WYAS Archaeological Services

Upper Holme House
Fulstone
West Yorkshire

Trial Trench Evaluation Assessment Report

Report no. 4522
July 2026

Client: Tom Portman

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

West Yorkshire Joint Services

Upper Holme House Farm
Fulstone
West Yorkshire

Trial Trench Evaluation
Assessment Report

Summary

Archaeological Services WYAS were commissioned to undertake archaeological trial trenching at Upper Holme House Farm, Hirst Lane, Cumberworth, Huddersfield. Three trenches were excavated to assess the site's archaeological potential. All three trenches were devoid of archaeological remains. The results indicate negligible potential for archaeological remains to be found within the bounds of the proposed development.

WYAS
Archaeological Services

Report Information

Client:	Tom Portman
Report Type:	Assessment Report
Location:	Upper Holme House Farm, Hirst Lane, Cumberworth, Huddersfield, HD8 8GA
County:	West Yorkshire
Grid Reference:	SE 1768 0811
Period(s) of activity represented:	n/a
Report Number:	4522
Project Number:	XV28
Site Code:	UHF26
Planning Application No.:	2025/92605
WYAAS No.:	CWY572
Museum Accession No.:	tbc
OASIS No.:	archaeol11-544636
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Date of report:	July 2026
Project Management:	Matt Wells
Fieldwork supervisor:	Kezia Baxter-Smith
Report:	Kezia Baxter-Smith
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Photography:	Kezia Baxter-Smith

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Document Issue Record

Ver	Author(s)	Reviewer	Approver	Date
1.0	KBS	JR	MW	July 2026

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The results and subsequent interpretation of data from archaeological trial trenching should not be treated as an absolute representation of the underlying archaeological and non-archaeological remains. Confirmation of the presence or absence of archaeological remains beyond the excavated trenches can only be achieved by further investigation of sub-surface deposits.

1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Tom Portman to undertake the excavation of three trenches at Upper Holme House Farm, Hirst Lane, Cumberworth, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. The trenches were investigated on 24th June 2026. The work was undertaken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and a Specification, produced by The West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (Appendix 1).

Site location, topography and land-use

The site comprises approximately 90m² of arable pastures situated approximately 1.5km southeast of the village of New Mill and around 4km directly east of Holmfirth (SE 1768 0811; Fig. 1). The site is bounded to the south by Penistone Road A653, to the east by Gale Foot Lane and to the north by the Hirst Lane.

The ground within the site slopes down from south to north, with the trenches situated at a height of around 294m – 298m above Ordnance Datum.

Soils and geology

The bedrock geology across the site comprises the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Group, described as formation of mudstone and siltstone. No superficial deposits are present (BGS 2026). Soils on the site are recorded as freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Soilscapes 2026).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following background is based on information from the Specification (Appendix 1).

There is no recorded evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity within the site. The site is identified in the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) as a 'Medieval Settlement' (MWY1848).

Place-name evidence supports medieval origins for the Site, based upon the local topography. The name 'Holme' is derived from the Old Norse *holmr*, meaning a 'water-meadow' or 'island in a river/stream', suggesting the settlement was originally established on low-lying land near water (Smith 1961). Historical mapping and documentary sources trace the evolution of the name from 'Holme' in a deed of 1649, to 'Holme Ho' (Holme House) on Jefferys' map of 1771, and 'Bottom' on the 1843 Ordnance Survey, as indicated by its topographical position.

Documentary evidence from the Wakefield Court Rolls confirms that a settlement was well-established at this location by the early 14th century. Records from 1315 explicitly name several individuals associated with the site, providing evidence of both domestic and commercial activity. Both Richard del Holme and Margaret del Holme of Fulstone were fined for brewing offences (3 pence and 6 pence, respectively) in 1315. These fines were typically

levied for brewing ale contrary to the Assize of Ale (often for weak measures or selling before tasting), indicating that 'Holme'was a site of production and trade rather than just agricultural subsistence. The rolls record a financial transaction where William Sheperd advanced 4 shillings to Richard de Holme, receiving interest of 1 penny a week. Additionally, a legal agreement was recorded between Thomas del Holme and Isabel del Dam in the same year. The documentary evidence indicates that 'Holme' was a populated settlement node within Fulstone township by 1315. The presence of the 'del Holme' family name implies a hereditary association with this specific location. Consequently, there was a high potential for the site to contain archaeological remains associated with domestic occupation, craft and industry and possible water management.

3 Aims and Objectives

The overall aim of the trial trench evaluation is to provide information on the presence or absence and the extent, character, chronology, depth of burial and degree of archaeological survival across the site.

The objective of the work was to monitor the removal of top and subsoil horizons and assess the resultant areas for their archaeological potential. Any remains were then subject to archaeological excavation.

4 Methodology

The work involved the excavation of three trenches, one of which measured 25m by 2m and two measured 10m by 2m (Fig. 2). All work was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards and guidelines (Historic England 2008; CIfA 2023), in accordance with the ASWYAS site recording manual (ASWYAS 2020) and in compliance with the Specification (Appendix 1).

All trenches were set out and the limits resurveyed using a Trimble VRS differential GPS accurate to +/-0.01m. The trenches were opened in a controlled manner using a 360 excavator using a flat-bladed ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. All topsoil deposits were removed in level spits (not more than 0.20m) with the topsoil and subsoil being separated to allow for re-instating in reverse order. Machining stopped at the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. All excavations of archaeological deposits were undertaken manually with the stripped surface being cleaned and investigated for archaeological remains.

All archaeological features were accurately recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50. Feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. All plans and sections include spot heights that relate to Ordnance Datum in metres.

A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological work undertaken. An inventory of the primary archive is presented in Appendix 2 and a concordance of contexts is given in Appendix 3. A trench summary table is provided in Appendix 4 and an OASIS summary form is shown in Appendix 5. ASWYAS currently hold the site archive in a stable and secure location.

5 Results

Evaluation trenches were located based on the areas of proposed development. Trench 1 and Trench 2 were located on the site of proposed new buildings and Trench 3 in the area of the menage (Fig. 2). However, due to constraints within the site Trench 1 was excavated in two halves (an electric fence bisected the centre of the trench from north to south) and Trench 2 was positioned slightly westwards to avoid a wooden post and chicken coop. The trenches were designed to establish the presence and level of preservation of archaeological features prior to the planned construction works.

