfer of title from the landowner, and confirmation of assignment of copyright, along with a full archive inventory, will be submitted with a project completion form to the recipient museum. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Historic Environment Record (HER) officer will be provided with a copy of the completion form, including the assigned accession number.

The recipient archive will be licensed to use the deposited material in perpetuity, without restrictions; this licence will allow the archive to reproduce material, including for use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

The requirements of the repository will be adhered to, and the Yorkshire Dales HER will be notified in advance. Contact will be made with the archiving museum prior to the start of any fieldwork to confirm their acceptance of the archive and to receive an accession number. The nominated museum will be notified at set stages of the project, including at project initiation (comprising a project initiation form), a mid-point review, and completion stages, to discuss archaeological archiving requirements.

An online OASIS form will be completed within three months of the completion of the work. An appropriately formatted copy of the report will also be uploaded to OASIS within three months of the completion of the work.

Effort will be made to disseminate the results of the archaeological evaluation to the general public. This may include, but is not limited to, online social media posts, blog posts, online video content, local or national journal articles, and public open days.

6. Resources and Programming

6.1 Key Personnel

Phil Mann (BA MCIfA) is a Project Manager for CFA Archaeology. Phil has project managed numerous archaeological projects of all periods throughout the country including those undertaken for large infrastructure projects.

A **Field Director** from CFA will be selected from CFA's pool of Field Officers, depending on availability, all of whom have appropriate experience. The CV for the selected Field Officer can be forwarded prior to the start of the project.

Dr Shelley Werner (BSc MPhil PhD) is CFA's Graphics Manager, responsible for the organisation and management of all GIS, CAD and Illustrative material. She is an experienced illustrator with specialist knowledge in GIS consultancy and standing building survey and has worked on a variety of projects in Scotland and England.

Post-excavation and environmental coordination will be managed by CFAs post excavation and archiving manager **Christina Hills**; CVs for CFA's 'in house' specialists or external consultants can be supplied on request.

6.2 Project Specialists

Archaeobotany	Mhairi Hastie BSc MSc ACIfA (CFA Archaeology)
Archaeozoology	Hannah Russ MA PhD FSA
Ceramic building material	Phil Mills BA MA PhD
Clay pipes	Peter Hammond
Conservation laboratory	Ian Panter (York Archaeological Trust)
Dendrochronology	Ian Tyers
Industrial residue	Gerry McDonnell PhD
Leather	Quita Mould
Mollusca and fish remains	Hannah Russ MA PhD FSA
Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery	Alex Gibson PhD
Osteoarchaeology	Malin Holst MSc
Palynology	Robert McCulloch BA PhD (University of Stirling)
Post-medieval small finds	Gail Drinkall
Post-Roman pottery	Paul Blinkhorn BA PhD
Roman and Pre-Roman Iron Age pottery	Jamie Walker (CFA Archaeology)/Phil Mills
Roman glass	Hilary Cool
Soil micromorphology	Clare Ellis BA PhD MCIfA
Worked bone	Gail Drinkall
Worked Flint and Stone	Ann Clark

The above list is not exhaustive, should unusual or locally specific archaeological materials be discovered; appropriate specialists will be sort on the advice of the regional Historic England scientific advisor.

6.3 Health and Safety

All CFA staff have been inducted into CFA's Health and Safety Policy. All work for the project will be subject to Risk Assessment procedures.

6.4 Monitoring

Close contact will be maintained with the client and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning Authority for the purposes of monitoring the project. Important or unexpected discoveries will be communicated to them, and a monitoring visit will be arranged if appropriate. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Planning Authority will be provided with a minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of on-site works. Contact numbers for the site will be forwarded in advance of the work starting.

