



# **Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group**

## **The Hagg - A Project Plan for 2018**

## 1. Introduction and Background

SWAAG has been exploring the Hagg site since 2009. It has undertaken topographic and geophysical surveys and has excavated several areas, although recent focus has centred on site 103. Reports of the work carried out to date are on the SWAAG web site at [www.swaag.org](http://www.swaag.org) under Fieldwork Reports.

During the period 2014 - 2016 work progressed to draw together the results of previous years' excavations with the aim of developing a unified interpretation of site 103 as a basis for further work. Also, over that period several opportunities arose to discuss the results with local, professional archaeologists. Although there was no common view, there were several common themes:

- site 103 is Romano-British, and was probably abandoned towards the end of the 4th century AD;
- it is not clear whether the site was a settlement, or a site for farming and animal husbandry, industrial activity, or a combination of all three;
- there would appear to be evidence of settlement/human activity in adjacent fields and perhaps site 103 is only a relatively small part of a much larger complex;
- historical protocols had determined that excavation should not extend beyond the abandonment phase; those protocols should be examined in the next phase of work;
- SWAAG is recommended to return and to continue investigations to try and further elucidate the nature and functions of the site.

Bearing those comments in mind, in 2016 a new excavation programme for site 103 was developed and a research document "The Hagg - A Project Plan for 2016 and Beyond" published; it is available on the SWAAG website. The Plan included details of a prioritised set of evaluation trenches and their locations. Each trench was focussed towards answering very specific questions about features on the site with the intention of providing data to inform much larger, open area excavations from 2017 onwards.

In October 2016, 6 of those evaluation trenches were completed and the methodology, results, finds and interpretations are recorded in a report entitled: "Hagg Site 103 Excavations, 7th -15th October, 2016", which is available on the SWAAG web site.

In July 2017, with support from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Sustainable Development Fund, SWAAG organised and managed a community dig on site 103. Based upon information gathered from previous excavations, but particularly the evaluation trenches explored in the 2016 season, a large open area excavation was carried out. It focused on Zones 1 and 2 (part) shown in Figure 2, and exposed an area of some 400square meters. The results from the excavation continue to confirm that the site is Romano-British, and that it was abandoned towards the end of the 4th century AD. The site was largely an enclosed area with both metalled and flagged areas and a range of individual features, shown in Figure 3. A complete description of the site and the features together with detailed finds analyses and full details of the excavation are contained in the report: "The Hagg, Fremington Edge, Swaledale, North Yorkshire NGR 405694 498989, Archaeological Excavation (2017 Season)" published May 2108, and which is available on the SWAAG website, [www.swaag.org](http://www.swaag.org).

For 2018 the SWAAG Trustees have agreed to fund, from SWAAG reserves, a further large open area exploration of site 103, focussing on the recommendations from the 2017 excavation report. A full listing and the priorities for excavation work, as identified in the 2017 Hagg excavation report, is set out in Section 2, Research Questions and Objectives, of this Project Plan.

This Project Plan, describes the details of the 2018 proposed activities (the "Project") and has been approved by the SWAAG Trustees.

## 2. Research Questions and Objectives

The results and interpretations of the evaluation trenches excavated in 2016 were examined in the context of previous work on the site and were also discussed with Tony Liddell of Vindomora Solutions, the Site Archaeologist for the 2016 dig. It was concluded that the evaluation trenches had each achieved the objectives set out and that to gain a better understanding of the site as a whole, the next step should be to undertake a large open area excavation.

Figure 1 shows a composite plan of previous work and the 2016 trenches together with suggestions as to the locations of features such as walls, enclosures and trackways.