All trenches were sealed by topsoil (100, 200, 300), varying in depth from 0.10m to 0.30m. It comprised a loose very dark blackish-brown sandy clay with rooting and worm disturbance and no inclusions. Subsoil (101, 201, 301) was present across all trenches, varying in depth from 0.10m to 0.30m. It comprised a friable mid-orangey brown loose sandy clay. The underlying geological natural (102, 202, 302) was reached in all trenches and comprised a firm light-brownish yellow dry sandy clay with evenly distributed occasional small to medium angular platy stone.

All trenches (Plates 1 and 2) were devoid of archaeological features, deposits and finds. Only Trenches 2 and 3 are briefly considered further below.

Trench 2 (Plate 1)

Trench 2 contained a dark blackish-brown loose sandy clay levelling deposit (203), sealed by the topsoil and above the subsoil. Deposit 203 measured around 0.6m to 0.8m throughout Trench 2 (see Fig. 3) containing frequent large stones, ceramic building material (CBM) and barbed wire. Based on the inclusions in deposit 203, it has been interpreted as a modern levelling deposit.

Trench 3 (Plate 2)

One land drain was exposed in Trench 3. It comprised a modern plastic pipe, orientated northeast to southwest.

6 Artefact and Environmental Record

No artefacts were recovered during the trial trench evaluation and no deposits suitable for soil sampling was encountered. Ceramic Building Material and barbed wire were observed in a modern made ground deposit 203 but were not retained due to their recent date.

7 Recommendations for Final Reporting

The trial trenches have been fully reported and illustrated, no further work on the text or illustrations is recommended.

8 Discussion and Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation at Upper Holme House Farm was successful in monitoring the removal of topsoil and upper deposits to assess the resultant trenches for their archaeological potential. The works did not identify any archaeological remains or deposits. The absence of archaeological features could be due to the high level of ground disturbance caused by the construction of nearby buildings/services. Land drains observed on site were of 20th or 21st-century date. A landscaping deposit was identified in Trench 2 but due to the modern materials it contained, it is thought to be of recent date. The trial trenching programme, therefore, has indicated negligible potential for significant remains to be found on the site.

