

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Roughbirchworth Common, Oxspring, South Yorkshire

ARS Report No: 2022/121
OASIS ID: archaeol5-509117



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH SERVICES LTD
Digging with Purpose

Archaeological Research Services
Unit 2, Aizlewoods Mill
Nursery Street
Sheffield
S3 8GG

t: 0114 2750140
e. admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
w. www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Evaluation • Excavation • Watching Briefs • All Aspects of Fieldwork
Environmental Impact Assessment • Desk-Based Assessments • Heritage Statements • Historic Buildings
Geophysics • Geoarchaeology • Palaeoenvironment • Design and Publication



An Archaeological Investigation at Roughbircworth Common, Oxspring, South Yorkshire

ARS LTD REPORT 2022/121



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH SERVICES LTD
Digging with Purpose

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Connect with us:  

Prepared on behalf of: Roughbircworth Community
Excavation Group
Date of compilation: 20/09/22
Compiled by: Tom Parker PCIfA
Checked by: Dr David Underhill
Approved for issue by: Dr Clive Waddington
Local Authority: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Site central NGR: SE 18730 14480
OASIS ID: Archaeol5-509117

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name:	Archaeological Investigation at Oxspring Common, South Yorkshire
Site Code:	RBW'22
Planning Authority:	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Location:	Land south of Oxspring Road, Oxspring, South Yorkshire
Parish:	Oxspring
Hard Geology:	Grenoside Sandstone and Pennine Lower Coal Measures formations
Superficial Geology:	None listed
Soil Type:	Soilscape 6: Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils
NGR:	SE 18730 14480
Date of Fieldwork:	01/08/22 – 12/08/22
Date of Report:	19/08/22

Following a successful funding application for a Heritage Lottery grant to support the archaeological investigation at Roughbirchworth Common, the Roughbirchworth Community Excavation Group (RCEG) commissioned Archaeological Research Services (ARS) Ltd to direct and supervise the exploratory evaluation excavation on site.

The works targeted an enclosure noted on historic mapping (OS 1854) and mentioned in local historical records as a possible location for '*The Shepherd's Castle*' (Sneyd 1995). The South Yorkshire Sites and Monument Record records this enclosure as a non-designated heritage asset (reference 02173/01).

This excavation forms the latest step in the investigation of the site. The initial steps of this investigation were the production of a brief desk-based assessment by Wendy Crossland (2017) during her personal research into the site. Since then, a geophysical survey was undertaken by the University of Sheffield (Inglis 2017) followed by test pitting in 2018 undertaken by RCEG to test the nature of features identified on said survey. ARS Ltd then undertook another phase of survey on the site (Durkin and Jacklin 2020), which was used as the basis for the targeting of the excavation trenches reported here.

There is little known about the nature of the enclosure or 'camp'. It is listed on the South Yorkshire SMR as an Iron Age enclosure although no excavation has been undertaken prior to this work to prove this date. Metal detecting within the surrounding fields has uncovered Roman coinage and brooches although none can be seen to relate directly to this monument.

Two trenches were excavated on the site, one targeting the northern side of the enclosure and one on the western side of the enclosure. Archaeological evidence was found in both trenches concurrent with truncated large-scale earthworks including banks and ditches. In Trench 1, at the northern side of the enclosure a ditch c.2m deep was identified, with evidence of a substantial stone bank on its southern side. In Trench 2 on the west side of the enclosure, a further substantial ditch and bank were identified, although this was unable to be bottomed during the excavation.

Only one significant artefact was identified during the excavation, this being a worked sandstone block with some form of inscribed decoration. This was found in the base of the northern ditch of the enclosure. A selection of C14 datable material, including grains and charcoal, was recovered from the environmental sampling of the site yielding potential for scientific dating of the deposits encountered. Preserved organic fills and a possible palaeosol also give the potential for preservation of pollen within other sealed deposits on site.

CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Background and Scope of Work	1
1.2	Site Location and Description	1
1.3	Geology and Soils.....	2
1.4	Archaeological and Historical Background	2
2	Aims and Objectives	5
2.1	Project Aims.....	5
2.2	Project Objectives.....	5
2.3	Research Aims and Objectives.....	5
3	Method Statement.....	6
3.1	Introduction.....	6
3.2	Coverage	6
3.3	Professional Standards	6
3.4	Health and Safety	7
3.5	Fieldwork	7
4	Results	9
4.2	Site Taphonomy and Condition of Preservation	9
4.3	Results	10
	Trench 1	10
5	Specialist Assessment and Analysis.....	26
5.1	Finds Report.....	26
5.2	Palaeoenvironmental Assessment	28
5.3	Report on inscribed stone	31
6	Discussion.....	35
6.1	Site Context	35
6.2	Significance	36
7	Statement of Indemnity	37
8	Archive.....	37
9	Acknowledgements.....	39
	Bibliography	40
	Appendix I Context Description Table.....	42
	Appendix II OASIS Form	50

© ARS Ltd 2022

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Site and trench location showing Geophysical and Landscape survey results	4
Figure 2. Feature Plan	8
Figure 3. Trench 1 looking southwest.....	9
Figure 4: Trench 2 looking east.....	10
Figure 5: Stone bank footing (104) prior to excavation to the north (scale 2m).....	12
Figure 6: Collapsed bank material (119) on the south side of ditch [120] prior to full excavation of the sondage, with the location of the inscribed stone highlighted in blue (scale = 0.5m graduations).....	12
Figure 7: Lowest levels of <i>sondage</i> into ditch [120] showing base, further collapsed bank material and fill sequence (scale = 0.5m graduations) – also see Figure 11.	13
Figure 8: Postholes [106] and [107] (scale 0.25m).	13
Figure 9: Posthole [125] (scale 0.25m).	14
Figure 10: Land drain (129) at the northern end of Trench 1.....	14
Figure 11: East and west facing stepped sections of Ditch [120].	15
Figure 12: Plan of Trench 1.	16
Figure 13: <i>Sondage</i> excavated adjacent to drain (129) at the northern end of Trench 1 to assess the potential for further buried archaeology.	17
Figure 14. Large sandstone boulders visible in Trench 2, possibly forming part of the now-demolished inner bank/stone wall of the enclosure.....	18
Figure 15: North-facing section of the east end of the Trench 2 <i>sondage</i> showing deposits (201), (203), (204), (205) and (220).	19
Figure 16: Posthole [215] looking east (scale 0.25m).....	20
Figure 17: Posthole [211] looking west (scale 0.25m).....	20
Figure 18: Possible posthole [213] looking west (scale 0.25m).....	21
Figure 19: Feature Sections from Trench 1 and Trench 2.....	22
Figure 20: Plan and Section of Trench 2.	23
Figure 21: View of the incised surface with grooves to the fore and peckmarks to rear. Broken arcing edge running across the near edge of the stone (scale: 30cm).....	32
Figure 22: View of the Roughbirchworth rock showing the straight edges to the fore and pecked surface with linear grooves at the top (scale: 30cm).....	33
Figure 23: Photogrammetric view of the Roughbirchworth rock.....	33
Figure 24: Coefficient Unsharpened Mask, Polynomial Texture Map of the Roughbirchworth rock with close-ups of the peck marks and scoring under different lighting directions	34

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Trench information by feature.....	25
Table 2: Pottery Assemblage.	26
Table 3: Ceramic Building Material.....	27
Table 4: Glass.....	27
Table 5: Clay Tobacco Pipe.	27
Table 6: Iron.....	27
Table 7: Slag and Burnt Limestone.	28
Table 8: RBW22 Palaeoenvironmental remains tables	30
Table 9: Charcoal recovered from bulk samples	31

I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Scope of Work

1.1.1 Excavations at Roughbitchworth Common were undertaken as the latest work in a series of community archaeology investigations into the site by the Roughbitchworth Community Excavation Group (RCEG).

1.1.2 The first part of the RCEG investigations into the site consisted of the production of a desk-based assessment by Wendy Crossland (2017) which drew together nearby metal detecting spots, local knowledge, and detailed results of a map-based study and walkover surveys.

1.1.3 Further investigations of the site included a Geophysical survey undertaken by RCEG and The University of Sheffield (Department of Archaeology) in 2017 (Inglis), Test pitting to the immediate south of the site by RCEG in 2020, and a further geophysical survey of the site undertaken by ARS Ltd (Durkin and Jacklin 2020).

1.1.4 Following on from the works mentioned above, the RCEG were able to successfully apply for a Heritage Lottery Grant. The RCEG commissioned ARS Ltd to lead the excavation of trenches across the monument. This also allowed for a professionally led programme of training, participation, investigation and public engagement on and around the site. Volunteers and other local community groups such as *The Hunter Archaeological Group* and *The Time Travellers* were invited to attend the site during excavation by the RCEG.

1.1.5 This report provides an account of the excavation undertaken on site, although it should be noted that C¹⁴ data has not yet been applied for and results from that analysis, should funding be acquired, will be included subsequently as an addendum.

1.1.6 The geophysical survey undertaken by ARS Ltd (Durkin and Jacklin 2020) highlighted remains consistent with those shown on the 1854 OS map of the site. This appeared to show up to three concentric ditches and the remnants of associated banks.

1.1.7 A targeted excavation on the site took place over two weeks in August 2022. Originally planned to consist of up to four trenches (two 30x2m and two 20x2m), due to the availability of volunteers and the depth of soils only two 30x2m trenches (Trench 1 and Trench 2) were excavated. Trench 1 was placed across the northern side of the enclosure on a north-south orientation, while Trench 2 was placed across the western side of the enclosure on an east-west orientation.

1.1.8 Works were undertaken in compliance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by Andy Lines of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) and took place on the 1st-12th August 2022.

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The limits of the investigation are shown in red on Figure 1 and consist of a single sub-rectangular field currently in use as sheep pasture. The site is located within the parish of Oxspring and is bounded on all sides by further enclosed fields. The site is roughly centred at NGR SE 18730 14480 and consisted of a single field which encompassed a total area of 3.75 ha.

1.2.2 The excavation area comprises an agricultural field that slopes from a high point of c.274m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the southwest to c.260m aOD in the northeast.

1.2.3 The site has far-reaching views to the west, north and east although this is limited to the south where the land continues to rise. Evidence of possible quarrying is noted in the field immediately north of the site where two large depressions are notable, and possible springs are also noted in the area from historic mapping and local accounts (Crossland 2017).

1.3 Geology and Soils

1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the majority of the excavation area comprises “Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 318 to 319 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas” (BGS 2021). The southern area of the excavation area is located on “Grenoside Sandstone - Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 318 to 319 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers” (BGS 2021). No overlying superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2021).

1.3.2 The soils are characterised by the Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute as Soilscape 6, which are ‘freely draining, slightly acidic and loamy soils’ (Cranfield University 2022).

1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.4.1 The 1854 Ordnance Survey (OS) map, surveyed 1850/51, depicts a ‘camp’ which is illustrated as having three concentric earthwork banks. The camp is recorded on the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (02173/01) as an Iron Age Enclosure that is described as “vague unsurveyable ground swellings but visible on APs”. The enclosure spans two fields and is approximately 100m in diameter (Crossland 2017, 2).

1.4.2 Aerial photographs show multiple cropmarks within the nearby fields close to the enclosure (see Figure 1). Just to the south, a rectangular crop mark was identified, possibly comprising a bank and ditch (Crossland 2017, 5). The northern extent of this is not depicted on the only available aerial photograph which reveals it, although it is projected to run into the same field as the investigations here (see Crossland 2017, 5). However, whilst the latest geophysical survey did identify linear features running north-south in this field none appear to be on the line of the identified crop marks, and the potential for multiple linear features paralleling this is suggestive of an agricultural origin (Durkin and Jacklin 2020).

1.4.3 Three Roman coins and a bronze fragment were identified in the field immediately to the south of the circular enclosure, in the field identified as containing the eastern edge of the rectangular cropmark (Crossland 2017, 7). A well was once present within this same field but has since been backfilled (Crossland 2017, 7).

1.4.4 Just west of this rectangular cropmark several fainter cropmarks were located, one of which is represented by two linear features protruding westwards from the rectangular enclosure (Crossland 2017, 5). It is postulated that this could be a road or driveway (Crossland 2017, 5). Indeed, archaeological evidence for a Roman Road was discovered in Longdondale to the west (Hargreaves 2017) and is postulated to have run between Melandra Roman Fort and the camp/fort at Roughbirchworth, before carrying on eastwards towards Rossington and Templeborough via Finkle Street.

1.4.5 The transformation of the economic and political landscape of Britain during the 15th to 18th centuries resulted in planned enclosures and the intensification of agricultural activity. The areas of Roughbirchworth and Snowden Hill Commons were enclosed in 1826 (Crossland 2017, 3).