Based upon the results of the excavations to date summarised in the recommendations in the 2017 excavation report, the following are the research questions and objectives for the 2018 excavation of the Hagg. Note that the objectives in bold are the priorities for this year and the red numbers are the feature numbers shown in the plan of the 2017 dig in Figure 3:

**Excavate the remaining part of zone 2 and the whole of zone 3 north of 2017 excavation including the enclosure wall line of the upper eastern platform, and up to the north embankment, Figure 2. This open area will cover the two platforms seen on the surface, help to explain the flagged areas seen in 2013 and 2016, and investigate the possibility of further domestic or industrial buildings in this area;**

**Stratified excavation of all features and surfaces to investigate phasing;**

**Excavate west of roundhouse [F1] including the wall-line of [F10] and reveal the western boundary enclosure wall. This will investigate the possibility of a further building in this area and identify the nature of the western boundary of the farmstead;**

Excavate south of [F10] to reveal the southern annexe. This may reveal if the platform is a late addition and its suggested possible use as a midden;

To excavate south of the current boundary formed by entrances [F4], [F5] and mound [F3]. This would investigate the nature of the tracks and may allow for phasing of the entrances;

Excavate north of roundhouse [F1] porch, within embankment [F6] to investigate if there is a footprint of its northern wall and if it too had a built up column as the south wall;

**Excavate north west corner of enclosure, to establish if this is the boundary corner, or if it extends further west towards the spring area;**

Excavation of the possible building at the southeastern corner of the eastern annexe;

Excavation of the square feature on the western side of the glacial mound;

Excavation across the potential trackway on the west side of the glacial mound running above the eastern annexe;

**Geophysical survey of the field below the south platform to establish if the enclosure continues to expand south and establish any track ways . Survey also the eastern side of the glacial mound to confirm track ways and possible east boundary edge, survey flat area to the south east of the established track way that leads to the site from the east.**

### 3. Excavations and Finds

All excavations and the retrieval and processing of any finds will be carried out in accordance with standard archaeological procedures under the direction and supervision of the Site Archaeologist (the “SA”)and the Project Manager (the “PM”).

The approximate locations of the key excavations and objectives, relative to the previous excavations, are described in Section 2 of this Project Plan. Section 2 of this Project Plan also prioritises the key areas for the year, although there is within the Project Plan a degree of flexibility to take account of factors such as ongoing results, the numbers of volunteers available and the weather.

The limits of the areas to be excavated will be marked out using GPS before being de-turfed by hand and sub-divided into smaller work areas. The size of each area will take into account the number of volunteers available.

All of the work areas will be excavated by hand. In the first instance the excavation will go down to the top of the archaeological deposits, or the natural substrate, whichever occurs first. Subject to guidance from the SA and/or PM, certain of the work areas will progress down through the abandonment phase to investigate and sample earlier deposits.

The work areas will be cleaned down and all features investigated and recorded as deemed appropriate by the SA and/or PM.

The site will be recorded using single context recording. All excavated contexts will be recorded in plan and section and recorded on stratigraphic matrices. Plans and sections will be drawn at appropriate scales (generally 1:10 or 1:20), defined by the SA and/or PM.

The excavations will be accurately tied into the OS national grid and accurately levelled relative to the OS datum, using traditional survey techniques and GPS.

During fieldwork, the following percentages of features will normally be excavated:

- stake-holes: 100%
- post-holes: 50%
- pits up to 1.5 diameter: 50%
- pits over 1.5m: 25% but with full profile excavated
- linear features up to 5m in length: 20%

- linear features over 5m in length: up to 10%,
- linear features: all intersections and terminus areas to be investigated
- human burials: 100%

Guidance must be sought from the SA and/or PM before excavating any such features.

During the excavations, turf, soil and stone will be stored in separate piles. As far as possible the spoil from each work area should be stored adjacent to that work area and not impinging on areas to be excavated.

When deemed appropriate excavated soil will be sieved and, as far as possible, scanned using a metal detector.

Upon completion of fieldwork, trenches will be backfilled and the ground surface reinstated as close as reasonably possible to its original profile.

A comprehensive digital photographic record of the excavation will be made. The record will include 'people shots' of excavations in progress as well as standard shots. All images will be retained in the site archive, with an appropriate selection included within the project report.

A comprehensive, daily, site diary will be maintained for the overall site as well as for each excavation area. In addition to site and excavation details the diaries will include details of personnel present each day. The SA and/or PM will be responsible for ensuring that daily diaries are completed.