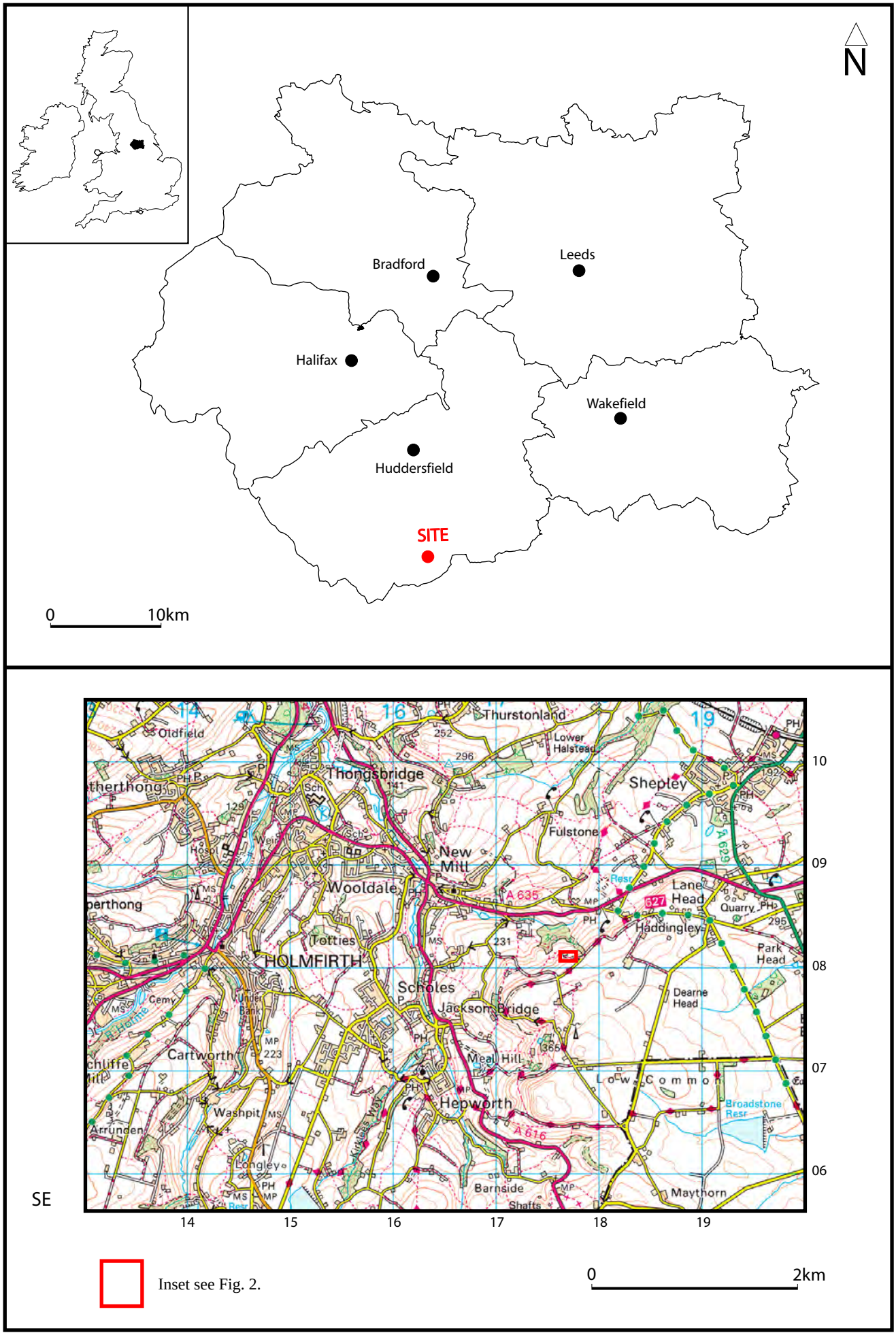

Fig. 1. Site location

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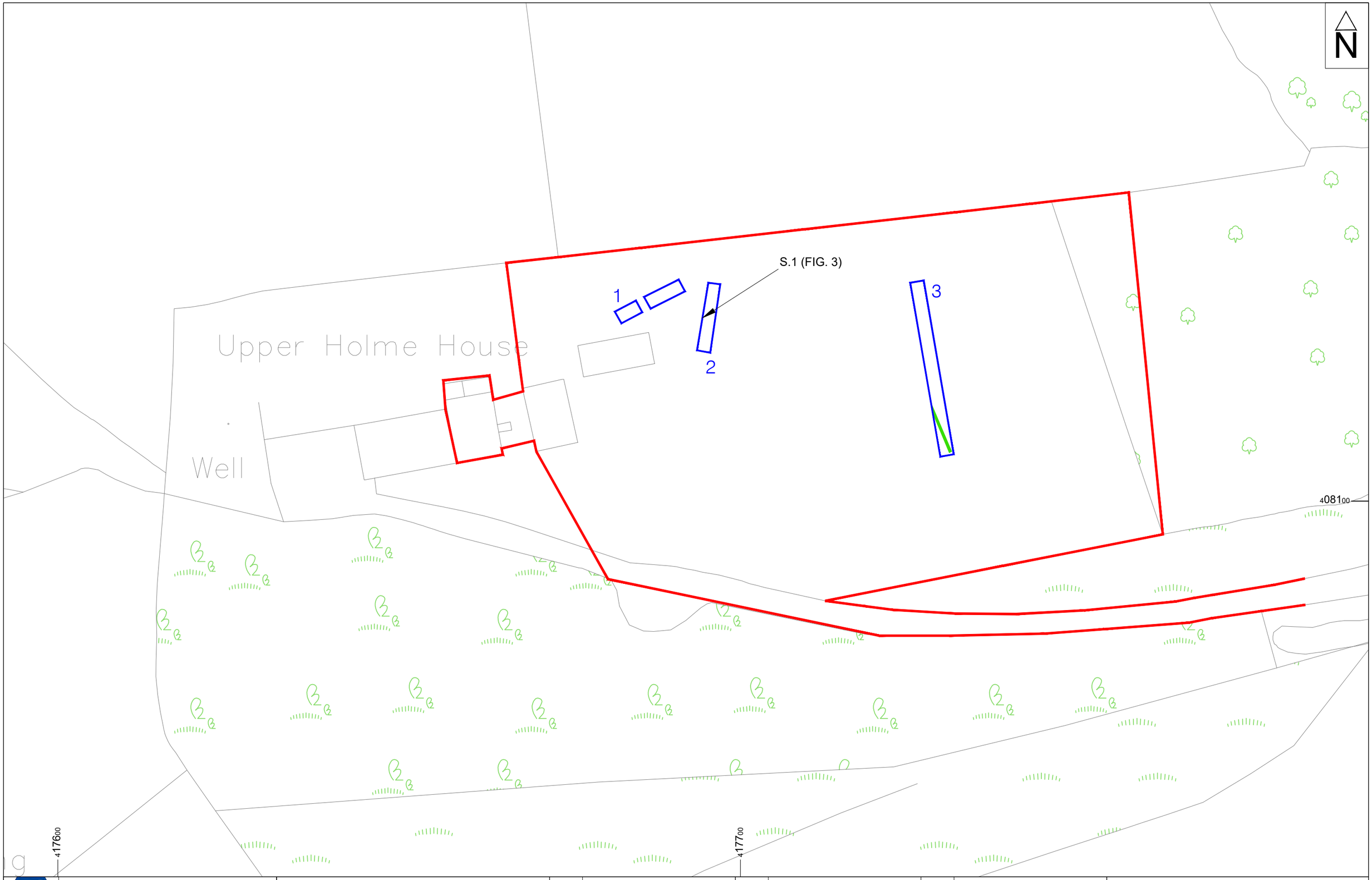

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Project No. XV28

Fig. 2.

Site plan

SITE BOUNDARY

TRIAL TRENCH

LAND DRAIN

0 25m

1:500 @ A3

S. 1

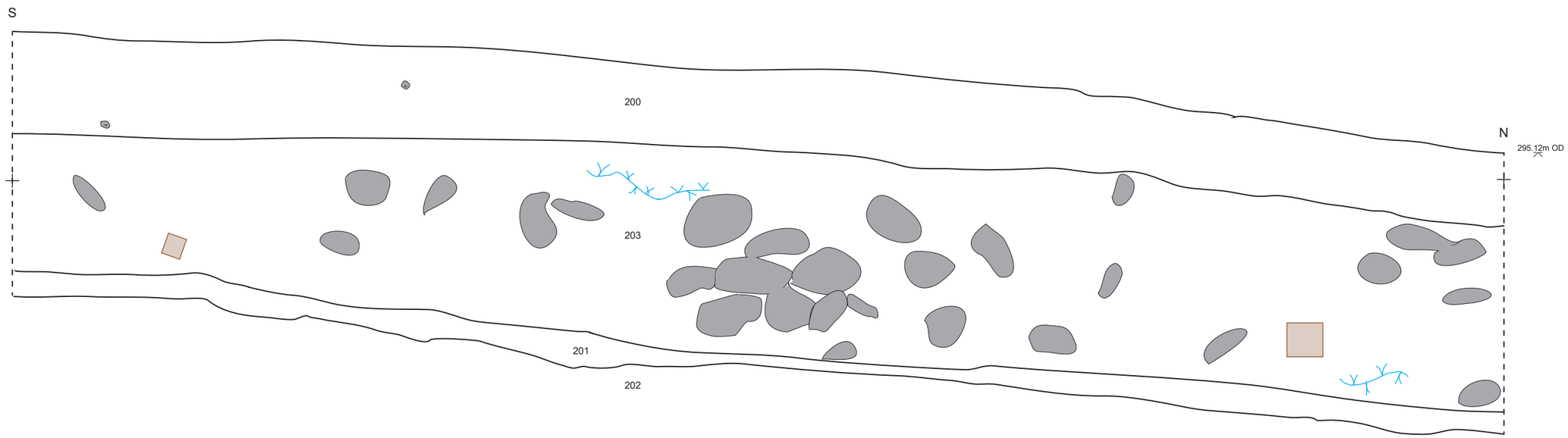

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Fig. 3

Trench 2, east facing section

Key

- CBM
- BARBED WIRE
- STONE

0 — 1m (1:20)

Plate 1. Trench 2, looking south

Plate 2. Trench 3, looking north

Appendix 1: Specification

WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY SERVICE: SPECIFICATION FOR A PRE-DETERMINATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING AT UPPER HOLME HOUSE, HIRST LANE, CUMBERWORTH, HUDDERSFIELD, WEST YORKSHIRE

Grid Reference	SE 1768 0811
Name	Upper Holme House
WYHER No.	CWY572
Township	Fulstone
Planning No.	2025/92605

Specification prepared at the request of ADP Architecture and Design (The Old Police Station, 16 Bridge Lane, Holmfirth, HD9 7AN) and on behalf of Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council to inform a planning application 2025/92605.

1. Summary

1.1 An archaeological evaluation consisting of archaeological trial trenching is required to test the Site of the application to ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological remains. Should any significant additional archaeological work be necessary based on the results of this evaluation, it will be covered by a further Specification.