7. References

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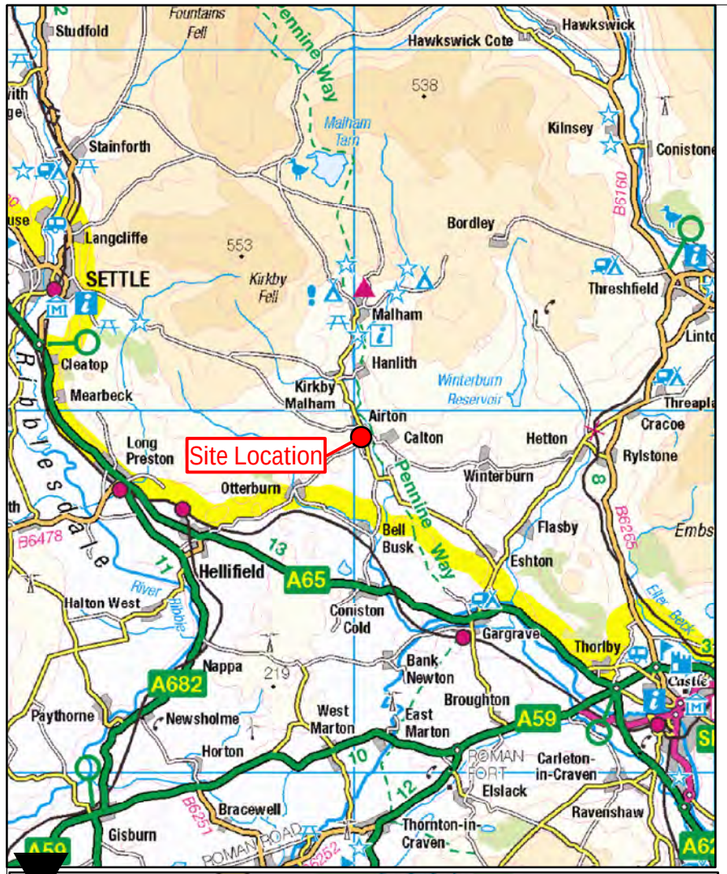
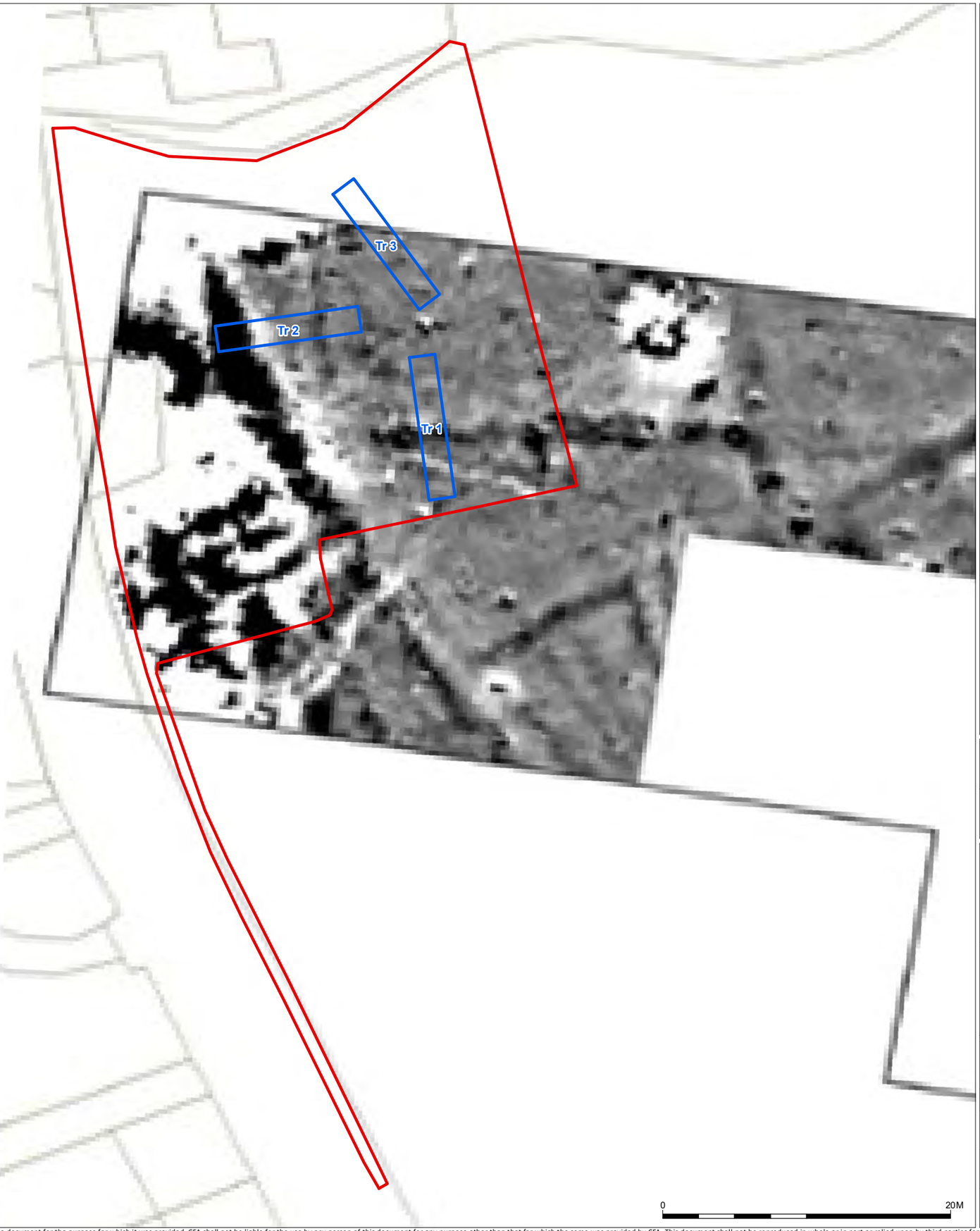
Figure 1





Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench

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Title:
Site Location and Trench Plan

Project:
Land at Hallgarth, Airton, West Yorkshire

Client:
Peter Harrison Architects

Scale at A3:
1:300

Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
SG	SW	31/01/2023

Report No:	Fig. No:
WSI	1

APPENDIX 4 – OASIS Summary

Summary for cfaarcha1-514404

OASIS ID (UID)	cfaarcha1-514404
Project Name	Evaluation, Trial Trench at Land at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire
Sitename	Land at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire
Activity type	Trial Trench, Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	AIRS
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	CFA Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	27-Feb-2023 - 28-Feb-2023
Location	Land at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire NGR : SD 90180 59335 LL : 54.0299095245165, -2.15140435002763 12 Fig : 390180,459335
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : North Yorkshire District : Craven Parish : Airton
Project Methodology	3 no.trial trenches, two measuring 10m x 1.60m and one measuring 7.50m x 1.60m, were excavated within the Site to assess the potential for surviving archaeological remains and depths of overburden. The trenches were positioned to avoid the livestock pen within the Site and to target the identified geophysical anomalies
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd on land at Hallgarth, Airton, North Yorkshire. Three trenches were excavated across the proposed site of a new housing development in order to evaluate potential surviving archaeological deposits and features. Two archaeological features, a pit and a ditch, were recorded. A sherd of pottery recovered from the ditch dates from the 11th to the 13th centuries, while a knife was recovered from the pit, although this was undated.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Yorkshire Dales National Park SMR - noRev - LITE
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Craven Museum & Gallery;

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