All finds will be retained and recorded by context. The SA will undertake any necessary emergency first aid to finds; if further conservation is required this will be done according to the recommendations of appropriate specialists. No finds will be discarded prior to post-excavation assessment.

During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts will be stored in appropriate conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information.

Any material from secure contexts deemed potentially suitable for environmental analysis and dating purposes will be recovered and stored in appropriate conditions. Advice regarding the analysis and dating will be sought from appropriate testing laboratories.

It is thought most unlikely that human remains will be encountered at this site. However, should bones of any type be encountered, all excavations in the vicinity should stop and guidance sought from the SA and/or PM.

#### **4. Surveying**

Prior to beginning the excavation the target areas will be delineated using GPS and surveyed using appropriate geophysical techniques. Geophysical (resistivity and magnetometry) and topographic (GPS) surveys will also be carried out in areas defined in Section 2 of this Project Plan. Subject to time, there may also be an opportunity to survey other areas adjacent to site 103. Surveys will be carried out at times other than those reserved for the excavation work.

## **5. Post Excavation, Archiving and Report Production**

The fieldwork programme will be followed by an assessment of finds and samples under the guidance of the SA and/or PM. All finds and samples will be assessed for their potential for further analysis and conservation/storage requirements. Finds deemed not worthy of retention will be discarded at this point. Retained finds will be cleaned, marked, photographed and/or drawn, and bagged for long-term storage.

Specialists may be called on, as necessary, to examine, process and assess excavated finds and samples.

All finds belong to the land owner. Following assessment of the finds, and subject to the agreement of the landowner the finds will be stored locally.

Following completion of the excavation and any analyses, the excavation work together with the results of the finds analysis and sample analyses, if any, will be promptly written up in a comprehensive report. Copies of the report will be lodged on the SWAAG web site, and on OASIS where it will be freely available.

The matter of an archive for this and previous site 103 excavations is under consideration. Initial indications suggest possible local archives to be: the Yorkshire Museum, Richmond; and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Museum, Hawes.

## **6. Supervision and Management of the Project.**

The excavations, surveying, and all activities associated with them will at all times be under the guidance of the SA and/or PM. Changes to the scope of an excavation or any procedure must not be made without first securing the agreement of the SA and the PM (or his deputy).

SWAAG members will be responsible for the following:

- Project Manager, site Health and Safety, and liaison with land owner - Phillip Bastow
- Logistics - Rob Nicholson/Rod Flint
- Surveying - Mike Walton
- Finds - Rob Nicholson
- Staffing, Communications - Andrea Dixon
- Project Plan - David Brooks
- Budget/Finance - Mike Keenan
- Schools - Sue Nicholson
- Site Welfare Co-ordinator - Graham Smith (David Brooks)
- Publicity/Press - Rod Flint

## **7. Health and Safety**

Health and Safety on the site is paramount and it is the responsibility of everyone to work in a safe manner and to look out for the safety of his or her co-workers.

A risk assessment has been carried out and will be circulated to all who will work on the site. The PM, or the SA in the absence of the PM, will be responsible for supervising health and safety across the site and will give briefings and guidance as needed.

The SWAAG Safety Policy (see the SWAAG web site) will be followed. The policy will be freely available on the site and all persons working on the site must, before they begin work, sign a declaration stating that they have read and understand the SWAAG Safety Policy and the associated risk assessments.

Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is the responsibility of those working on the site. We suggest that everyone digging should wear strong, protective gloves. We insist that all those working on site must, as a minimum, wear strong, robust footwear and anyone using a large mattock must wear footwear with steel, or its equivalent, toe caps. The Project Manager, or in his absence the SA, will check the adequacy of PPE, especially footwear; their judgement in this matter will be final.

SWAAG maintains comprehensive insurance through Insignia Underwriting. The policy covers all of the activities in the Project Plan and all people, working on site, whether SWAAG members or not. A copy of the current Policy Schedule is attached, Figure 4. The current policy will expire during the term of the project. However, the Trustees of SWAAG have already committed to its further renewal with the same level of cover, through Insignia.