1.2 The West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service, the holders of the WY Historic Environment Record, has prepared this Specification.

1.3 **Please note that a hard copy of the final report must be submitted to the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record to enable the results of fieldwork to be made publicly accessible as required by the National Planning Policy Framework. The WYAAS will not recommend that archaeological conditions are discharged until <u>all analysis, archiving and final reporting</u> arising from the work have been carried out and approved on behalf of the planning authority.**

NOTE: The requirements detailed in paragraphs 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 9.1 are to be met by the archaeological Contractor **prior** to the commencement of fieldwork. The Contractor should also complete and return the attached form to the WY Archaeology Advisory Service.

2. Site Location & Description

2.1 The Site is located approximately 1.5km southeast of the village of New Mill and around 4km directly east of Holmfirth town Centre. The proposed development area is located at Holme House (Upper Holme House) within the township of Fulstone (NGR SE 1768 0811).

2.2 The underlying bedrock is the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation of mudstone and siltstone. No superficial deposits are present[1]

3. Background

[1] https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/

3.1 The application Site lies in an area of known archaeological potential. However, a recent geophysical survey indicates limited potential for buried evidence of past activity. Archaeological evaluation is necessary to fully characterise the Site's potential and inform an appropriate archaeological response.

3.2 This Specification has been prepared to allow archaeological contractors to prepare costs for this work.

4. Archaeological Interest

4.1 The Site is identified in the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) as a Medieval Settlement (MWY1848)[2].

4.2 Place-name evidence suggests that the Site has medieval based upon the local topography. The name "Holme" is derived from the Old Norse *holmr*, meaning a "water-meadow" or "island in a river/stream," suggesting the settlement was originally established on low-lying land near water[3]. Historical mapping and documentary sources trace the evolution of the name from "Holme" in a deed of 1649, to "Holme Ho" (Holme House) on Jefferys' map of 1771, and "Bottom" on the 1843 Ordnance Survey, as indicated by its topographical position.

4.3 Documentary evidence from the Wakefield Court Rolls[4],[5] confirms that a settlement was well-established at this location by the early 14th century. Records from 1315 explicitly name several individuals associated with the Site, providing evidence of both domestic and commercial activity.

4.4 Both Richard del Holme and Margaret del Holme of Fulstone were fined for brewing offences (3 pence and 6 pence, respectively) in 1315. These fines were typically levied for brewing ale contrary to the *Assize of Ale* (often for weak measures or selling before tasting), indicating that "Holme" was a Site of production and trade rather than just agricultural subsistence.

4.5 The rolls record a financial transaction where William Sheperd advanced 4 shillings to Richard de Holme, receiving interest of 1 penny a week. Additionally, a legal agreement was recorded between Thomas del Holme and Isabel del Dam in the same year.

4.6 The documentary evidence indicates that "Holme" was a populated settlement node within Fulstone township by 1315. The presence of the "del Holme" family name implies a hereditary association with this specific location. Consequently, there is a high potential for the Site to contain archaeological remains associated with domestic occupation, craft and industry and possible water management.

[2] West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS). **HER Ref: SWY25706**.
[3] (Smith, 1961). *The Place-Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Part 2*. Cambridge University Press, p.240.
[4] Yorkshire Archaeological Society (YAS). *Wakefield Court Rolls Vol III*, pp. 81, 129, 144.
[5] Yorkshire Archaeological Society (YAS). *Wakefield Court Rolls Vol IV*, p. 20

4.7 For further information, please see the county's period-specific archaeological research agendas, which are available to download at:

WYAAS Research Agendas

5. Objectives of the Evaluation

5.1 The primary objective is to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the proposed development area, and to record at an appropriate level, archaeological features encountered in the evaluation trenches, to elucidate the topics discussed above in Section 4

5.2 It is conceivable that a larger, more open area excavation may be identified as being warranted, or alternatively, a wider watching brief may be required during groundworks for the development, possibly with provision for rapid salvage recording. All possibilities will be considered depending upon the results of this exercise, and it would be anticipated that if further significant fieldwork is required, then the Contractor would draft the Specification and agree it with the WYAAS. It is a primary aim of the specified work that all aspects should be placed in the public domain by depositing the results with the WY Historic Environment Record, West Yorkshire Joint Service, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 7JQ.

6. General Instructions

6.1 Health and Safety

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

6.2 Location of Services, etc.

6.2.1 The archaeological contractors will be responsible for locating any drainage pipes, service pipes, cables, etc., which may cross any of the trench lines, and for taking the necessary measures to avoid disturbing such services.

6.3 Confirmation of Adherence to Specification

6.3.1 Prior to the commencement of any work, the archaeological Contractor must confirm adherence to this Specification in writing to WYAAS, or state (with reasons) any proposals to vary the Specification. (Notification of Archaeological Fieldwork in West Yorkshire). Should the Contractor wish to vary the Specification, then written confirmation of the agreement of the WYAAS to any variations is required prior to work commencing. Unauthorised variations are made at the sole risk of the Contractor. Modifications presented in the form of a rewritten Specification/project design will not be considered by the WYAAS. Any technical queries arising

from the Specification detailed below should be addressed to the WYAAS without delay.

6.4 **Confirmation of Timetable and Contractors' Qualifications**

6.4.1 Prior to the commencement of any work, the archaeological Contractor must provide WYAAS in writing with:

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

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

6.5 **Notification**

6.5.1 The project will be monitored as necessary and practicable by the WYAAS, in its role as "curator" of the region's archaeology. The WYAAS should receive as much notice as possible, and certainly one week, of the intention to start fieldwork. This notification is to be supplied in writing and copied to Kirklees Museums (see para. 9.1 below).

6.5.2 The Local Authority, the Historic England science adviser (Andy Hammon; email andy.hammon@HistoricEngland.org.uk; tel. 01904 601983) and WYAAS should receive at least one week's notice in writing of the intention to start fieldwork.

6.6 **Documentary Research**

6.6.1 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork, the site supervisor must review previous work in the area and data held by the HER. In addition to providing a knowledge base for the work in hand, this should be incorporated into the Contractor's report where they are considered to contribute to that report materially, but any extraneous material should be omitted.

6.6.2 The relevant WY research agendas, covering later prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval, post medieval and modern periods, should be reviewed. These are available from the WYAAS website.

6.6.3 Please note that the WY HER makes a charge for consultations of a commercial nature. The results of this exercise should be used to inform the whole project. Please note, however, that a formal desk-based report is not required, and the results of this stage of work should be incorporated in the final report.