1.4.6 The parish boundary of Oxspring and Hunshelf follows the southern boundary of the fields that contain the circular enclosure and is orientated on a northeast to southwest axis. This boundary links onto Cranberry Road, which follows the ancient saltway between Cheshire and Rotherham, at Throstle Nest (Crossland 2017, 3; Hey 2001).

1.4.7 In the field to the south of the circular enclosure, two 1m² trenches were excavated in 2018 to target anomalies shown in the 2017 geophysical survey (Inglis). Trench 2 revealed a stone deposit which, taken with evidence of linear features identified in the geophysics and aerial photographs, could represent a possible roadway or track. A metal detecting survey was undertaken which included the field containing the bulk of the circular enclosure being studied in these excavations, and despite this being hampered by modern metal dairy waste spread over the field, metal detecting at nearby Heath Hall led to the discovery of a Roman brooch and a potential lead stylus, suggesting a Romano-British presence in the area (Anon 2018).

1.4.8 As mentioned above, the fields containing the circular enclosure were subject to a geophysical survey in 2020 (Durkin and Jacklin 2020) which identified several anomalies, including the encircling ditch and a possible terminus and entrance of the enclosure. The survey also identified two, possibly three, circular features, some form of small rectilinear enclosure and possible anthropogenic activity to the northwest and southwest of the enclosure.



Key			
Boundaries	Excavation_Area	Probable_Agriculture	Land_Drains
1958 Crop Marks	Trenches	Possible_Archaeology	Archaeology
	Probable_Archaeology	Probable Archaeology	

Site name: Roughbircworth
 Date: August 2021
 Drawn by: DU
 Scale: Varies

Figure 1:
 Site and trench location showing Geophysical
 and Landscape survey results



Archaeological Research Services Ltd
 Unit 2
 Aizlewood's Mill
 Nursery Street
 Sheffield
 South Yorkshire
 S3 8GG

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 RESEARCH SERVICES LTD
 Digging with Purpose
 Tel: 0114 275 0140
 www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

This drawing: ● ARS Ltd
 Contains Ordnance Survey data.
 © Crown copyright and database right 2020

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Project Aims

2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological investigation are outlined in detail in the WSI. The community trenching aimed to:

- ◆ gather sufficient information to establish the site's layout, function and date.

2.2 Project Objectives

2.2.1 The objectives of the community trenching project were to:

- ◆ **Establish a small-scale community excavation project** working with the RCEG, local societies and schools to excavate trial trenches at target areas within the site, to determine the extent, condition and character of any archaeological remains present.
- ◆ **Provide volunteer and training opportunities** for no less than 15 volunteers from Oxspring Parish Council and other local interest groups, including training in a range of archaeological techniques.
- ◆ **Organise a short public event** (in collaboration with the Oxspring Parish Council) to explain the results of the excavations to volunteers and members of the public on the last day of site work, before the trenches are backfilled.

2.3 Research Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 Our primary research questions concern the nature of the site known locally as '*The Camp*' or '*The Roman Camp*':

- ◆ When was the structure built; is it actually Roman?
- ◆ What was its purpose and how was it used?
- ◆ How long was it in use and did this use change?
- ◆ How does this earthwork relate to the suspected rectangular fort and road?

2.3.2 Depending on what is found as excavation progress there are many research topics identified in the South Yorkshire Historic Environment Research Framework (SYAS 2021) to which this work could offer information, including:

- ◆ What social and economic roles might open and enclosed sites have performed, and may the progression in some areas from open to enclosed settlements imply the development of less mobile or more hierarchical societies?
- ◆ Can we develop a regional model for the Iron Age and Romano-British periods in South Yorkshire that does not rely on those proposed for southern England or adjacent areas such as East Yorkshire and York, where the character of the archaeology was very different?
- ◆ What were the functions of Iron Age hillforts and analogous upland and lowland enclosed sites, and how were these related to each other and to other settlements?
- ◆ What internal features can be identified within hillforts and analogous upland and lowland enclosed sites, and what subsistence and/or social practices were undertaken within them?
- ◆ How can we test the reliability of the assumed Iron Age and/or Romano-British settlement pattern?

- ◆ Are there any correlations between settlement form, date, and function during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods?

2.3.3 Other questions identified in the WSI which could potentially be informed by the site include:

- ◆ To what extent were Roman roads used and maintained from the 5th century, and how were they reused as socio-political boundaries?
- ◆ What is the archaeological character of reused Roman roads in relation to the early medieval period?
- ◆ Is there any evidence for a hiatus in cultivation from the 5th-7th century?
- ◆ Was the landscape actually not restructured at the end of the Roman period, but instead was it restructured during the Anglian occupation in the 7th century when South Yorkshire became part of Mercia?

2.3.4 This site has the potential to offer far-reaching information, made all the more important due to the selection bias created through developer-funded archaeology having massive potential to skew our wider understanding.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The methodology for the evaluation is set out in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ARS 2021).

3.1.2 A site monitoring visit was held with Andy Lines, Archaeologist for South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, on the 11th August 2022, prior to backfilling.

3.2 Coverage

3.2.1 The WSI details four trenches, two 30x2m trenches and two 20x2m trenches. Of these, only the two 30x2m trenches were excavated due to time constraints.

3.2.2 The trenches had been placed to target the earthworks noted on the 1854 OS and geophysical survey (Durkin and Jacklin 2020). Each was placed perpendicular to the features they were targeting to try and provide an accurate cross-sectional view of the archaeology.

3.2.3 Trench 1 is the second 30m trench as detailed in the specification, which crossed the northern arc of the circular feature whilst also picking up a 'T shaped' anomaly on the northern side.

3.2.4 Trench 2 was a 30m long trench targeting an apparent terminus on the enclosure's western side, and, although stipulated as 2m wide, provision was made for this to grow to 4m in width if it was felt necessary to aid understanding.

3.3 Professional Standards

3.3.1 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2021) and *Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation* (2020a).

3.4 Health and Safety

3.4.1 All works were undertaken in full compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and with the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992.

3.4.2 A risk assessment (RA No. 057/22/B) was produced before the commencement of the work and was adhered to throughout the fieldwork.

3.5 Fieldwork

3.5.1 The trenches were sited in accordance with the agreed WSI using survey-grade equipment providing an accuracy of $\pm 0.05\text{m}$ (see Historic England 2016). The same equipment was used to record known points on drawn plans and sections and to take spot heights within the trenches, supplemented by an optical level which was set up on-site with a temporary benchmark (TBM). All features were tied into the Ordnance Survey Grid and all spot heights expressed in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

3.5.2 All excavation was performed by hand using a range of hand tools with topsoil and subsoil being divided and stored separately for each trench. Turf covering was also removed and stacked separately, all backfilling was performed in reverse order with subsoil first, then topsoil and turf laid back on top.

3.5.3 All spoil from the excavations was visually scanned and checked with a metal detector to recover finds, all large stones ($>0.2\text{m}$) were cleaned by hand to check for working marks.

3.5.4 The trenches were cleaned by hand to expose and define archaeological features. Pre-excavation photographs were taken of the exposed archaeology within.



3.5.5 Excavation of archaeological features by volunteers was undertaken under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist from ARS.

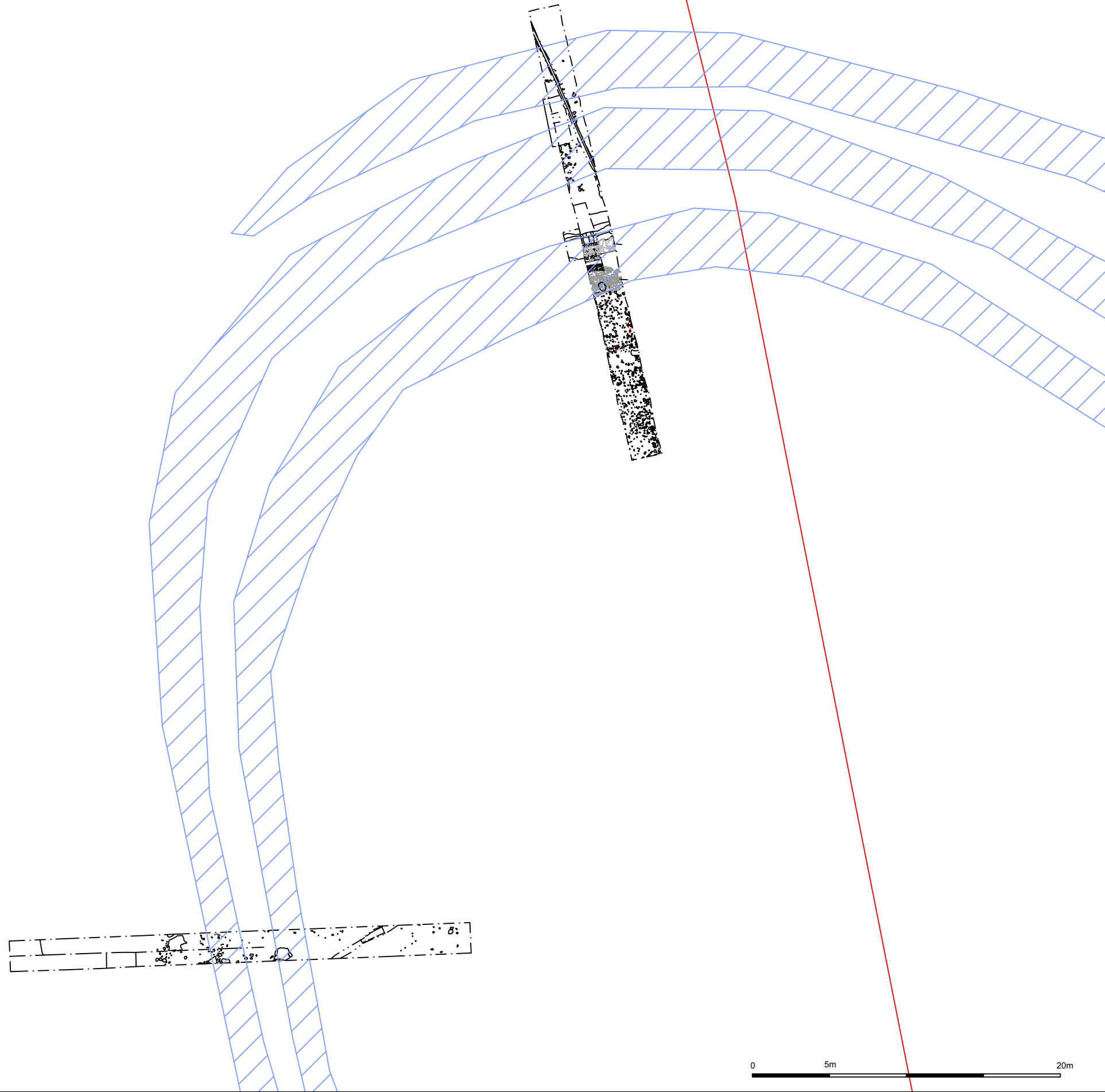
3.5.6 All archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand using trowels and small tools except for large feature fills, such as ditch deposits, where larger hand tools were used. All excavated archaeological features were sectioned and recorded in plan.

3.5.7 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) was made for all work, using Pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work.

3.5.8 Site photography was taken in 35mm black & white print film, 35mm colour film and was supplemented by high resolution (10 megapixel or greater) digital photography. Photography included general site shots, shots of each trench, and shots of individual features and groups of features as well as general shots of the trenches at different stages during the excavation. All photographs included a suitable photographic scale and were recorded on a photographic register with the subject and direction of each shot.

Figure 2: Feature plan of site

-  Limit of Excavation
-  Line of banks on 1854 OS



Site name: Roughbitchworth
Date: 30.08.22
Drawn by: TP

This drawing © ARS Ltd
Ordnance Survey mapping (if applicable):
Crown Copyright
All rights reserved.
Reproduced with permission.
Licence no. 100045420

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Aizlewood's Mill
Nursery Street
Sheffield
S3 8GG

Tel: 0114 2750140

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH SERVICES LTD**
Distilled with Purpose

4 RESULTS

4.1.1 Archaeological features are depicted in Figure 2 against the location of the banks indicated on the 1854 Ordnance survey map. Photographs of the trenches where archaeological features were present are included as subsequent figures.

4.1.2 The context records are summarised in Table 1 providing an overview of the presence/absence and potential for archaeology found within the evaluation trench. The table is supplemental to the figures, photographs, and description of the archaeology presented below.