The SA will be covered by his/her own insurance.

SWAAG has appointed a Site Welfare Co-ordinator to whom all new site staff should in the first instance report. He/she will ensure and record that they have been given appropriate briefings and ensure that, before they begin work, they have read and signed the SWAAG Safety Policy, and if appropriate the SWAAG Safeguarding and Protection Policy. The Welfare Co-ordinator will also ensure that visitors to the site are appropriately supervised.

Anyone refusing to comply with the SWAAG Safety Policy, the SWAAG Safeguarding and Protection Policy or this Project Plan will be asked to leave the site.

## **8. Training**

SWAAG is a community archaeology group made up entirely of volunteers with varying levels of archaeological expertise. Members of the public may also participate in the dig and it is assumed, until proven otherwise, that they have little or no knowledge and experience of archaeological techniques.

It is important that all participants in the dig are offered training and experience in the archaeological techniques appropriate to this dig, in order that they may participate fully and effectively. Also the training and skills acquired by participants can be regarded as an important part of the legacy of the project.

Training will be offered on site during the dig and will be provided by the SA and/or PM as part of their scope of work, or by appropriately skilled SWAAG members

To supplement the on-site training all participants will, before the start of the dig, be provided with:

- An electronic copy of this Project Plan; and

- An electronic copy of a booklet called “Archaeological Recording Practices: guidelines for archaeological excavation and recording techniques” published by the Northumberland National Park.

Participants are also encouraged to visit the following web sites:

[www.jigsawcambs.org](http://www.jigsawcambs.org)

where, under the tab resources/downloads, there are additional user guides which participants may find useful.

## **9. Site “rules”**

The site will be open to members of SWAAG and the public. There are no fees for participation in this Project

Children over the age of 11 years are welcome on site and to participate in the activities providing they are at all times accompanied by a responsible adult. The SWAAG policy regarding minors is on the SWAAG web site, and will be available on site and must be signed by the responsible adult before starting work. Anyone failing to adhere to the SWAAG policy will be asked to leave the site.

The site will be open from 5th to 19th July and the normal working hours will be from 9.30am to 4pm, daily.

All participants and visitors to the site must sign in on arrival and notify the Welfare Co-ordinator and the SA and/or PM of their presence. All participants and visitors must sign out on departure. The Welfare Co-ordinator, the SA and the PM will wear high visibility vests to help identification.

Alcohol and non-medicinal/recreational drugs are not permitted on the site.

Dogs may only be on site with the prior approval of the PM and must be restrained at all times.

## **10. Site Archaeologist - terms of reference**

The Site Archaeologist will be an experienced archaeologist provided through Vindomora Solutions, but may not be the same person throughout. He/she will have the following responsibilities:

- The SA will, on such days as agreed between the SA and the PM, be on site between the hours of 9.30am to 4pm.
- The SA will provide the PM with contact details for those days when the SA is not expected on site.
- In the event that the appointed SA cannot be on site, then he/she must provide an appropriately skilled stand-in. In case of an emergency/unexpected absence, the appointed SA must make arrangements for the site to be able to contact him/her for advice.
- The SA together with the PM will supervise and control all of the required archaeological activities.



- The SA will contribute to towards the provision of daily site briefings.
- The SA must agree with the Project Manager (or his nominated deputy) any variations to the activities as set out in this Plan.
- As the site workers are expected to be volunteers with little or no previous experience of archaeology, the SA will be required to provide training and guidance as necessary.
- The SA will provide support and advice to the post excavation finds management.
- The SA will provide input and editorial support to the writing of the excavation report.

## **11. Ownership and Permissions**

The land at the Hagg is owned and farmed by the Clarke family of Fremington, in Swaledale. The landowner has given specific permission for the work contemplated in the Project Plan to go ahead, Figure 5. The landowner has advised us that there are no requirements to approach any other authorities for permission to excavate.

The site is not a scheduled monument.