7. Fieldwork Methodology

7.1 **Trial Trenching**

7.1.1.1 A total of 3 evaluation trenches of 10m by 2m and 25m by 2m are required.

7.1.1.2 Evaluation trenches have been located based on the areas of proposed development (T1 and T2, the proposed new buildings, and T3 in the area of the menage, see Figure 1). The trenches are designed to establish the level of preservation of archaeological features prior to more extensive excavation.

7.1.1.3 The Contractor should also allow for a trenching contingency allowance of up to 50m^2. The use of the contingency will depend upon the results obtained in the initial trial trenching. The use of the contingency will be at the decision of the WYAAS, whose decision will be issued in writing, if necessary, in retrospect after onsite discussions.

Gross Site area: c. 5000 **m^2**

Area of trial trenching: 90**m^2**

Contingency trenching: 50**m^2**

7.2 **Method of Excavation**

7.2.1.1 The trial trenches may be opened, and the topsoil and recent overburden removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a maximum 0.1m. thickness, using an appropriate machine with a wide toothless ditching blade. **Under no circumstances should the machine be used to cut arbitrary trenches down to natural deposits.**

7.2.1.2 All machine work must be carried out under direct archaeological supervision, and the machine must be halted if significant archaeological deposits are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon may be exposed by the machine, but must then be cleaned by hand, inspected for features, and then dug by hand.

- Linear boundary features, ditches, etc.: a minimum sample of 20% of each linear boundary feature, such as ditches and trackways. Each section should be 1m wide and, where possible, sections will be located and recorded adjacent to the trench edge. All intersections will be investigated to determine the relationship(s) between the component features. All termini will be investigated.

- Other linear and discrete features: all stake-holes, post-holes, pits, ring ditches, kilns, and other structural/funerary/industrial features will be 50% excavated in the first instance, recorded in section, and then if warranted fully excavated.

- All intersections will be investigated to determine the relationship(s) between the component features. Where possible, sections will be located and recorded adjacent to the trench edge.

- Built structures: walls, floors, etc., will be excavated sufficiently to establish their form, phasing, and construction techniques.

7.2.1.3 All archaeological remains will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to meet the aims and objectives of the project. The complete stratigraphic sequence, down to naturally occurring deposits, will be excavated, and the work will investigate and record all inter-relationships between features. The Contractor should make provision for the use of shoring/stepping to accomplish this if necessary. All trenches are to be the stated dimensions at their base. The following strategy will be employed:

- Deposits and features should be sample excavated as indicated below and the full depth of archaeological deposits must be assessed. The complete excavation of some features may be desirable at this stage. This will be determined onsite.

- All archaeological remains will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to meet the aims and objectives of the project. The excavation will record the complete stratigraphic sequence, down to naturally occurring deposits and will investigate and record all inter-relationships between features. The following excavation strategy will be employed:

- Care should be taken to record artefacts in their correct stratigraphic position when present to facilitate accurate dating of deposits and features. The stratigraphic position and “security” (residuality or intrusiveness) of any artefacts should be recorded on context sheets and discussed in the report.

- All artefacts are to be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified 20th and 21st century material, which may be noted and discarded. Finds will be stored in secure, appropriate conditions following the guidelines in First Aid for Finds (3rd edition).

7.3 **Method of Recording**

7.3.1.1 The trenches are to be recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. The stratigraphy of each trial trench is to be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

7.3.1.2 Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) must include heights A.O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) must include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features.

7.3.1.3 At least one section of each trench edge, showing a representative and complete sequence of features and deposits from the modern ground surface to the natural geology, will be drawn. In trenches where no archaeological features are present, a 1m long profile illustrating the soils present should be drawn & illustrated in the report.

7.4 **Photography**

7.4.1 When archaeological remains are encountered, good-quality digital photography may be employed. Images must be archived with the Archaeology Data Service. These images will assume the role of the "permanent photographic record".

7.4.2 The archaeologist must plan for using this digital photography and prepare a Data Management Plan[6], to track the various components of the Site archive and their archiving procedures.

7.4.3 A copy of this plan should be included in the report, and with any material supplied to the ADS[7].

7.4.4 Images should be archived with the ADS following the ADS' Guidelines for Depositors.

7.4.5 In general, good quality digital photography using cameras with a minimum resolution of **10 megapixels**; RAW format may be used to capture images on site, but these must be archived as .tiff. Digital photography should follow the guidance given by Historic England in Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice, July 2015. The Contractor must include metadata embedded in the image file. This metadata must include the following: the commonly used name for the Site being photographed, the relevant centred OS grid coordinates for the Site to at least six figures, the relevant township name (**Fulstone**), the date of the photograph, the subject of the photograph, the direction of shot and the name of the organisation taking the photograph.

7.4.6 If no further work is required on the site, the WYAAS will recommend discharge of conditions once a satisfactory report has been received and all digital files have been accepted for accession by the ADS. This accession notification should be emailed to wyher@wyjs.org.uk.

7.5 **General Use of Metal Detectors on Site**

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

7.5.2 The make and model of the instrument used should be given in the methodology section of the Contractor's report, and metal-detected finds should be identified in the relevant finds section of this document.

7.5.3 If a non-professional archaeologist is to be used to carry out the metal-detecting, a formal agreement of their position as a sub-contractor working under direction must be agreed in advance of their use on Site. This formal agreement will apply whether they are paid or not. To avoid financial claims

[6] Toolkit for Managing Digital Data (Dig Digital) | CIfA
[7] ADS-easy – Archaeology Data Service

under the Treasure Act a suggested wording for this formal agreement with the metal detectorist is: "In the process of working on the archaeological investigation at [location of site] between the dates of [insert dates], [name of person contributing to project] is working under direction or permission of [name of archaeological organisation] and hereby waives all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the Treasure Act 1996 (as amended)."

7.6 **Environmental Sampling Strategy**

7.6.1 Bulk samples must be taken from all securely stratified deposits using a strategy which combines systematic and judgement sampling, but which also follows the methodologies outlined in the English Heritage (2011) 'Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (Second Edition)' guidance. Note that waterlogged deposits have been recorded close by.

7.6.2 All samples will be processed and retents scanned with a magnet to recover micro-slags. A statement on the environmental potential of the excavated deposits will be a distinct part of the environmental report.