4.1.3 Both trenches were excavated by hand, being de-turfed and having the topsoil and plough soil deposits removed and screened before their basal horizons were cleaned before further excavation. Features were targeted based on changes visible at this level although in a couple of places additional *sondage* excavations were undertaken to test deposits within the trench.



Figure 3. Trench 1 looking southwest.

4.2 Site Taphonomy and Condition of Preservation

4.2.1 The area of investigation comprised an area of open pasture still currently in use for sheep grazing at the time of excavation. Trench 1 was located close to the eastern boundary of the field while Trench 2 was located close to the centre of the field. Both trenches lay across faint earthwork remains with subtle surface expression, and which are still visible on site.

4.2.2 In both trenches the topsoil showed signs of frequent rooting (grass, dock and thistle) and bioturbation (worm and mole). While the rooting rarely extended below the topsoil depth, the

bioturbation was often seen to extend deeper, especially over the archaeological features where the worm bores were seen to extend down to nearly 2m in depth.

4.2.3 Below the topsoil (101/201) in both trenches was a thin disturbed horizon of plough soil, below which, in many places, a thick layer of colluvial sand covered the archaeological features. There is a possibility that this deposit represents imported material for levelling the site or a relict ploughsoil, however, the presence of post-holes cut into its upper surface indicates it is likely to belong to an intermediate archaeological phase.



Figure 4: Trench 2 looking east.

4.3 Results

4.3.1 Two trenches were excavated, each 30m by 2m, forming a total excavated area of 60m². In both trenches, the topsoil was excavated to an average depth of 0.2m at which point the archaeological horizon was encountered.

Trench 1

4.3.2 At its deepest point, this trench was excavated to a depth of c.2m BGL (259.19m above Ordnance Datum) at the base of ditch [120], the average depth at the base of topsoil was 0.27m BGL (261.01m aOD) at the southeast end of the trench and 0.1m BGL (260.39m) at the northwest end.

4.3.3 The colluvial subsoil across the trench consisted of a mixed deposit of light yellow-brown sandy silt (121) with occasional patches of charcoal, and a small scatter of post-holes was seen cut into its upper surface. This deposit demonstrably covered the larger archaeological features of the trench including the substantial ditch [120] which was identified as running east-west through the centre of the trench. This would appear to represent a subsoil formed over the earlier archaeological remains into which later post-holes had been cut.

4.3.4 Remnants of a possible stone bank footing (104) were also identified following the initial topsoil strip, again aligned east-west through the centre of the trench. This consisted of a spread of angular sandstone pebbles which had been placed on top of deposit (121), modern topsoil (101) had ingressed between the stones by processes of rooting and bioturbation and formed the primary matrix in which these stones were held. The possible footing covered an area c.1.55m wide and had a depth of c.0.075m extending beyond the trench limits on both sides.

4.3.5 A *sondage* was excavated on the north side of deposit (104) targeting a probable ditch identified in the geophysical survey (Durkin and Jacklin 2020). This *sondage* was initially excavated through deposit (105) – a slumped plough soil which had accumulated over the depressed deposits within the infilled ditch. Below (105) deposit (112) was encountered, this was a laminate deposit of dark yellow-brown sand interspersed with thin bands of light yellow grey sandy clay. This deposit was seen to extend across the trench with variable depths, the greatest extent being seen above the centre of the ditch. Below (112) was deposit (113), a dark brown-orange silty sand deposit which sealed the topmost fills of ditch [120]. Like deposit (112), (113) also appeared to occur in variable depths across the length of the trench. This sequence probably represents the build-up of colluvial subsoil across the site, although it may alternately represent relict ploughsoil or imported soils used to level the ground for agriculture.

4.3.6 Below the subsoil deposits which had sealed ditch [120] the remnants of ditch fills and collapsed bank material began to emerge within the fill of the ditch. The topmost fill of the ditch was a palaeosol comprising a dark grey silt deposit (116) which was rich and humic in composition. This deposit capping a further sequence of ditch fills below. Below (116) deposits (117), (118), (119), (127) and (128) constituted the sequence of fills. Deposit (116) was also sampled during excavation and contained common vetch seeds and Oak charcoal which would both be suitable for dating. Deposit (128) also contained (indeterminate) charcoal which would also be suitable for dating.

4.3.7 Within these ditch deposits (119) represented a large spread of collapsed bank material formed from large sandstone blocks which had collapsed into the open ditch from its southern side. This deposit of collapsed or demolished stonework produced the only artefact recovered that directly related to the monument, a broken grooved stone found within (116) that was initially speculated to display a runic or ogham inscription. This stone is reported on fully below and it is considered to potentially be a crude attempt at producing a gaming board, stylistically belonging to the Romano-British period. This collapsed stonework (119) forms the initial destruction event for the stone bank associated with the ditch and the deliberate infilling of the ditch, with later deposits filling the ditch and the voids between the stones (deposits (113), (114), (116), (118), and potentially (127) (see Figure 11)).



Figure 5: Stone bank footing (104) prior to excavation to the north (scale 2m).



Figure 6: Collapsed bank material (119) on the south side of ditch [120] prior to full excavation of the sondage, with the location of the inscribed stone highlighted in blue (scale = 0.5m graduations).



Figure 7: Lowest levels of *sondage* into ditch [120] showing base, further collapsed bank material and fill sequence (scale = 0.5m graduations) – also see Figure 11.



Figure 8: Postholes [106] and [107] (scale 0.25m).

4.3.8 Ditch [120] appears to have been notably steep-sided in its construction, although its southern side was unable to be fully exposed due to health and safety requirements ensuing from the depth of the feature. Regardless of its southern side, the ditch was seen to be more than 2.8m wide and approximately 2m deep. With the now-collapsed bank on its southern side, it would have been a substantial boundary and the steepness and sides are suggestive of a defensive ditch.

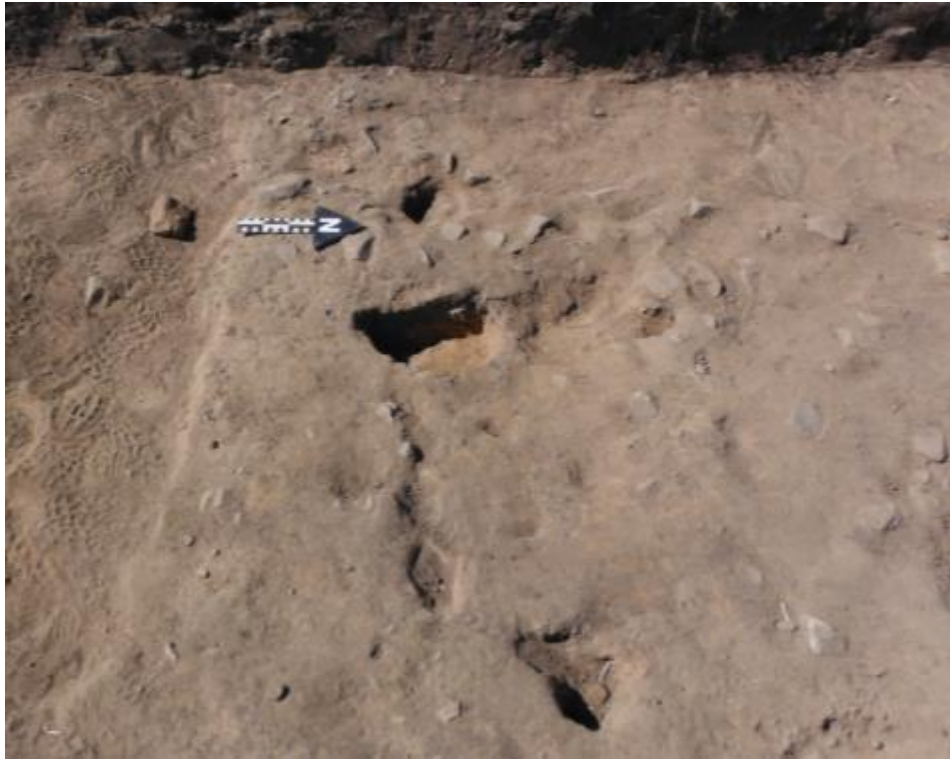


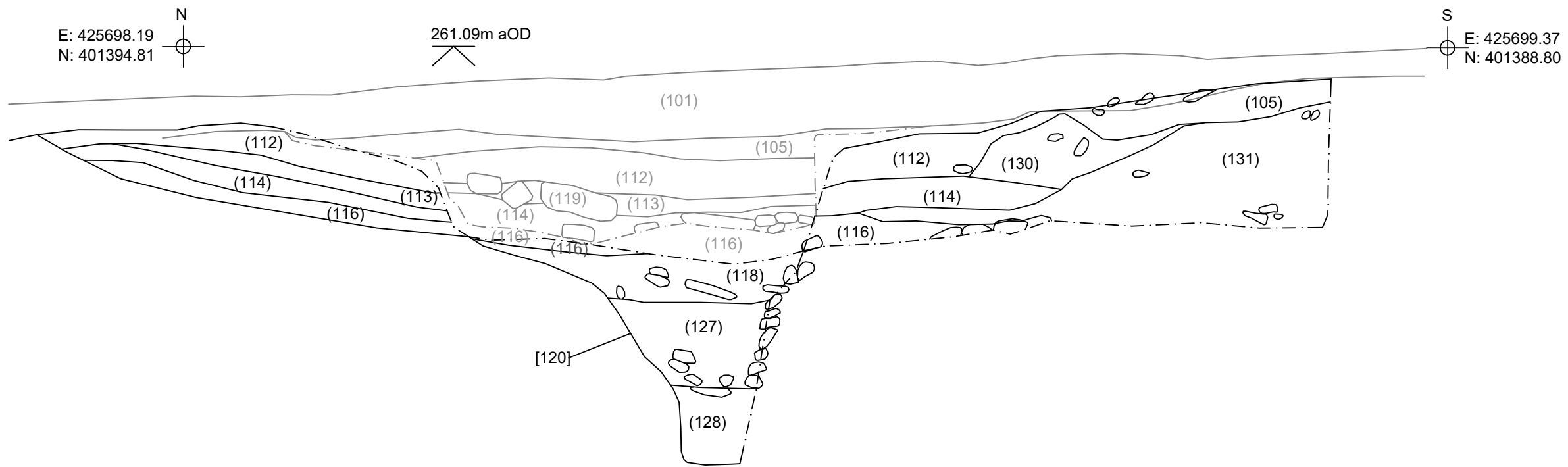
Figure 9: Posthole [125] (scale 0.25m).



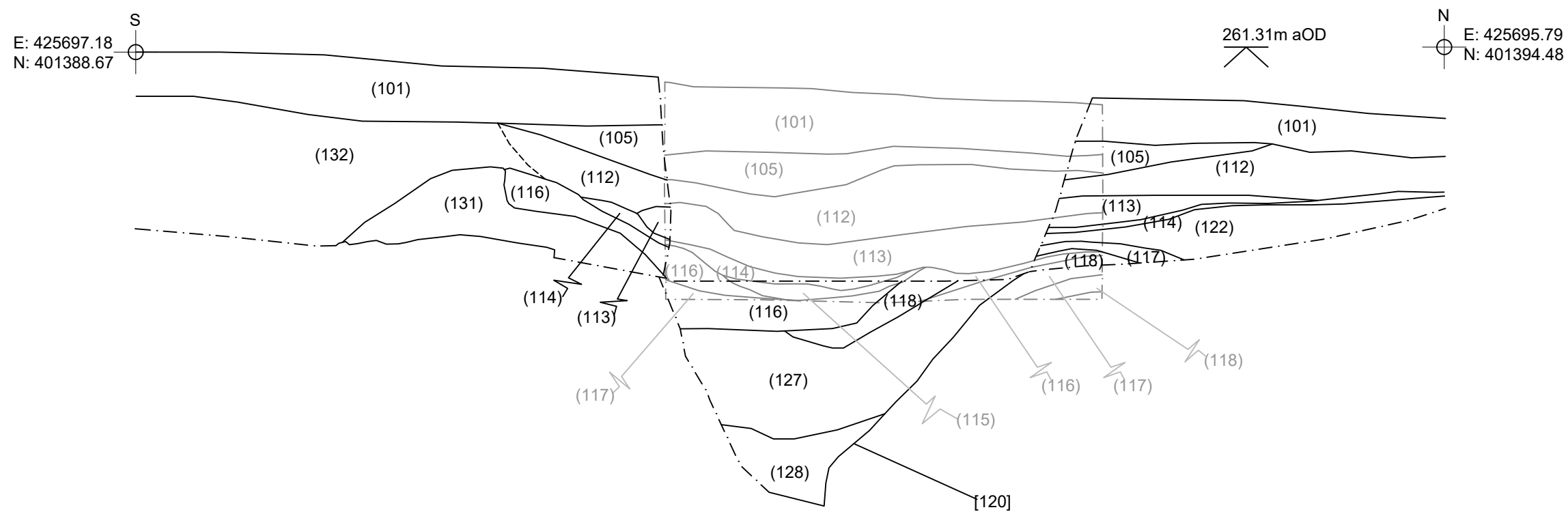
Figure 10: Land drain (129) at the northern end of Trench 1.