Finds from the site are owned by the land owner.

This Project Plan has been lodged with the Senior Historic Environment Officer of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

## **12. Acknowledgements**

SWAAG wish gratefully to acknowledge support for the Project of Mr David Clarke and his family and for their permission for us to carry out these excavations on their land.

DBJun2018

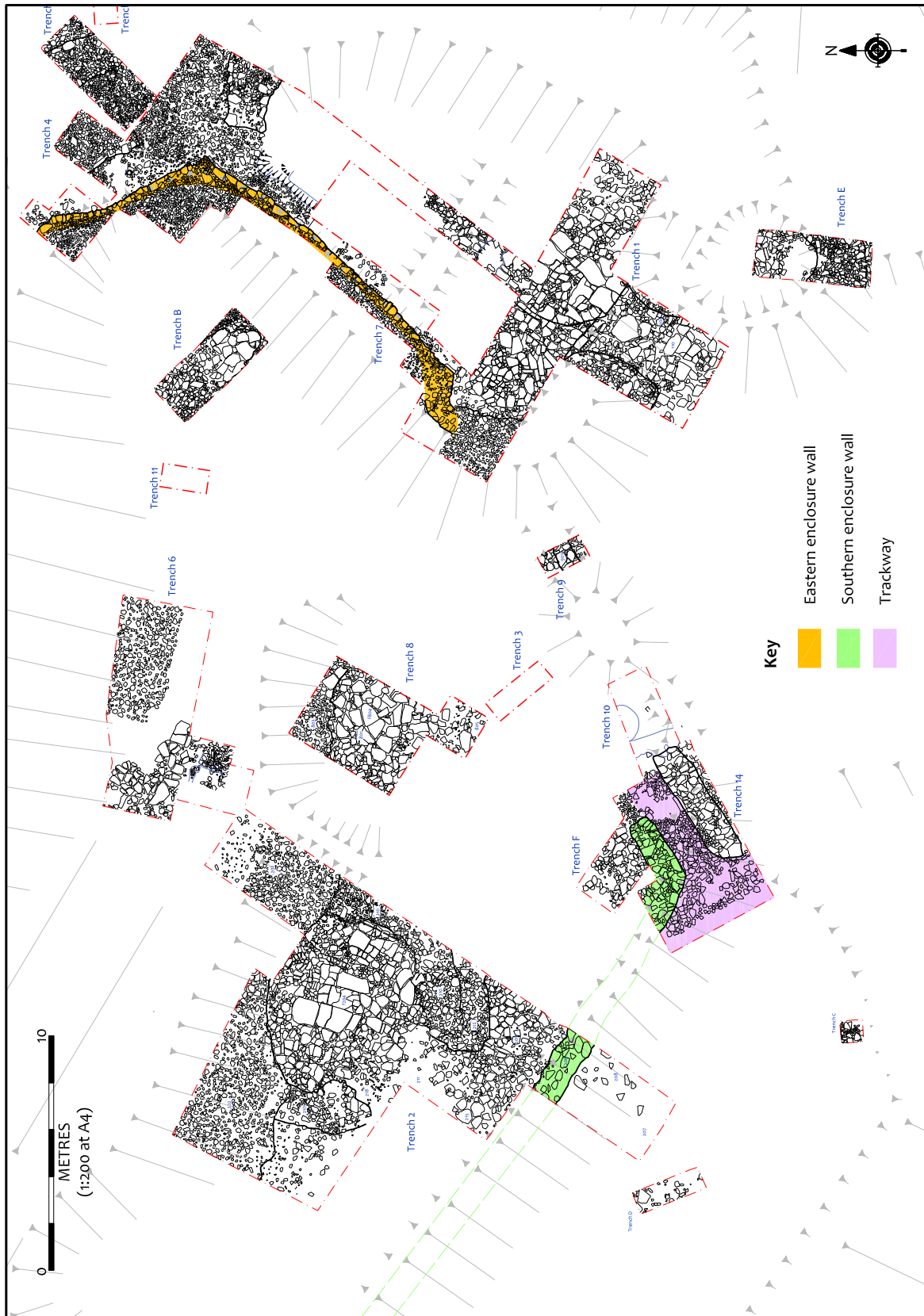


Figure 1: Site 103 showing previously excavated areas

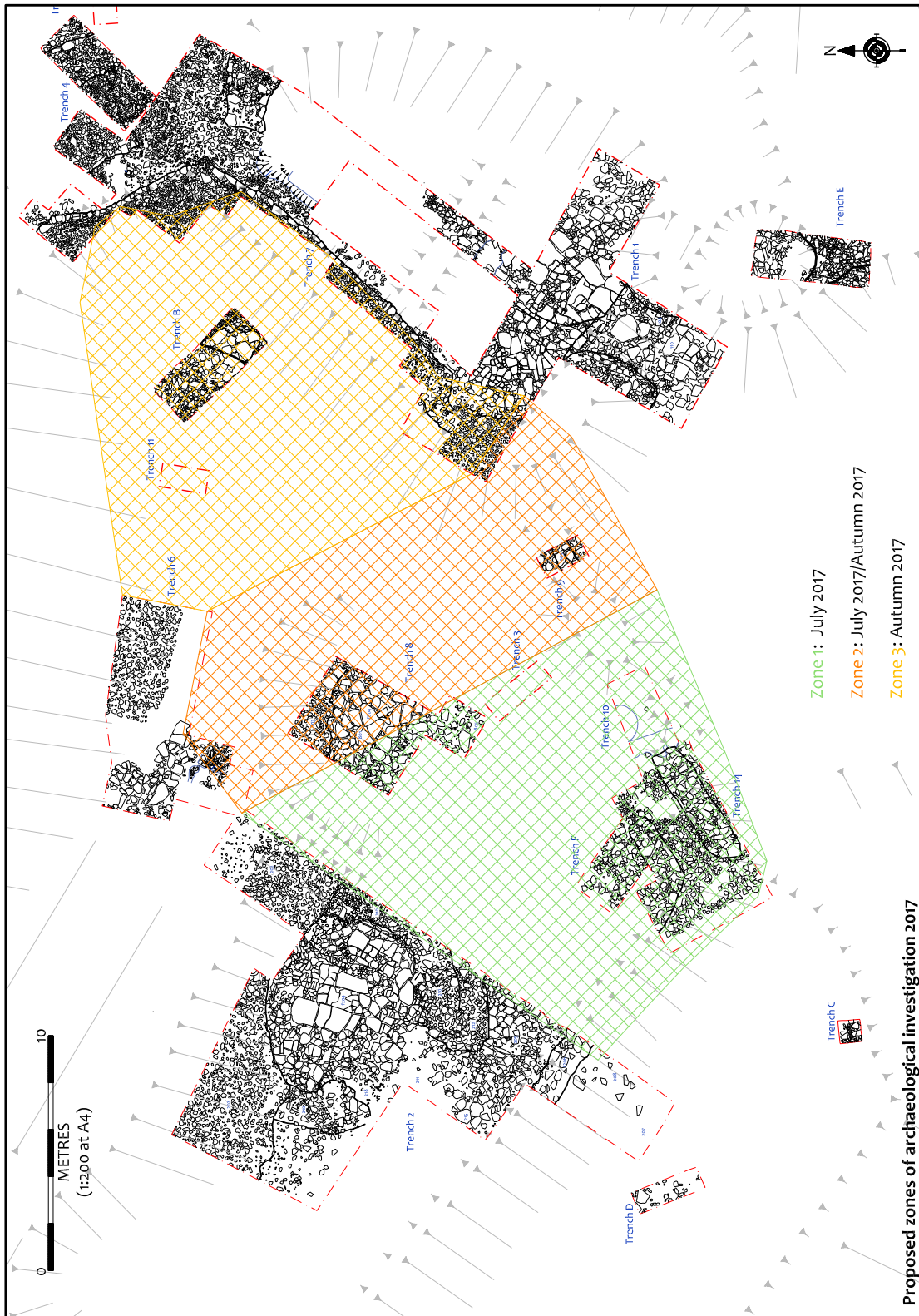


Figure 2: Site 103 showing proposed excavation zones.