7.6.3 Any samples of industrial waste products should also be taken for further analysis by an archaeometallurgist.

7.6.4 Samples for scientific dating (radiocarbon dating, archaeomagnetic dating, dendrochronology, optically stimulated luminescence, etc.) should be taken if suitable material is encountered during the excavation. The Historic England Science Advisor should be consulted (email andy.hammon@HistoricEngland.org.uk), and provision should be made for an appropriate specialist(s) to visit the Site, take samples and discuss the sampling strategy, if necessary.

7.6.5 Scientifically dating key features during the evaluation is strongly encouraged to inform the development of a mitigation and excavation strategy.

7.7 **Conservation Strategy**

7.7.1 A conservation strategy must be developed in collaboration with a recognised laboratory. All finds must be assessed to recover information that will contribute to an understanding of their deterioration and hence preservation potential, as well as identifying potential for further investigation. Furthermore, all finds must be stabilised and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum. As a guiding principle, only artefacts of a "displayable" quality would warrant full conservation. However, metalwork and coinage from stratified contexts would be expected to be X-rayed if necessary, and conservation costs should also be included as a contingency.

7.7.2 The report should include a discussion of geology, soils and drainage with specific reference to the potential for the Site to contain water-logged remains or localised anoxic conditions and have specific reference to the nature and degree of preservation of different classes of artefacts and

ecofacts that have been recovered and that may be anticipated across the rest of the Site.

7.8 **Human Remains**

7.8.1 Any human remains (inhumations, cremation and ritualised or selected deposits) that are discovered must initially be left in situ, covered and protected. WYAAS will be notified at the earliest opportunity. If removal is necessary, the remains must be excavated archaeologically in accordance with the CIfA Technical Paper 14 “Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Remains (McKinley and Roberts 1994). The treatment of human remains will be in accordance with Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England (Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England 2017), a valid Ministry of Justice licence and any local environmental health regulations.

7.9 **Treasure Act**

7.9.1 The terms of the Treasure Act 1996, as amended, and the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002 must be followed regarding any finds that might fall within its purview. Any finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures as laid down in the “Code of Practice”. Where excavation cannot be carried out on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

8. Monitoring

8.1.1 The representative of the WYAAS will be afforded access to the Site at any reasonable time. Access is also to be afforded at any reasonable time to Historic England's Science Adviser. Both WYAAS and HE staff will comply with any additional necessary health and safety requirements.

8.1.2 It is usual practice that the visit is arranged in advance at a time when the Site's archaeological potential has been investigated and is available to inspect, but this is not always feasible. The WYAAS' representative will be provided with a Site tour and an overview of the Site by the senior archaeologist present and should be afforded the opportunity to view all trenches, any finds made that are still on Site, and any records not in immediate use. It is anticipated that the records of an exemplar context that has previously been fully recorded will be examined. Any observed deficiencies during the Site visit are to be made good to the satisfaction of the Advisory Service's representative, by the next agreed site meeting. Access is also to be afforded at any reasonable time to Historic England’s Archaeological Science Advisor.

8.1.3 Please note that WYAAS now make a charge for site monitoring visits. An invoice will be raised for the archaeological Contractor. One (1) monitoring visit is considered appropriate and will be charged for this project. Please contact us for the current fee.

8.1.4 During fieldwork monitoring visits, WYAAS officers will take digital photographs, which may be published on the Advisory Service's social

media feeds as part of an ongoing strategy to enable public access to information about current fieldwork in the county.

9. Archive Deposition

9.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological organisation must contact Huddersfield Museum Service in writing, giving notice of the commencement of fieldwork (The Tolson Memorial Museum, Ravensknowle Park, Wakefield Road, Huddersfield HD5 8DJ Tel. 01484 221000 ext. 74537 Email: Museum.Collections@kirklees.gov.uk).

9.2 It is the policy of the Kirklees Museums to accept complete excavation archives, including primary site records and research archives and finds, from all excavations carried out in the district, which it serves.

9.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological organisation to meet the Kirklees Museum's requirements regarding the preparation of fieldwork archives for deposition.

10. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

10.1.1.1 Should there be unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of this Specification, then the archaeological Contractor should urgently contact the WYAAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter with the developer.

11. Post-Excavation Analysis and Reporting

11.1 Requirement for Further Fieldwork

11.1.1 It is anticipated that upon (or approaching) completion of fieldwork, a meeting with WYAAS will be arranged by the archaeological Contractor, either at the WYAAS offices or on site, to discuss the results and agree on what, if any, additional work may be warranted. The developer should also be invited to attend this meeting. The meeting may take the form of a telephone or online discussion at WYAAS' discretion. Following the meeting, the archaeological Contractor will either produce a report (if no further archaeological work is warranted) or draft a Specification (if further work is required) to be submitted to WYAAS for written approval prior to the commencement of any further work.

11.1.2 If further fieldwork is required, the results of the evaluation will be integrated into an overall report encompassing all stages of work.

11.2 Finds and Samples

11.2.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples taken shall be processed, and any finds shall be cleaned, identified, assessed/analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines.

11.2.2 Samples should be processed for the recovery of artefactual material, animal/fish/human bones, industrial residues, shell, molluscs, charcoal and

mineralised plant remains as a minimum. 'Specialist' samples (e.g. monoliths, cores, plant/invertebrate macrofossils) should be processed separately as appropriate.

11.2.3 Material suitable for scientific dating (e.g. charcoal) should be identified to species and assessed for suitability by an environmental specialist prior to submission to a dating laboratory. Any human remains submitted for C14 dating should also have carbon (delta 13C), nitrogen and other isotope analysis carried out by the radiocarbon laboratory.

11.2.4 All finds and biological material must be analysed by a qualified and experienced specialist.

11.2.5 Following identification, finds of 20th and 21st-century date should be noted, quantified and summarily described, but can then be discarded if appropriate. All finds which are of 19th-century or earlier date should be retained and archived.

11.3 Field Archive

11.3.1 A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and a complete set of labelled photographic images. Standards for archive compilation and transfer should conform to those outlined in Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Archaeological Archives Forum, 2011[8]). An index to the field archive is to be deposited with the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (preferably as an appendix in the report).

11.3.2 The archaeological Contractor, their specialists and the district museum curator should develop an archive material selection plan based on the significance of the material excavated and its ability to answer the project's and other more general research questions. This process should include the views of the district museum's archaeological curator, WYAAS and relevant and experienced specialists. The archive selection plan should be explicitly detailed in the archaeological report[9].

11.3.3 The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive (see para. 9.3 above). In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be deposited with the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service.