Figure 11: East and West Facing Stepped Sections of Ditch [120]

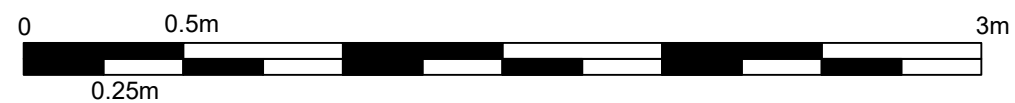
West Facing Section Across ditch [120]



East Facing Section Across ditch [120]



-  Limit of Excavation
-  Section stepped back 1m

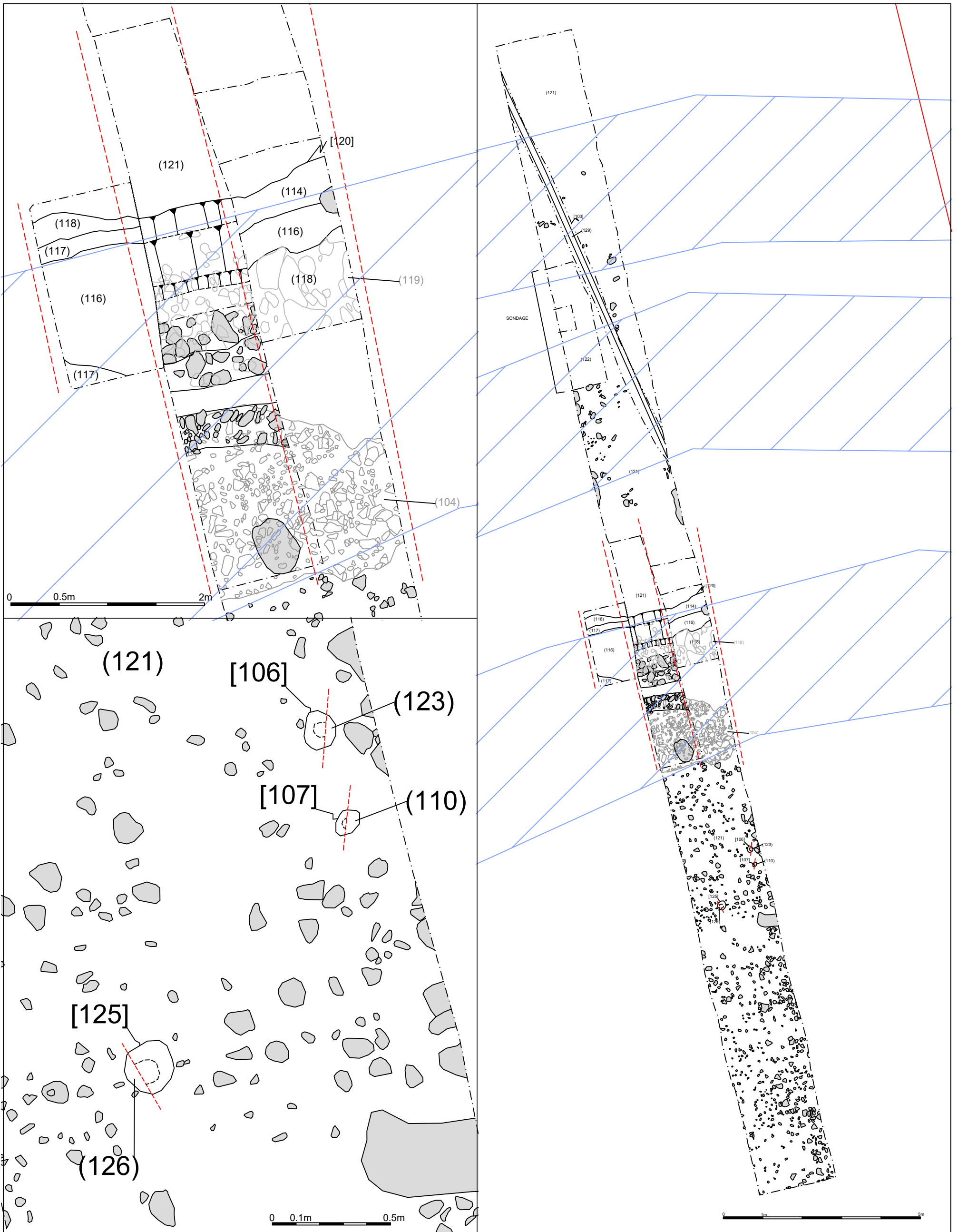


Site name: Roughbitchworth
 Date: 30.08.22
 Drawn by: TP

This drawing © ARS Ltd
 Ordnance Survey mapping (if applicable):
 Crown Copyright
 All rights reserved.
 Reproduced with permission.
 Licence no. 100045420

Archaeological Research Services Ltd
 Aizlewood's Mill
 Nursery Street
 Sheffield
 S3 8GG
 Tel: 0114 2750140
 www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com



Site name: Roughbitchworth
 Date: 30.08.22
 Drawn by: TP

Figure 12: Plan of Trench 1
 See Figure 11 for the east and west facing sections of ditch [120]



Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Aizlewood's Mill
 Nursery Street
 Sheffield
 S3 8GG



Tel: 0114 2750140

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 RESEARCH SERVICES LTD
Digging with Purpose

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

This drawing © ARS Ltd
 Ordnance Survey mapping (if applicable):
 Crown Copyright
 All rights reserved.
 Reproduced with permission.
 Licence no. 100045420

 Limit of Excavation
 Break of Slope
 Section Line
 Removed bank material
 Line of banks on 1854 OS

4.3.9 On the south side of ditch [120] a small group of post-holes [106; 107; 125] were found cut into the top of deposit (121), a light yellow-brown silty clay deposit, likely the same material as (112) which had covered ditch [120]. These possible post-holes were all quite small, averaging c.0.15m in diameter and up to c.0.12m in depth. Due to their position above deposit (121), they relate to a much later phase of archaeology than the primary use of the enclosure formed by ditch [120]. Charcoal was recovered from the environmental samples from posthole [106], deposit (109/124), and from the fill of posthole [107], deposits (110) and (111). The fill of posthole [125], deposit (126), also produced charcoal.

4.3.10 A ceramic land drain (Figure 10) was also identified in the northern half of Trench 1 oriented northwest-southeast and cutting [103] through deposit (121). This drain (129) was identified as a machine-cut trench containing a ceramic drain constructed in c.0.32m long sections. It is likely to have been installed in the latter half of the 20th century (Landowner - K. Stuart, *pers. comm*).



Figure 13: *Sondage* excavated adjacent to drain (129) at the northern end of Trench 1 to assess the potential for further buried archaeology.

4.3.11 A further *sondage* was excavated to the immediate west of drain (129) to assess the presence of a further ditch or bank in the northern part of the trench (Figure 13). However, we were unable to excavate this *sondage* to a sufficient depth to ascertain with any certainty whether there was underlying archaeology here in the available time. The *sondage* was taken to a depth of c.0.8m BGL, it was excavated through deposit (121) and into the upper horizon of deposit (122) both representing potential redeposited material which may have accumulated above other archaeological deposits.

Trench 2

4.3.12 Trench 2 sloped from a relatively high point at its west end (c.263.53m aOD) to its lower east end (at c.262.92m aOD). The deepest point within the trench was the base of a *sondage* excavated to test for the presence of a western enclosure ditch which extended to a maximum

depth of c.1m BGL (262.55m aOD). The average depth at the base of the topsoil was 0.2m although this was seen to be thicker in areas where it was thought to overlie infilled ditches and thinner where it was likely to overlie compressed bank material.

4.3.13 A further possible bank was identified within Trench 2, although the footing was less distinct than the pebble spread (104) in Trench 1. Where these possible bank remnants were identified, they neatly aligned with the remnant earthworks visible before excavation and were characterised by a shallower band of topsoil on top of the feature, and several large earthfast sandstone boulders (see Figure 14).

4.3.14 A further *sondage* was excavated at the western end of Trench 2 (Figure 15) to explore the deposit sequence and investigate the potential for further buried archaeology relating to banks and ditches on the west side of the enclosure. This *sondage* was extended for a total length of c.8.5m and excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. This gave a good view of the deposit sequence within the trench and showed signs of a further buried archaeological horizon relating to the western enclosure ditch (likely the same as [120]).

4.3.15 Within this *sondage*, a thick (c.0.4m) band of light grey-brown sandy material was noted (203?), similar to (112) and (121) in Trench 1. This subsoil covered a separate, thinner band of light-yellow sand (204) at the eastern end of the sondage which appeared to have formed within the depressed upper horizon of a ditch. Environmental samples from this deposit were found to contain a selection of vetch seeds, weed seeds, an indeterminate grain, a broad bean, and small fragments of charcoal.

4.3.16



Figure 14. Large sandstone boulders visible in Trench 2, possibly forming part of the now-demolished inner bank/stone wall of the enclosure.



Figure 15: North-facing section of the east end of the Trench 2 *sondage* showing deposits (201), (203), (204), (205) and (220).

4.3.17 Below sandy soil layer (204) a palaeosol (205) was encountered and appears to be the same as (116), comprising a dark, organic-rich silt that capped earlier phases of ditch fill below. The exact form and extent of the ditch could not be established in the time available but is thought at this stage to be a continuation of ditch [120]. Environmental sampling of deposit (205) recovered datable material in the form of vetch seeds, weed seeds and hazel charcoal.

4.3.18 Below deposit (205) a dark red-brown ferruginous sandy clay was encountered (220) which was viewed as having a potential anthropogenic origin, having produced small fragments of charcoal during excavation. Further excavation of this deposit is required to ascertain its form, extent and formation. Currently, it is not clear whether the charcoal inclusions are *in situ* or intrusive material resulting from bioturbation. While an underlying ditch is theorized here due to the presence of palaeosol (205) within the *sondage* it is unclear where the edges of this feature are, it is likely though that deposit (220) sits within it and forms one of the fills of this ditch.

4.3.19 At the eastern end of Trench 2 were three possible postholes [211; 213; 215]. All were quite small (c.0.1m average diameter) and varied in depth between 60mm and 260mm. These features had been cut into subsoil (203) which overlay the ditch deposits referred to above, giving them a stratigraphically similar position to the post holes [106], [107], and [125] seen in Trench 1. Environmental sampling led to the recovery of charcoal from the fills of all three of the postholes in Trench 2 and provides potential for the dating of these features.

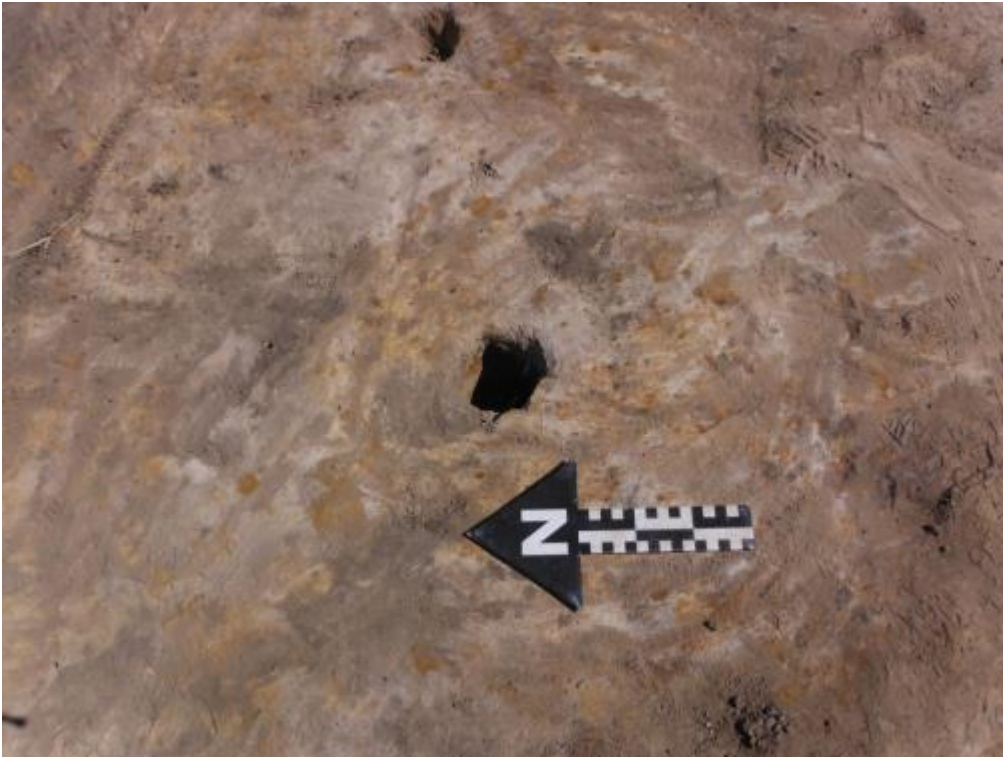


Figure 16: Posthole [215] looking east (scale 0.25m)



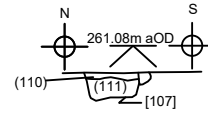
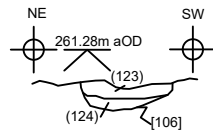
Figure 17: Posthole [211] looking west (scale 0.25m).