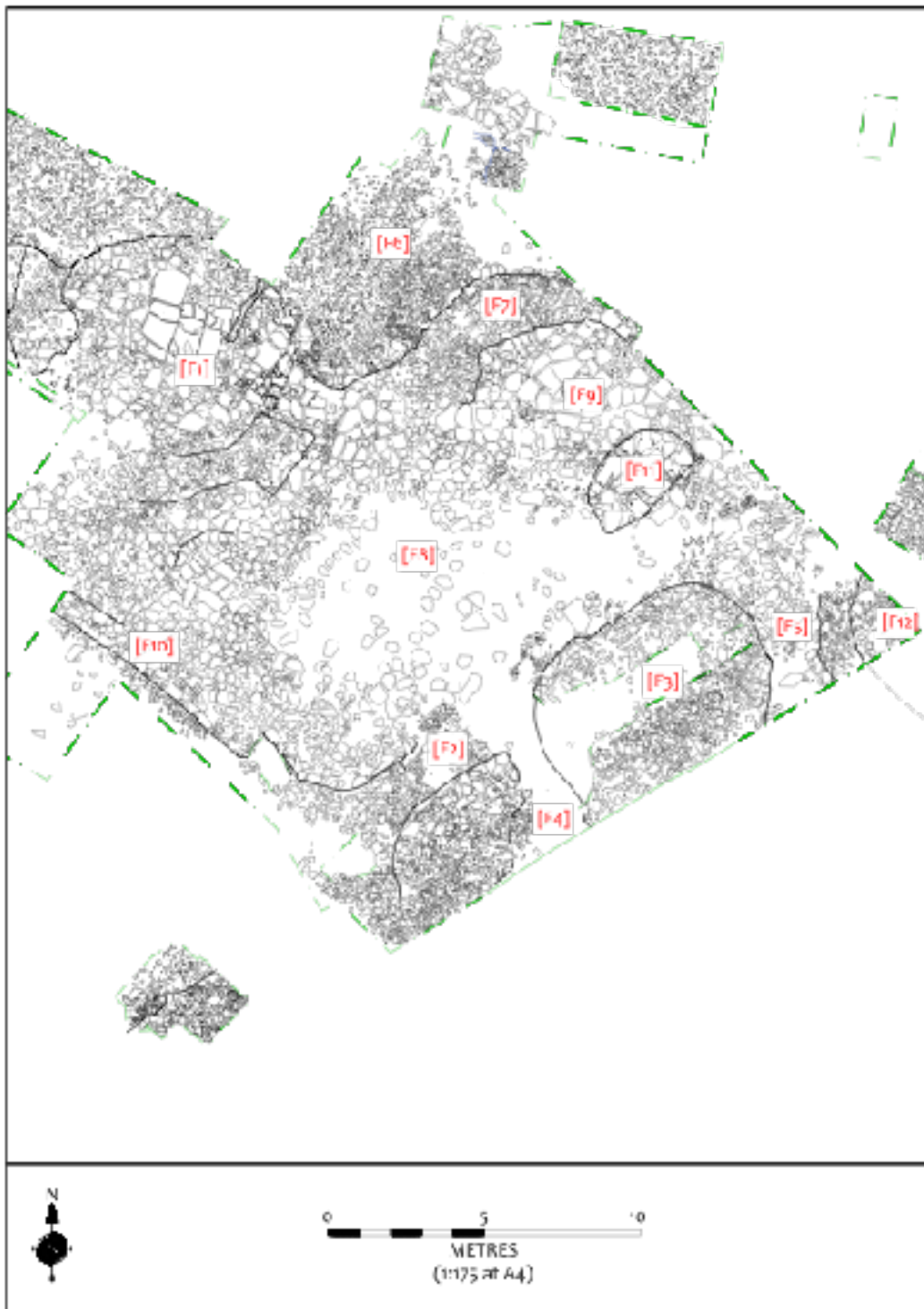


Figure 3. The 2017 excavation area with individual Feature identifiers marked in red. These features are described individually in section 4