11.3.4 As specified above, the digital photographic archive must be deposited with the ADS.

12. Report Format and Content

12.1 Archaeological Evaluation Report

12.1.1 (See section 11. above) A report should be produced, which should include background information on the need for the project, a description of the

[8] https://archives.archaeologyuk.org/aaf_archaeological_archives_2011.pdf
9 https://www.archaeologists.net/work/toolkits/archives

methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of the results produced. It is not envisaged that the report is likely to be published, but it should be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers.

12.1.2 Location plans should be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification, and which depicts the full extent of the site investigated (a scale of 1:50,000 is not regarded as appropriate unless accompanied by a more detailed plan or plans). Site plans should be at an appropriate scale showing trench layout (as dug), features located and, where possible, predicted archaeological deposits.

12.1.3 Artefact analysis is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue, quantification by context and discussion/interpretation if warranted, with finds critical for dating and interpretation illustrated by either drawings or photographs.

12.1.4 Environmental analysis is to include identification of the remains, quantification by context, discussion/interpretation if warranted, and a description of the processing methodology. Radiocarbon results must be presented in full (laboratory sample number, conventional radiocarbon age, delta C13 value, calibration programme). Copies of the laboratory-issued dating certificates must be included as an appendix to the report.

12.1.5 The effectiveness and accuracy of the evaluation techniques employed, geophysics and trial trenching, should be discussed.

12.1.6 Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological Contractor. However, they should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the Site archive, and, as an appendix, a copy of this Specification.

13. Publicity

13.1.1.1 If the project is to be publicised in any way (including media releases, publications, etc.), then it is expected that the WYAAS will be allowed to consider whether it wishes its collaborative role to be acknowledged. If so, the form of words used will be at the WYAAS' discretion.

13.1.1.2 The WYAAS's use of social media feeds, to fulfil its duty of giving public access and providing a public benefit, is discussed in 8.1.4 above.

13.2 Consideration of Appropriate Mitigation Strategy

13.2.1 The report should not give a judgment on whether preservation or further investigation is considered appropriate. However, it should provide an interpretation of results, placing them in a local and regional, and if appropriate, national context. However, a client may wish to separately commission the Contractor's view as to an appropriate treatment of the resource identified.

14. Report Submission and Deposition with the WY HER

14.1.1 **A hard copy of this report (plus a digital copy in ISO 10005-1 compliant (PDF/A) format) will be submitted directly to the WY Archaeology Advisory Service in a timely manner to allow planning decisions and further work, if necessary, to be scheduled unless specialist reports are awaited**. In the latter case, a revised date should be agreed upon with the WYAAS. Completion of this project and advice from WYAAS on an appropriate mitigation strategy are dependent upon receipt by WYAAS of a satisfactory report which has been prepared in accordance with this Specification. Any comments made by WYAAS in response to the submission of an unsatisfactory report will be considered and will result in the reissue of a suitably edited report to all parties, within a timescale which has been agreed with WYAAS.

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

14.1.3 A copy of the final report (in .pdf format) shall also be supplied to Historic England's Science Advisor (andy.hammon@HistoricEngland.org.uk).

14.1.4 Copyright - Please note that by depositing this report, the Contractor gives permission for the material presented within the document to be used by the WYAAS, in perpetuity. However, The Contractor retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as specified in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (chapter IV, section 79). The permission will allow the WYAAS to reproduce material, including for commercial use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

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

14.1.6 If appropriate, a note or longer article should also be supplied to the next volume of the annual **Council for British Archaeology's Yorkshire Forum** publication (please contact the editor or CBA's website for more information associate.editor@cba-yorkshire.org.uk).

15. General Considerations

15.1 Authorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

15.1.1 It should be noted that this Specification is based upon records available in the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record and on a brief examination of the Site by the WYAAS. Archaeological contractors submitting tenders should carry out an inspection of the Site prior to submission. If, on first visiting the Site or at any time during the recording exercise, it appears in the archaeologist's professional judgement that:

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

15.1.2 . It is expected that the archaeologist will contact the WYAAS as a matter of urgency. If contractors have not yet been appointed, any variations which the WYAAS considers to be justifiable on archaeological grounds will be incorporated into a revised Specification, which will then be reissued to the developer for redistribution to the tendering contractors. If an appointment has already been made and site work is ongoing, the WYAAS will resolve the matter in liaison with the developer and the Local Planning Authority.

15.2 **Unauthorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor**

15.2.1 It is the archaeological Contractor's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained the WYAAS' consent in writing to any variation of the Specification prior to the commencement of onsite work or (where applicable) prior to the finalisation of the tender. Unauthorised variations may result in the WYAAS being unable to recommend the discharge of the planning condition to the Local Planning Officer based on the archaeological information available and are therefore made solely at the risk of the Contractor.