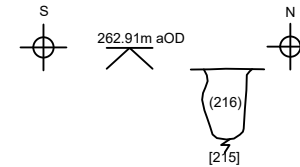
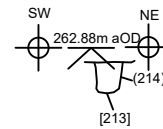
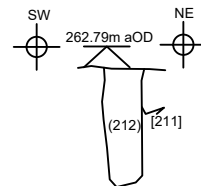
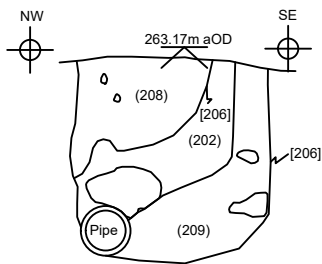
Figure 18: Possible posthole [213] looking west (scale 0.25m).

Figure 19: Feature Sections from Trench 1 and Trench 2

Trench 1 Sections
Postholes [106], [107] and [125]



Trench 2 Sections
Land Drain [206] and Postholes [211], [213] and [215]



Site name: Roughbirchworth
 Date: 30.08.22
 Drawn by: TP



This drawing © ARS Ltd
 Ordnance Survey mapping (if applicable):
 Crown Copyright
 All rights reserved.
 Reproduced with permission.
 Licence no. 100045420

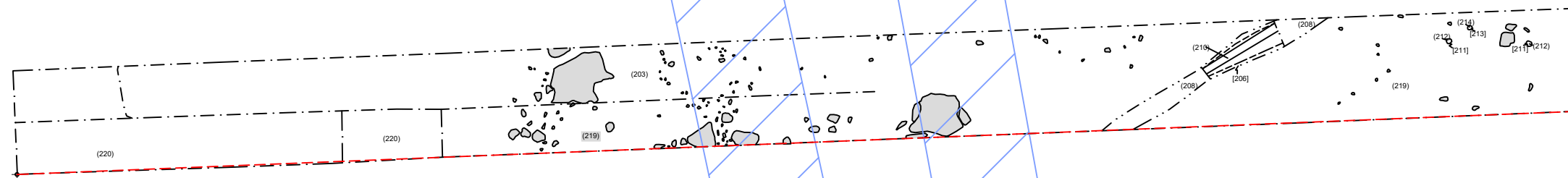
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
 Aplewood's Mill
 Nursery Street
 Sheffield
 S3 8GG

Tel: 0114 2750140
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 RESEARCH SERVICES LTD
 Chartered with Parents
 www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

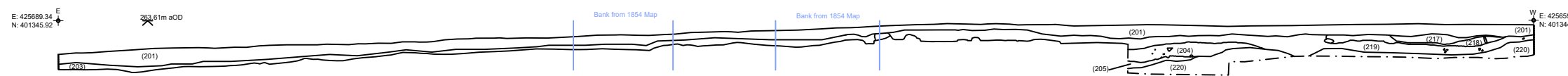


Figure 20: Plan of Trench 2 and North-Facing Section

-  Limit of Excavation
-  Line of banks on 1854 OS



North Facing Section of Trench 2



Site name: Roughbitchworth
 Date: 30.08.22
 Drawn by: TP

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Aizlewood's Mill
 Nursery Street
 Sheffield
 S3 8GG



Tel: 0114 2750140

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 RESEARCH SERVICES LTD
 Delineate with Purpose

This drawing © ARS Ltd
 Ordnance Survey mapping (if applicable):
 Crown Copyright
 All rights reserved.
 Reproduced with permission.
 Licence no. 100045420

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Summary

4.3.20 The investigations have shown that the enclosure ditch survives well, sealed below a subsoil layer and the remnants of a truncated palaeosol in the upper part of the ditch. This in turn caps the destruction deposits from what appears to have been a stone bank or wall most likely pushed into the ditch, sealing primary and secondary fills. In both trenches, the ditch was buried by up to 0.5m of overburden.

4.3.21 Once the enclosure went out of use the stone bank or wall was deliberately pushed into the ditch, evidenced by the sheer quantity of substantial stones within the ditch yet the lack of weathered sand in its base. Following this soil began accumulating, possibly by deliberate spreading over the bank and ditch deposits. These stabilised and were ultimately ploughed, however, within the depressions of the ditches this soil was left undisturbed as the ground above became levelled through further infilling. This left the palaeosol surviving in the top of the ditches, capping the earlier ditch fills below. This palaeosol is important as it forms a chronostratigraphic marker and scientific dating of this deposit will provide a *terminus ante quem* for the abandonment and destruction of the enclosure.

4.3.22 The presence of post or stake holes cut into the subsoil, and situated inside the enclosure area, were only visible in this upper archaeological horizon and therefore relate to some later use of the internal enclosure space, although the nature and date of this remain unclear. It is most likely that this relates to medieval or post-medieval activity that may have extended beyond the enclosure, however, until a larger excavation area is opened this will remain an open question.

4.3.23 The main artefact recovered from the excavation is a single broken sandstone block with grooves inscribed on it which was possibly intended as a gaming board. All the post-medieval and modern finds from these trenches (Section 5.1) were recovered from the topsoil (101/201) and ploughsoil (105) within the two trenches. Although, dating samples are available from contexts (109;110;111;116;126;128;204;205;212;214;216) in the form of charcoal and grains recovered from environmental samples and spot samples.

Trench	Trench Dimensions (m)	Topsoil thickness (m)	Features	Context	Finds	Likely Period
1	30m x 2m	0.27m	Ditch [120]	(114)	-	Romano-British – Medieval
				(115)	-	Romano-British – Medieval
				(116)	-	Prehistoric – Romano-British
				(117)	-	Prehistoric – Romano-British
				(118)	-	Prehistoric – Romano-British
				(119)	Worked stone	Prehistoric – Romano-British
				(127)	-	Prehistoric – Romano-British
				(128)	-	Prehistoric – Romano-British
			Posthole [106]	(123)	-	Romano-British – Post-Medieval
				(124)	-	Romano-British – Post-Medieval
			Posthole [107]	(110)	-	Romano-British – Post-Medieval
				(111)	-	Romano-British – Post-Medieval
			Posthole [125]	(126)	-	Romano-British – Post-Medieval

				(130)	-	Romano-British – Post-Medieval
2	30m x 2m	0.2m	Posthole [211]	(212)	-	Prehistoric-Post-Medieval
			Posthole [213]	(214)	-	Prehistoric-Post-Medieval
			Posthole [215]	(216)	-	Prehistoric-Post-Medieval

Table 1. Trench information by feature

5 SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

5.1 Finds Report

by Shannon Danter

5.1.1 Introduction and Methodology

5.1.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the archaeological trial trenching at Roughbitchworth, Oxspring, South Yorkshire. The finds were gently washed with warm water and a soft-bristled toothbrush, and the ferrous metal dry brushed as appropriate before being quantified, visually identified and catalogued.

5.1.2 Pottery

5.1.2.1 A total of 16 fragments of post-Medieval pottery weighing 149g were recovered from the topsoil of both trenches, a slumped plough soil, and unstratified contexts. A full catalogue of the material is listed in table 2. The assemblage dates to the 19th-20th century and primarily represents tableware and food storage/ preparation.

Context	Type	<i>n</i>	Weight (g)	Part	Decoration	Date
Unstratified, trench 1	Red bodied earthenware	1	13	Body	White slip and lead glaze	L18th-19 th century
Unstratified, trench 2	Red bodied earthenware	1	7	Rim	Traces of black glaze	19 th century
101	Whiteware	4	8	Body	Mostly undecorated. One with leaves transfer print	19 th century
	Earthenware	2	1	Body	Brown glaze	19 th century
	Red bodied earthenware	4	101	Two rim, two body	White slip and lead glaze	18 th -19 th century
105	Red bodied earthenware	2	2	Body	Brown and yellow slipware	18 th -19 th century
201	Buff bodied earthenware	2	17	Body	Brown glaze internal and external	19 th century
		16	149			

Table 2: Pottery Assemblage.

5.1.3 Ceramic Building Material

5.1.3.1 Two fragments of field drainage pipe and eight brick fragments were recovered from the topsoil of trenches 1 and 2. All the fragments likely date to the late 19th to the 20th century and are catalogued in table 3 below.

Context	Type	<i>n</i>	Weight (g)	Date
101	Field drainage pipe	2	64	L19th-20 th century
	Brick	5	12	L19th-20 th century

201	Brick	3	5	L19th-20 th century
		10	81	

Table 3: Ceramic Building Material.

5.1.4 Glass

5.1.4.1 The glass was recovered from the topsoil of trench 1 and trench 2. Although naturally fragile, the glass is in generally good condition and is catalogued in table 4 below. Both glass fragments are from 20th-century glass bottles.

Context	Type	<i>n</i>	Weight (g)	Date
101	Clear bottle	1	2	20 th century
201	Clear bottle	1	4	20 th century
		2	6	

Table 4: Glass.

5.1.5 Clay Tobacco Pipe

5.1.5.1 Based on the stem-bore size, the fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem that was recovered from the topsoil of trench 2 likely dates to the late 18th to 19th century (Oswald, 1975). The undecorated bowl fragment from the topsoil of trench 1 likely dates to the same period.

Context	Part	Bore Diameter	<i>n</i>	Weight (g)	Date
101	Bowl (undecorated)	2mm	1	16	L18-19 th century
201	Stem	2mm	1	3	L18-19 th century
			2	19	

Table 5: Clay Tobacco Pipe.

5.1.6 Iron

5.1.6.1 A small assemblage of 19th-20th century ferrous metal was recovered from the topsoil of trenches 1 and 2. The iron is corroded but generally in a stable condition and does not require conservation. The material likely relates to the modern agricultural use of the land and is catalogued in table 6 below.

Context	Description	<i>n</i>	Weight (g)	Date
101	Nail	1	10	19 th -20 th century
	Bolt	1	8	19 th -20 th century
201	Bolt	2	161	19 th -20 th century
	Drain pipe fragments	3	409	19 th -20 th century
		7	588	

Table 6: Iron.

5.1.7 Slag and Burnt Limestone

5.1.7.1 Two fragments of slag, which are relatively lightweight and glassy in appearance were recovered from the topsoil of trenches 1 and 2. The fragments are likely to be blast furnace slag, a by-product of iron production.

Context	Description	n	Weight (g)	Date
101	Burnt Limestone	6	40	
	Blast Furnace waste	1	241	
201	Blast Furnace Waste	4	226	
		11	507	

Table 7: Slag and Burnt Limestone.

5.1.8 *Flint*

5.1.8.1 A light grey-brown unretouched flint flake fragment weighing 14g, of possible late Neolithic/ Bronze age date, was recovered from (201).

5.1.9 *Other Finds*

5.1.9.1 A single possible copper alloy shotgun casing weighing 7g was recovered from (201). A small lightweight spherical object weighing 4g was recovered from (101). The object could be a marble or bottle stopper from some form of Codd-necked bottle.

5.1.10 *Potential and Recommendations*

5.1.10.1 This small assemblage of Post-Medieval and Modern material is not unusual for a site of this nature. None of the finds requires conservation and the finds have no potential to inform the aims of the project and do not warrant further analysis. They could be returned to the landowner or discarded as appropriate.

5.2 Palaeoenvironmental Assessment

By Maryne Baylet

5.2.1 *Introduction*

5.2.1.1 Palaeoenvironmental analysis was undertaken on the flots recovered from samples taken from fifteen archaeological contexts during excavation. These archaeological contexts were primarily the fills of ditches, alongside fills of postholes and other deposits. This assessment determines the presence or absence of archaeobotanical remains within these archaeological fills, as well as the quality of preservation and the potential for adding further insight to archaeological interpretation.