15.3 **Technical Queries**

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

15.4 **Valid Period of Specification**

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

David Williams **February 2026**

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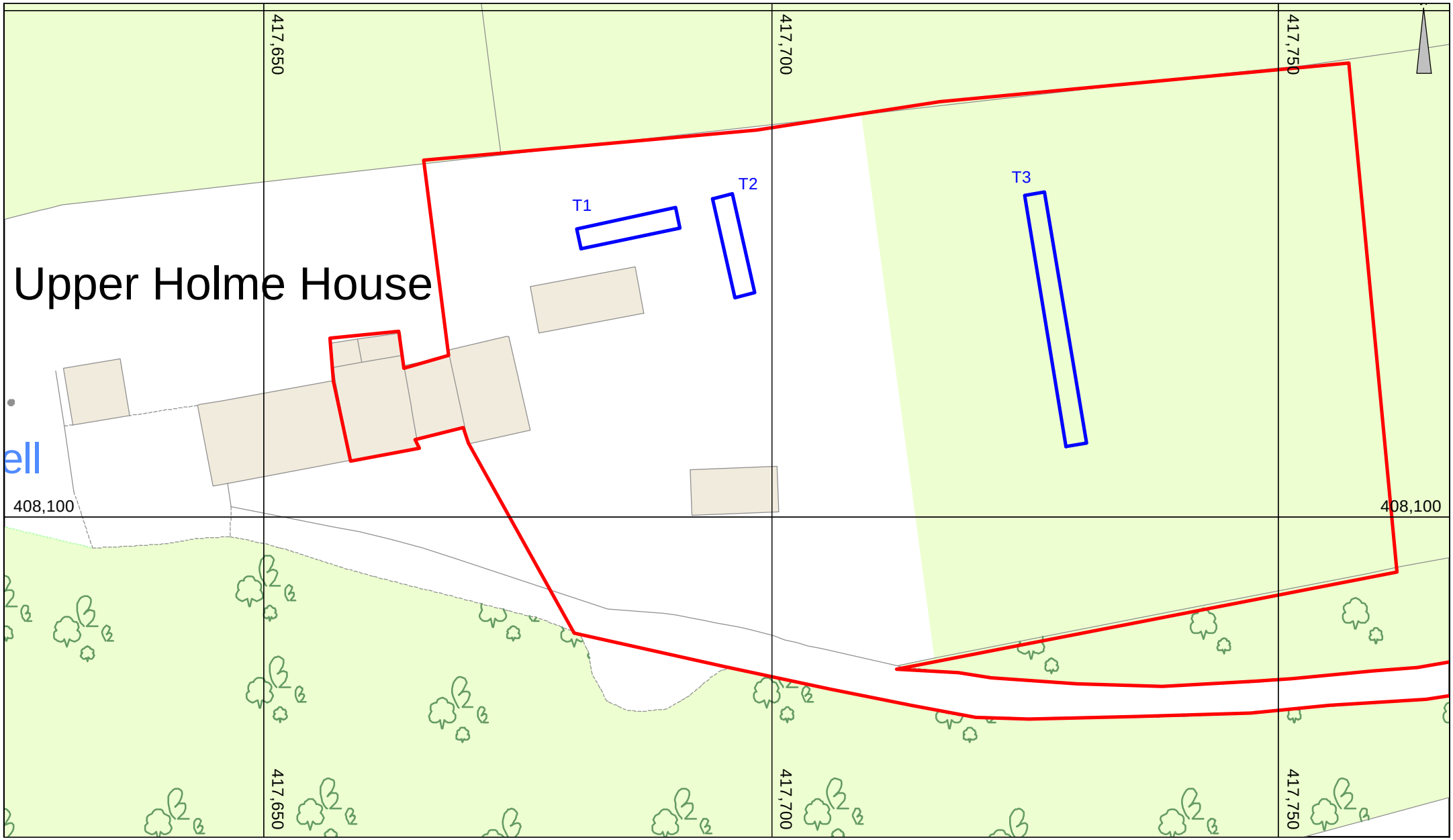

West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service

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Proposed Trenches

Site Boundary

Fig. 1. Location plan showing proposed evaluation trenches

Appendix 2: Inventory of primary archive

Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no.1	Digital photograph record sheet	1
		Drawing register	1
		Permatrace drawing sheet	1

Appendix 3: Concordance of contexts

The following concordance represents the interpretation of the excavation team in the field. The records may have been subject to subsequent interpretation in light of post-excavation analysis of the site, including finds assessments. This later interpretation is represented in the report text.

Context no.	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds
100	Topsoil - Trench 1	Colour: very dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, very loose. Composition: sandy clay.	10	2	0.4	None
101	Subsoil - Trench 1	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: sandy clay.	10	2	0.4	None
102	Natural - Trench 1	Colour: light brownish yellow. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy clay.	10	2	Na	None
200	Topsoil - Trench 2	Colour: very dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, very loose. Composition: sandy clay.	10	2	0.42	None
201	Subsoil - Trench 2	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: sandy clay.	10	2	0.1	None
202	Natural - Trench 2	Colour: light brownish yellow. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy clay.	10	2	Na	None
203	Levelling deposit – Trench 2	Colour: dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, very loose. Composition: sandy clay. Inclusions: frequent medium to very large sub-angular to sub-rounded platy stone.	10	2	0.8	CBM, barbed wire (modern)
300	Topsoil - Trench 3	Colour: very dark blackish brown. Compaction: moist, very loose. Composition: sandy clay.	20	2	0.3	None
301	Subsoil - Trench 3	Colour: light orangey brown. Compaction: moist, loose. Composition: sandy clay.	20	2	0.3	None
302	Natural - Trench 3	Colour: light brownish yellow. Compaction: moist, friable. Composition: sandy clay.	20	2	Na	None

Appendix 4: Trench summary table

Trench	Notes	Orientation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m) (avg.)
1	Devoid of features, deposits or finds	E-W	10	2	0.8
2	Modern levelling deposit running throughout trench.	N-S	10	2	1.27
3	One northeast to southwest orientated land drain in southern side	N-S	25	2	0.6

Appendix 5: OASIS summary

OASIS Summary for archaeol11-544636

OASIS ID (UID)	archaeol11-544636
Project Name	Trial Trench at Upper Holme House Farm Fulstone West Yorkshire
Sitename	Upper Holme House Farm Fulstone West Yorkshire
Sitecode	UHF26
Project Identifier(s)	Upper Holme House Farm
Activity type	Trial Trench
Planning Id	2025/92605
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Archaeological Services WYAS
Project Dates	23-Jun-2026 - 23-Jun-2026
Location	Upper Holme House Farm Fulstone West Yorkshire NGR : SE 17680 08110 LL : 53.56930329069709, -1.734507844550708 12 Fig : 417680,408110
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Kirklees Local Authority District : Kirklees Parish : Holme Valley
Project Methodology	The work involved the excavation of three trenches, one of which measured 25m by 2m and two measured 10m by 2m (Fig. 2). All work was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards and guidelines (Historic England 2008; CIfA 2023), in accordance with the ASWYAS site recording manual (ASWYAS 2020) and in compliance with the Specification (Appendix 1). All trenches were set out and the limits resurveyed using a Trimble VRS differential GPS accurate to +/-0.01m. The trenches were opened in a controlled manner using a 360 excavator using a flat-bladed ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. All topsoil deposits were removed in level spits (not more than 0.20m) with the topsoil and subsoil being separated to allow for re-instating in reverse order. Machining stopped at the first archaeological horizon or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. All excavations of archaeological deposits were undertaken manually with the stripped surface being cleaned and investigated for archaeological remains. All archaeological features were accurately recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50. Feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. All plans and sections include spot heights that relate to Ordnance Datum in metres. A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological work undertaken. An inventory of the primary archive is presented in Appendix 2 and a concordance is given in Appendix 3. A trench summary table is shown in Appendix 4 and an OASIS summary form is shown in Appendix 5. ASWYAS currently hold the site archive in a stable and secure location.
Project Results	Archaeological Services WYAS were commissioned to undertake archaeological trial trenching at Upper Holme House Farm, Hirst Lane, Cumberworth, Huddersfield. Three trenches were excavated to assess the site’s archaeological potential. All three trenches were devoid of archaeological remains. The results indicate a negligible potential for archaeological remains to be found within the bounds of the proposed development
Funder	Private individual

HER	West Yorkshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Matt Wells

Report generated on: 28 Jul 2026, 12:14

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