5.2.2 Methodology

- 5.2.2.1 Bulk samples were processed via water flotation through graduated sieves with the smallest being 500 µm. Flots were weighed, air dried, and scanned using a low-power binocular microscope (x40). The entirety of the flots were dry sieved through 5mm, 1mm and 500µm sieves to separate into three size fractions which were then scanned and separated into charcoal and plant macrofossils.
- 5.2.2.2 Where possible up to ten identifications were made per sample: half from the >5mm size fraction and half from the 1-5 mm size fraction. Charcoal was selected randomly from each sieve. All charcoal which was over five millimetres in size was identified. Charcoal with a size of >2mm was fractured to obtain clean sections on the tangential, transverse, and radial planes. These could then be identified using a high-power Leica GXML3030 binocular microscope (up to x600). Species identification was undertaken using plates and guides from Schoch *et al.* (2004) as well as comparison with a modern reference library held by ARS Ltd.
- 5.2.2.3 Plant macrofossil identification was undertaken using a low-power binocular microscope (x40). Plant macrofossil identification utilised plates and guides from Martin and Barkley (2000) and Cappers *et al.* (2006). Plant macrofossil nomenclature follows Stace (1997). Cereal identification utilised the guide by Jacomet (2006). All plant macrofossils present were assessed. Non-charred macrofossils were discounted as being modern contamination and were excluded from this analysis.

5.2.3 Results and Interpretation

- 5.2.3.1 Modern contamination was identified as uncharred rootlets and roots.
- 5.2.3.2 This analysis revealed the possible presence of one indeterminate cereal grain, the poor preservation of the cereal grain did not allow its taxonomic identification. This one was recovered in fill (204) of the possible (buried) western enclosure ditch.
- 5.2.3.3 A large amount of possible weed seed, identified as possible common vetch (*Vicia sativa*), was recovered in fill (204), fill (116) from ditch [120] and an ashy deposit (205). Common vetch is a common species recovered in paleoenvironmental remains. However, this assemblage comprised only a large number of common vetch seeds, which might indicate intentional cultivation and consumption. Due to the small number of archaeobotanical remains, no further analysis is recommended as there is limited potential for archaeobotanical analysis to assist with archaeological interpretation.
- 5.2.3.4 Fill (116), fill (126) of posthole [125], fill (204) and an ash deposit (205) were dominated by well-preserved charcoal ranging in size from 0.01 cm to 1.6 cm. Oak (*Quercus sp.*) fragments were recovered in the fill of posthole [125], fill (204) and ashy deposit (205). Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) dominated deposit (205). One possible mountain-ash (*cf. Sorbus*) fragment was recovered from fill (126) of posthole [125].
- 5.2.3.5 Due to the small number of cereal grains radiocarbon dating is not recommended. This is due to the potential for residuality and/or intrusion (see Pelling *et al.* 2015). However, short-lived species, such as Hazel, are good candidates for radiocarbon dating and could be chosen to be dated.

Sample No.	10	7	6	5	4	15	12	11	13	3	1	2
Context No.	109	110	111	116	126	128	204	205	205	212	214	216
Context Description	Fill of posthole [106]	Fill of posthole [107]	Fill of posthole [107]	Buried soil – sealed fill within ditch [120]	Fill of posthole [125]	Basal fill of ditch [120]	Fill of western enclosure ditch	Fill of western enclosure ditch	Fill of western enclosure ditch	Fill of posthole [211]	Fill of posthole [218]	Fill of posthole [215]
Flot Composition	30% small (<2m) charcoal; 65% medium (2-10mm) charcoal; 5% large (>10mm)	10 small (<2mm) charcoal	30% small charcoal: 70% medium (2-10 mm) charcoal	30% small (<2mm) charcoal; 70% uncharred rootlets	20% small (<2mm) charcoal; 80% medium (2-10mm) charcoal	2 small (<2mm) charcoal	10% small (<2mm) charcoal; 90% uncharred rootlets	100% uncharred rootlets	40% small (<2mm) charcoal; 50% medium (2-10mm) charcoal; 10% large (>10mm) charcoal	3 medium (2-10mm) charcoal	100% small (<2mm) charcoal	1 uncharred modern root
Sample Volume	<5	<5	<5	20	<5	40	<20	40	2	<5	<5	<5
Flot Weight	6.7	1.2	3.4	4.7	14.5	1.5	3	5.6	6.7	0.5	0.7	0.6
Charred plant macrofossils												
Cereals												
Indet. Cereal grain							1?					
Common vetch (<i>Vicia sativa</i>)				12			30	20				
broad bean (<i>vicia faba</i>)							1					
Unterminated weed seeds							20	11				

Table 8: RBW22 Palaeoenvironmental remains tables

Sample No.	10	5	4	13
Context No.	109	116	126	205
Context Description	Fill of posthole [106]	Fill of an organic deposit from a seal ditch	Fill of posthole	ash deposit
Charred wood				
Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)				5
Maloideae possible rowan (cf. <i>Sobus</i>)			1	
Oak (<i>Quercus</i> sp.)	3	1	6	2

Table 9: Charcoal recovered from bulk samples

5.2.4 Spot Sampling

5.2.4.1 Spot samples of large charcoal fragments were also taken from deposits:

- (109/124) – Fill of posthole [106]
- (111) – Basal fill of posthole [107]
- (126) – Fill of posthole [125]
- (204) – Buried soil deposit at the east end of Trench 2
- (205) – Possible ditch fill in the *sondage* at the east end of Trench 2, possibly the same as (116).

5.2.5 C^{14} recommendations

5.2.5.1 Of the material recovered from Spot-Sampling and wet sieving a number of deposits produced datable material.

5.2.5.2 These are from Trench 1: deposits (109), (110), (111), (116), (126), (128)

5.2.5.3 And from Trench 2: deposits (204), (205), (212), (214) and (216).

5.2.5.4 The recommendation here is for dates to be applied to Context 128, being the primary ditch fill, this would give an idea of the date of construction, and Context 116, the Palaeosol capping the ditch's initial destruction which could give a guide on the date of abandonment.

5.3 Report on the inscribed stone

by Clive Waddington

5.3.1 A single roughly triangular sandstone slab was recovered from a secondary ditch fill (119) of the enclosure in trench 1. The slab has maximum dimensions of 450mm, by 370mm, by 145mm. The rock is composed of a medium-grained sandstone with micro quartz inclusions and is likely from the local country rock. The rock is rough-hewn, although the two straight sides may be intentional. The longer arcing edge is where the stone has broken prior to discard in the ditch.

5.3.2 The stone appears to have been modified on one side only. This side has small hemispherical peckmarks on its surface where it may have been prepared to form a broadly flat

surface, the peckmarks possibly resulting from blows with a pointed masonry hammer. A series of liner grooves, most of which are truncated by the breaking of the stone are visible adjacent to the stone's longest edge. They run for the most part in parallel straight lines, although there is cross-hatching on one side where it forms a chequer-board pattern.

5.3.3 These grooves are shallow, averaging 3-4mm, but are otherwise fresh and unweathered, just like the peckmarks. The fresh and unweathered form of the inscribings suggests they were carved close to the time the rock was broken and discarded in the ditch fill. This, together with the style of the inscribings, indicates the inscribed rock is highly unlikely to belong to the earlier prehistoric 'Cup and Ring' or 'Atlantic' rock art tradition, but rather to a Romano-British tradition.

5.3.4 Based on the above observations it is thought the inscribed rock could possibly be a broken gaming board, perhaps in production, or a crude attempt at one. This would not be an unusual find in a Romano-British context.

5.3.5 Disposal of rock art in Iron Age – Romano-British contexts is known elsewhere, although nearby examples have included much earlier cup and ring marked rocks. These include a cup-marked boulder of more classic cup and ring/Atlantic rock art style found in the backfill of the small hillfort/enclosure ditch at Ballcross, Bakewell (Stanley 1954, 95), rock art found in Iron Age contexts from the hillfort at Eston Nab, Teesdale (Elgee 1930) and also in contexts related to the hut circles on Great Ayton Moor (Tinkler and Spratt 1978).



Figure 21: View of the incised surface with grooves to the fore and peckmarks to rear. Broken arcing edge running across the near edge of the stone (scale: 30cm).



Figure 22: View of the Roughbirchworth rock showing the straight edges to the fore and pecked surface with linear grooves at the top (scale: 30cm).



Figure 23: Photogrammetric view of the Roughbirchworth rock.

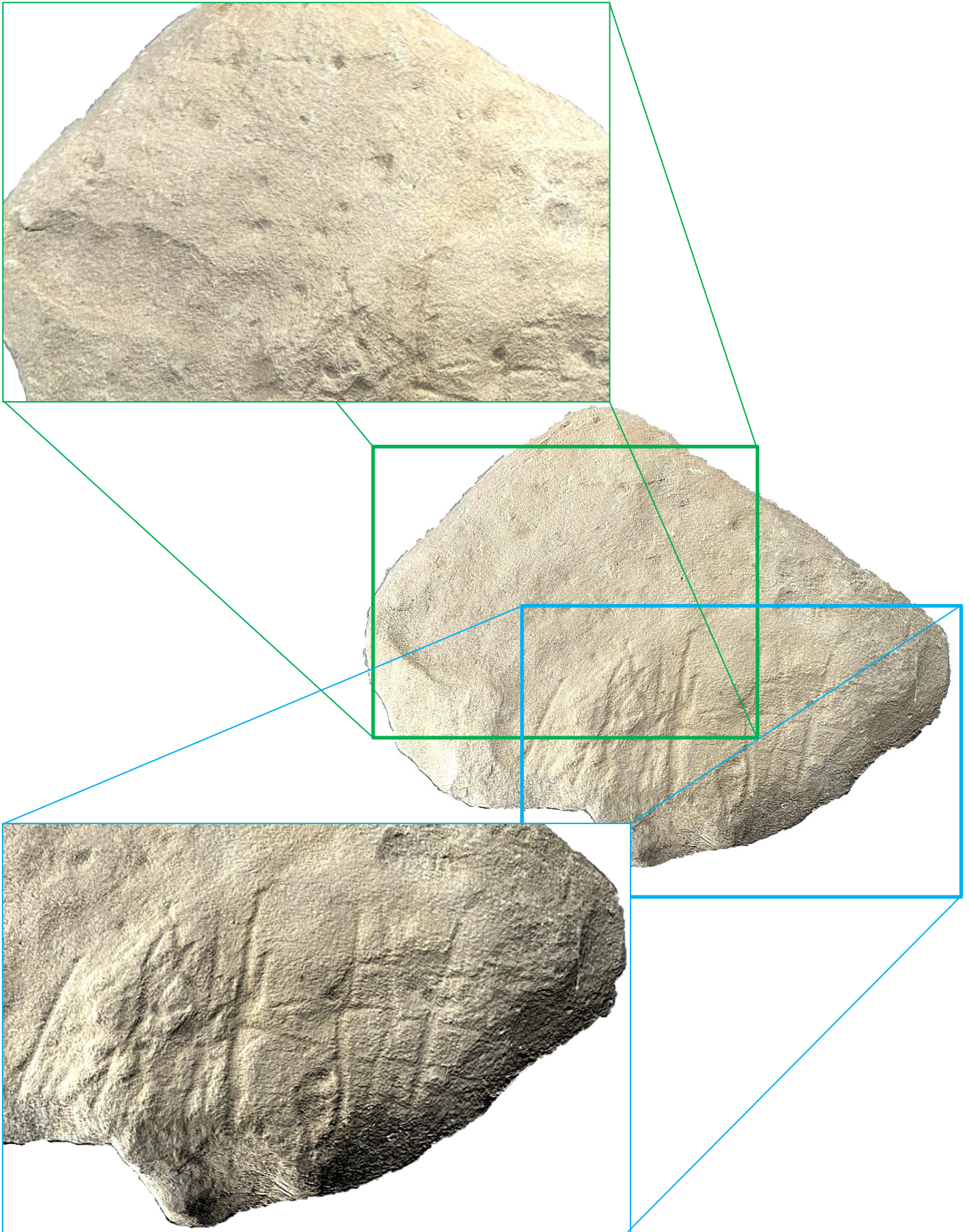


Figure 24: Coefficient Unsharpened Mask, Polynomial Texture Map of the Roughbitchworth rock with close-ups of the peck marks and scoring under different lighting directions

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Site Context

6.1.1 The archaeological investigation at Roughbirchworth common was conducted with a view to establishing the presence, form, survival and significance of archaeological remains within the site. The investigation also had the purpose of providing volunteer and training opportunities and delivering public access.

6.1.2 This work has begun to answer some of the research questions outlined in section 2 above, but many questions still remain unanswered. We have begun to understand the nature of the site whilst beginning to appreciate the wealth of information which this site may still contain.

6.1.3 No absolute dates have yet been obtained for the site, though potential is noted for the samples recovered for this purpose.

6.1.4 Previous interpretations of the site are few and far between but include the interpretation put forward by Armitage (1905), for example, which describes a ‘rapidly disappearing’ *vallum* ‘scarcely more than a foot high’ (Armitage, 1905, 48) postulating that it was a place in which the banks:

‘enclosed the huts planted by some primitive family for their summer migrations into the hills, where they went to pasture their cattle, and that the large enclosure was intended to protect their flocks from wolves’ (Armitage, 1905, 48-49)

The presence of a 2m deep ditch, and series of likely substantial stone-faced walls, or banks, now open up the question of this being a more heavily defended site than was perhaps thought. The dating of this enclosure remains something of an open question until absolute dates are acquired, although its form and deposit sequence mean it could date from anytime in the late Iron Age through to Romano-British times, and of course, the enclosure could also yet have multiple phases of occupation and reuse. The lack of Roman material culture so far does not negate this date; however, the form of the enclosure suggests that even if it does date to this period the inhabitants themselves do not appear to have been Romanised. If the inscribed stone is a crude attempt at a gaming board as suspected then its recovery from the stone wall destruction deposit could suggest the Roman presence in the landscape was actually responsible for the enclosure’s final destruction, or that if it is late Romano-British in date, that the enclosure was built to ward off barbarian attacks on the local populace in the late 3rd or 4th centuries AD when the Roman defence of Britannia collapsed.

6.1.5 Following its final abandonment, the site was buried by large amounts of probable colluvium, or possibly the deliberate introduction of soil to level up the area of the enclosure and allow the land to be brought into agricultural production. However, the site has never been completely levelled; Ella Armitage reported a bank height of one foot on her visit in 1897 (Armitage 1905, 48) and at least the inner bank still stands to a similar height, additionally, the field boundaries visible on the 1854 OS map, which almost certainly date to the Enclosure Act, show no distinct rise where they cross the line of the earthworks, signifying that the land surface has not altered significantly since their construction, meaning that if the land has been deliberately levelled for agriculture, it must pre-date the Enclosure Act walls by a considerable margin.

6.2 Significance

6.2.1 The investigation has clearly identified the remains of a substantial sub-circular enclosure, possibly somewhat truncated, that appears to have been composed in part by enclosing stone walls or stone-lined banks and deep, steep defensive ditch/es. The site has the potential to make a significant local and regional contribution to knowledge about the late prehistoric-Romano-British history of this area, which is currently poorly understood.

6.2.2 At present, the work has only been able to start answering very broad questions about the site, including the scale of the works, which appear to be of a defensive character, and the potential for multiple phases, however, many questions still remain.

6.2.3 Further works on the site are essential if we are to understand:

- ◆ When this monument was constructed
- ◆ The full form and extent of the below-ground remains
- ◆ When the different phases of occupation are likely to have taken place
- ◆ The purpose of the structure
- ◆ How the land was repurposed following its apparent destruction.

7 STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

7.1.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

7.1.2 ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary, photographic and video material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

8 ARCHIVE

8.1.1 Within 6 months of the completion of the fieldwork, a digital, paper and artefactual archive, which will consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data will be submitted to the official repository. Advice on the retention and discard of finds and samples has been provided by specialists during the assessment and/or analysis phases and this information will be discussed with the museum when preparing the site archive. Arrangements for the deposition of the finds and site archive have been made with Experience Barnsley in advance of the commencement of fieldwork. In line with the "Archaeological Archive Deposition Policy for Museums in Yorkshire and the Humber" the uniform region-wide approach to the preparation and deposition of archaeological archives will be followed. This process requires the completion and submission of forms to Experience Barnsley at the project initiation, mid-point review and completion stages (the template forms from the SYAS website will be used).

8.1.2 The digital archive will be prepared in line with the current best practice outlined in Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice (ADS/Digital Antiquity 2011); Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2007) and Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited in line with the ClfA (2020c) Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Society of Museum Archaeologist (1993) Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections: Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the Archaeological Archive Deposition Policy for Museums in Yorkshire and the Humber (Turnpenny 2012) and will be deposited within six months of the completion of the report.

8.1.3 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive.

8.1.4 Written confirmation of the archive transfer arrangements, including a date (confirmed or projected) for the transfer, will be included as part of the final report.

8.1.5 SYAS will be informed in writing of the final deposition of the archive.

8.1.6 Archiving is expected to be carried out as specified, in a timely manner, unless further fieldwork is undertaken, and it is agreed that the archives from the separate phases can be amalgamated. On completion of archiving, confirmation of deposition will be supplied to SYAS.

8.1.7 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> has been initiated and completed for this work and all parts of the OASIS online form completed for submission to the

HER. This will include an uploaded pdf version of this report. The site has produced a paper and digital archive which will be deposited, along with this report, in digital form with Archaeological Data Service (ADS). In addition, a copy of this report will be deposited with Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1.1 ARS Ltd would like to thank all of the Roughbirchworth Community Excavation Group for their works on this project, with particular thanks due to Barry Tylee for commissioning the work, Wendy Crossland for helping to organize volunteers and Isabel Bradbury for discovering '*The Stone of Bafflement*' within the fill of ditch [120]. Thanks are also owed to Andy Lines of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service for visiting our site while works were progressing, and to K Stuart and Sons who allowed us access to the land.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ADS/Digital Antiquity. 2011. *Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice*. Archaeological Data Service/Digital Antiquity.
- Anon. 2018. *Community Excavation at Roughbirchworth*. Unpublished report.
- Armitage, E (1905). "Chapter III: Camps and Earthworks". *A key to English antiquities: with special reference to the Sheffield and Rotherham District*. London: J.M. Dent.
- ARS Ltd. 2020. *Field recording manual*. Archaeological Research Services Ltd.
- ARS Ltd. 2021. *Land at Roughbirchworth, Oxspring, South Yorkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Assessment by Trial Trenches*. Unpublished Report Archaeological Research Services Ltd.
- British Geological Survey 2022. Geology of Britain viewer. Available online at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home/html>. Last accessed 19/08/22.
- Brown, D H. 2011. *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer, and curation (2nd ed)*. Archaeological Archive Forum.
- Cappers, R., Bekker, R. and Jans, J. 2006. *Digitale Zadenatlas Van Nederland/Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands*. Barkhuis.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2021. *Code of conduct: Professional ethics in archaeology*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2020a. *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2020b. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer, and deposition of archaeological archives*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Cranfield University. 2022. *Soilscapes*. Cranfield Soil and Agrofood Institute. Cranfield University. Available online at: <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>. Last accessed 19/08/22.
- Crossland, W. 2017. *Evidence for a Roman Camp at Roughbirchworth*.
- Durkin, R. and Jacklin, A. 2020. *Geophysical Survey of Land at Roughbirchworth, Oxspring, South Yorkshire*. Unpublished ARS Ltd report 2020/157.
- Elgee, F. 1930. *Early Man in North East Yorkshire*. Gloucester, John Bellows.
- Hargreaves, R. *A Roman road through Longdendale*. In *Newsletter No. 5. Summer 2017*. Roman Roads Research Association.
- Hey, D. 2001. *Packmen, Carriers & Packhorse Roads*. Ashbourne. Landmark Publishing
- Historic England. 2016. *Where on earth are we? The Global Positioning System (GPS) in archaeological field survey*. Historic England.
- Inglis, D. 2017. *Geophysical survey report*. Unpublished. University of Sheffield.
- Jacomet, S. 2006. *Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites*, 2nd Edition. IPAS, Basel University.
- Martin, A. and Barkley, W. 2000. *Seed Identification Manual*. University of California Press.
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). 2022. *National Planning Policy Framework*. Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>. Last accessed 23/03/22.

- Oswald, A. 1975. *Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist*. Oxford: British Archaeological Reports 14.
- Schoch, W., Heller, I., Schweingruber, F.H., Kienast, F. 2004. *Wood anatomy of central European Species*. Online version: www.woodanatomy.ch
- SMA. 1993. *Selection, retention, and dispersal of archaeological collections*. Society of Museum Archaeologists.
- Sneyd, S. 1995. *The Devil's Logbooks: Castles and Fortified Sites around South Yorkshire*. Hilltop Press.
- South Yorkshire Archaeology Service & Historic England. 2021. *South Yorkshire Historic Environment Research Framework*. Available online at: <https://researchframeworks.org/syrf/> [Accessed 19.8.22].
- South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. 2015. Model Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching.
- Stace, C. 1992. *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge.
- Stanley, J. 1954. An Iron Age Hillfort at Ball Cross Farm, Bakewell. *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* 74: 85-99.
- Tinkler, B.N. and Spratt, D.A. 1978. An Iron Age enclosure on Great Ayton Moor, North Yorkshire. *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 50: 49-56.
- Walker, K. 1990. *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage*. United Kingdom Chartered Institute for Conservation.
- Watkinson, D. and Neal, V. 2001. *First aid for finds (3rd ed)*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.

APPENDIX I CONTEXT DESCRIPTION TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Length	Width	Depth	Findings	Context Description	Estimated Date
101	Deposit	30m+	2m+	0.19m	CBM, Pottery, Fe, Widget, Clay pipe, Slag	A medium-textured, well-sorted, dark grey silty sand deposit containing inclusions of short grass roots and occasional stones. <i>Modern topsoil deposit that appears not to have been disturbed for a length of time, supporting grass used as pasture for sheep.</i>	Uncertain
102	Fill	9.90m	2.60m	2.20m	None	A coarse-textured, well-sorted, mid-yellow silty clay fill of ceramic land drain [103] comprising sandstone inclusions of various sizes. <i>Backfill of a mid-twentieth century land drain.</i>	19 th -20 th Century
103	Cut	9.90m	N/A	2.20m	None	A rectangular-shaped, vertical-sided feature with vertical slopes and a flat base. Filled by (102). Orientated N-S. <i>Construction cut for 20th century land drain.</i>	19 th -20 th Century
104	Deposit	2.0m+	1.55m	0.07m	None	A medium-textured, light grey brown sandy clay deposit containing occasional sandstone rock inclusions. Subject to root disturbance and moderate bioturbation from worms. <i>Close examination of the stones would suggest that the stones have been deliberately placed rather than deposited, possibly to form a level surface.</i>	Uncertain
105	Deposit	4.0m	4.0m	0.23m	Pottery	A medium-textured, well-sorted, dry light orange-brown sandy silt deposit with rare inclusions of sandstone and roots. No truncation but deposit is subject to root penetration and worm/mole bioturbation. <i>Likely plough soil formed from low-energy natural siltation processes.</i>	18 th -19 th Century
106	Cut	0.35m	0.20m	0.06m	None	A circular-shaped feature, possible posthole, with gradual break of slopes, steep side to the NE and gradual to the SW. Orientated NW-SE. Posthole is filled by (123) and (124). <i>Located within the enclosure and is therefore probably not structural</i>	Prehistoric

Context Number	Context Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds	Context Description	Estimated Date
						<i>but instead likely to be a stock enclosure.</i>	
107	Cut	0.28m	0.12m	0.06m	None	An elliptical shaped feature, possible cut for a posthole, with a gradual break of slope at the top, steep northeastern side and a gradual southwestern side. Base is concave. Orientated NW-SE. Posthole contains two fills: upper (110) and basal (111). <i>Feature is located within the enclosure and is therefore probably not structural but instead likely to be a stock enclosure.</i>	Prehistoric
108						VOID	
109						Void. Duplicated by (124).	
110	Fill	0.28m	0.14m	0.01m	None	A fine-textured brown sandy soil fill that forms the top layer of possible posthole [107]. Fill contains small stone inclusions. <i>Top fill of posthole is likely to be a naturally occurring accumulation of topsoil (101) within the partially filled feature.</i>	Unknown
111	Fill	0.28m	0.11m	0.05m	None	A fine-textured pink-white clay basal fill of [107]. Fill contains rare amount of small stone inclusions. <i>Naturally occurring geological substrate.</i>	Unknown
112	Deposit	4.0m	4.0m	0.12m	None	A medium-to-fine-textured, well-sorted, dark yellow beige sand deposit overlying a band of fine clay. Deposit is sealed by deposit (105). <i>Possibly the result of ploughing or colluvium.</i>	Unknown
113	Deposit	4.0m	4.0m	0.16m	None	A fine-textured dry brown orange silty/sand deposit underlying deposit (112). Deposit is uneven is subject to minor root disturbance and bioturbation from worms. <i>Possible colluvium</i>	Unknown

Context Number	Context Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds	Context Description	Estimated Date
						<i>deposit.</i>	
114	Deposit	4.0m	1.20m	0.12m	None	Sand/clay laminated deposit between (115) and (113) within ditch [120]. <i>Possible colluvium deposit.</i>	Unknown
115	Deposit	4.0m	1.74m	0.12m	None	Sand/clay laminated deposit underlying (114) within ditch [120]. <i>Possible colluvium deposit.</i>	Unknown
116	Deposit	4.0m	2.0m	0.28m	None	A fine-textured dark grey silt deposit with no inclusions. Deposit is sealed by deposits (114) and (113). Subject to minor root penetration. <i>Buried soil forming topmost fill of sealed ditch.</i>	Unknown
117	Deposit	4.0m	2.0m	0.1m	None	A fine-textured mid grey/brown silty/sand deposit with occasional rounded sandstone inclusions. Deposit is subject to bioturbation from worms. <i>Deposit has likely naturally accumulated overtime covering deposit (118) – Silting up of ditch following disuse.</i>	Unknown
118	Deposit	4.0m	2.0m	0.06m	None	A fine-textured mid grey/brown sandy/clay deposit underlying deposit (117). This deposit is darker than the overlying deposit (118). The deposit has occasional rounded sandstone inclusions and is subject to bioturbation from worms. <i>Silting up of ditch following disuse.</i>	Unknown
119	Deposit	30.0m	1.65m	0.34m	Worked Stone	A stony deposit containing inclusions of large irregular sandstone boulders and worked stone. <i>Collapsed or demolished bank material.</i>	Unknown

Context Number	Context Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds	Context Description	Estimated Date
120	Cut	4.0m	N/A	N/A	None	Cut of a large ditch defining the North side of enclosure filled by (101) (105) (112) (113) (114) (115) (116) (117) (118). <i>Inner ditch of prehistoric (?) multi-ditched enclosure.</i>	Unknown
121	Deposit	N/A	N/A	0.03m	None	A medium-fine-textured light yellowish-brown silt/clay deposit with occasional angular sandstone inclusions. Subject to minor root disturbance and bioturbation from worms. <i>Subsoil underlying (101) possibly colluvium.</i>	Unknown
122	Deposit	N/A	N/A	0.02m+	None	A fine-textured dark yellowish-brown silt deposit with occasional angular sandstone inclusions. Subject to minor root penetration and bioturbation from worms. <i>This deposit has the same texture as the overlying deposit (121) but is darker in colour.</i>	Unknown
123	Fill	0.35m	0.20m	0.4m	None	A fine-coarse-textured brown soil/ charcoal upper fill of posthole [106]. <i>The soil is likely to be a naturally occurring accumulation of topsoil with charcoal possibly deriving from burning of a wooden post in situ.</i>	Unknown
124	Fill	0.35m	0.19m	0.03m	None	A fine-textured yellow clay lower fill of possible posthole [106]. No inclusions. <i>Collapsed material from sides or redeposited soil used for packing.</i>	Unknown
125	Cut	0.34m	N/A	0.16m	None	Cut of a large posthole located SW of [106] and [107]. Filled by (126). <i>Possible stake or posthole forming part of internal sub-enclosure.</i>	Unknown
126	Fill	0.34m	N/A	0.16m	None	Fill of posthole [125]. <i>Collapsed material following removal of post.</i>	Unknown

Context Number	Context Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds	Context Description	Estimated Date
127	Deposit	2.51m	N/A	1.24m	None	A mid-red-brown sandy clay deposit with frequent inclusions of sub-angular sandstone, pebbles, cobbles, and boulders. Deposit runs between (128) and (118). <i>Collapse/wash from the demolished bank remnants.</i>	Unknown
128	Fill	1.26m	N/A	0.80m	None	A dark grey-brown sandy/silt basal fill of ditch [120]. Fill contains occasional inclusions of sub-angular sandstone and pebbles. <i>Primary fill of ditch [120] – silting up following disuse.</i>	Unknown
129	Pipe	9.90m	N/A	0.34m	None	Terracotta pipe orientated NNE-SSE. Construction cut is [103] filled by (102). <i>Accurate metric readings rather than imperial suggests that the pipe is fairly modern land drainage.</i>	20 th /Early 21 st Century
130	Deposit	4.0m+	1.25m	0.60m	None	Deposit underlying (101) and overlying (131) (132) (114) (113). Deposit is cut by (105). <i>Possible bank footing or undisturbed natural subsoil.</i>	Unknown
131	Deposit	4.0m+	0.75m	0.32m	None	Deposit underlying (130) and is cut by (132). <i>Possible bank footing or undisturbed natural subsoil.</i>	Unknown
132	Deposit	4.0m+	0.36m	0.18m	None	Deposit cutting (131) and underlying (130) (114) (113). <i>Possible bank footing or undisturbed natural subsoil.</i>	Unknown
201	Deposit	30.0m+	30.0m	N/A	CBM, Pottery, Fe, Flint, Slag, Glass, Clay Pipe	A medium-textured dark greyish brown sandy silt deposit with occasional sandstone inclusions and finds of glass and pottery. <i>Modern topsoil likely the result of low-energy wind-borne siltation over time. Date uncertain.</i>	Unknown

Context Number	Context Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds	Context Description	Estimated Date
202	Fill	1.20m+	1.20m	0.11m	None	A medium-textured yellow/orange sandy clay fill of [206]. Fill is dry and compacted. <i>Redeposited natural within land drain [206] likely 20th/Early 21st Century.</i>	20 th /Early 21 st Century
203	Deposit	30.0m +	30.0m	N/A	None	White deposit running through Trench 2 that underlies topsoil deposit (201) and underlies (217) (218) in the east. <i>Possible colluvium similar to (121).</i>	Unknown
204	Deposit	30.0m +	2.75m	0.38m	None	Deposit underlying (203) and overlying ash deposit (205). <i>Possible colluvium similar to (112/113).</i>	Unknown
205	Deposit	30.0m +	1.44m	0.15m	None	Ashy deposit below (204) filled by (203) within [120], Trench 2. <i>Possible buried soil filling underlying ditch.</i>	Unknown
206	Cut	1.20m	0.46m	0.44m	None	A linear-shaped cut of feature with sharp, near vertical, sides, sharp break of slopes and a slightly concave base. Orientated NE-SW. Filled by (202), (208), (209). <i>Likely the construction cut for the land drain possibly post-medieval in date.</i>	Post-medieval
207						VOID	
208	Fill	1.20m+	0.67m	0.04m	None	A medium-textured mid-yellow-grey sandy/silt upper fill of land drain [206]. Fill contains occasional flecks of sandstone. <i>Backfill – redeposited material.</i>	Unknown
209	Fill	1.20m+	0.67m	0.07m	None	A medium-textured light brownish-grey sandy-silt fill of [206] with orange-white mottling. Fill has occasional sandstone inclusions. Fill overlies (210) and underlies (203). <i>Backfill –</i>	Unknown

Context Number	Context Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds	Context Description	Estimated Date
						<i>redeposited material.</i>	
210	Pipe	1.20m+	0.40m+	0.10m	None	Ceramic land drain pipe. The pipe overlies [206] and underlies (208) and (203). <i>Likely 20th century Land Drain.</i>	20 th century
211	Cut	0.18m	0.07m	0.08m	None	A circular-shaped feature with a sharp break of slope at the top and gradual at the base. The sides are vertical, and the base is rounded. Filled by (212). <i>Possibly a posthole forming some kind of internal structure/enclosure.</i>	Unknown
212	Fill	0.18m	0.07m	0.08m	None	A mid orange-grey silty sand fill of possible posthole [211]. Fill contained no inclusions. <i>Silting up following removal of post/stake.</i>	Unknown
213	Cut	N/A	0.06m	0.05m	None	A circular-shaped cut of feature with a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break of slope at the base. The sides are straight and slope inwards. The base is rounded. Feature cuts (203) and is filled by (214). <i>Likely the cut of a posthole forming some kind of internal structure/enclosure.</i>	Unknown
214	Fill	N/A	0.06m	0.05m	None	A medium-textured mid-orange-grey silty sand fill of circular feature, possible posthole, [213]. <i>Silting up following removal of post/stake.</i>	Unknown
215	Cut	N/A	0.08m	0.14m	None	A circular-shaped cut of feature with sharp-gradual break of slopes and vertical sides. The base is concave. Filled by (216). <i>Likely the cut of a posthole forming some kind of internal structure/enclosure.</i>	Unknown

Context Number	Context Type	Length	Width	Depth	Finds	Context Description	Estimated Date
216	Fill	N/A	0.08m	0.14m	None	A medium-textured mid-orangey-grey silty sand fill of possible posthole [215]. <i>Silting up following removal of post/stake.</i>	Unknown
217	Deposit	30.0m+	1.10m	0.13m	None	An orange deposit overlying deposit (218) and underlying (201). <i>Possible colluvium deposit.</i>	Unknown
218	Deposit	30.0m+	1.85m	0.12m	None	A grey deposit underlying deposit (217) and overlying deposit (203).	Unknown
219	Deposit	35.0m+	N/A	N/A	N/A	Subsoil deposit underlying topsoil deposit (201) located in Trench 2.	Unknown
220	Deposit	30.0m+	3.5m	0.26m	None	Grey deposit underlying the ash deposit (205) and (203) located to the east of Trench 2.	Unknown

APPENDIX II OASIS FORM



Archaeological Investigations at Roughbirchworth Common

ADS Library Summary

[◀ Previous page](#)

[Next page ▶](#)

OASIS ID (UID): archaeol5-509117

Project Name: Archaeological Investigations at Roughbirchworth Common

Activity type: Evaluation

Project Identifier(s): Roughbirchworth Common

Planning Id: [no data]

Reason for Investigation: Community led

Organisation Responsible for work: Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Project Dates: 01-Aug-2022 - 12-Aug-2022

HER: South Yorkshire Archaeology Service 

HER Identifiers: [no data]

Project Methodology: A community led research excavation of two evaluation trenches targeting a circular earthwork on Roughbirchworth Common. Organised by The Roughbirchworth Community Excavation Group with Heritage Lottery Funding and guidance and support from Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

Project Results: Excavation of the two evaluation trenches exposed remains associated with substantial ditch(es) and banks which appear to form a large sub-circular enclosure.

Keywords:

Subject/Period: Carved Stone: UNCERTAIN

FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types 

(http://purl.org/heritagedata/schemes/eh_tmt2/concepts/70347)

Subject/Period: Boundary Bank: UNCERTAIN

FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types 

(http://purl.org/heritagedata/schemes/eh_tmt2/concepts/70324)

Subject/Period: Multiple Ditch System: UNCERTAIN

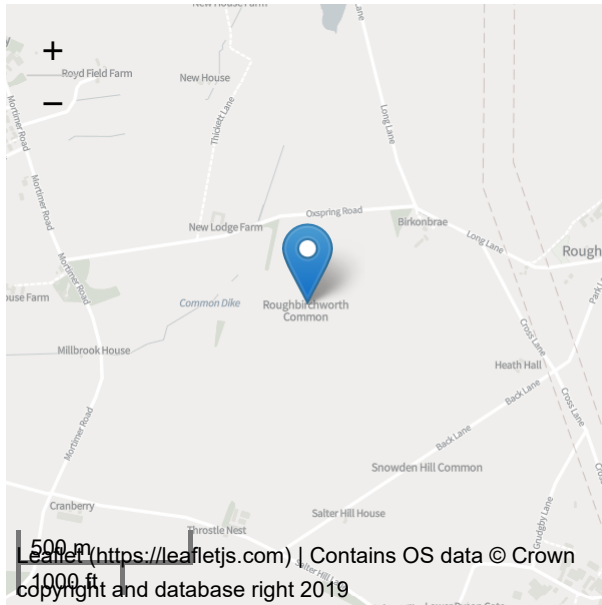
FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types 

(http://purl.org/heritagedata/schemes/eh_tmt2/concepts/68862)

Archive:

Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Experience Barnsley: Barnsley Museum

and Archives Centre;



Location

Site 1

Site name: Roughbitchworth Common

Coordinates:

SE 25397 01387 LL NGR 12 fig

Administrative Areas:

Country : England

County : South Yorkshire

District : Barnsley OS (<http://data.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/id/700000000009182>)

ONS (<http://statistics.data.gov.uk/id/statistical-geography/E08000016>)

Parish : Oxspring

[Download summary as PDF](#)

◀ Previous page
Next page ▶