**Figure 3: Plan of the 2017 site 103 excavated areas with individual features identified.**

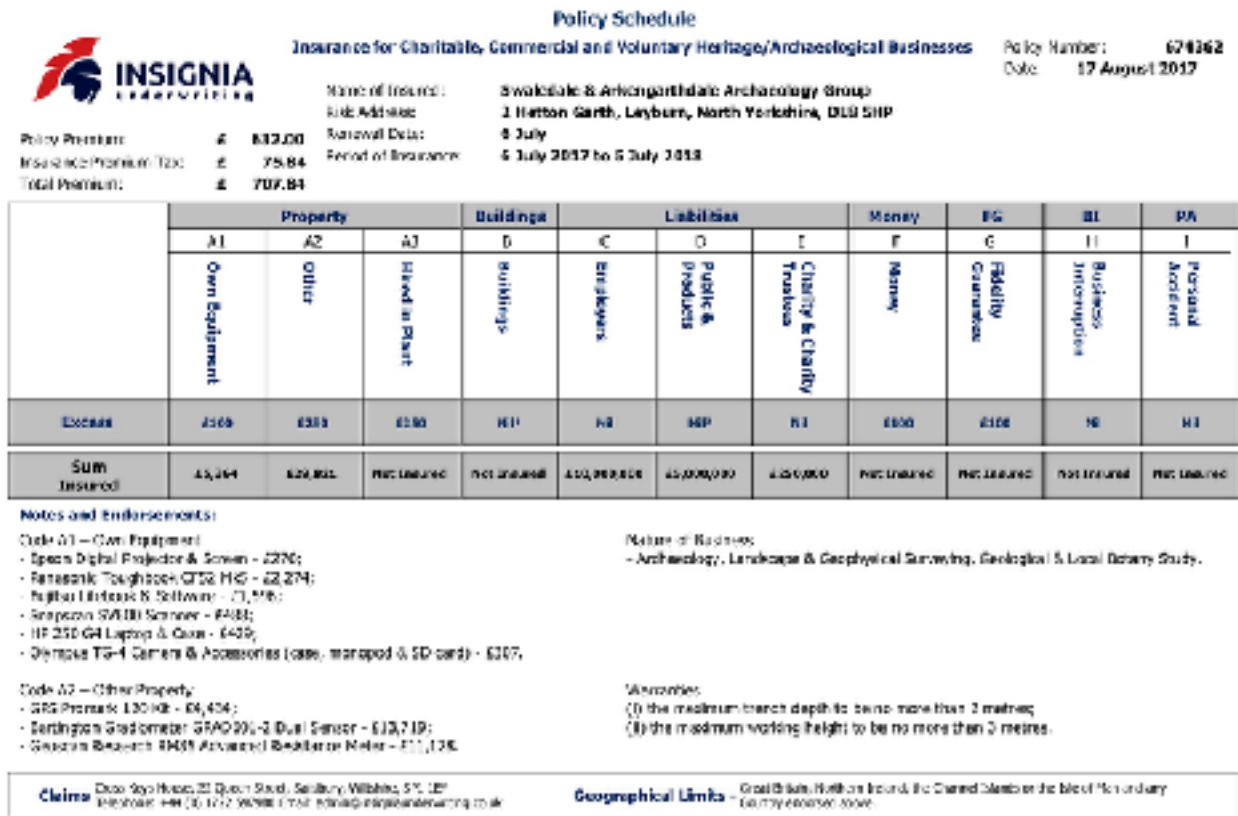


Figure 4: Insurance Policy Schedule

Hagg Farm  
Fremington

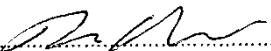
To: SWAAG, c Mr Philip Bastow.

Dear Philip,

Re: SWAAG Archaeology Research on Hagg Farm

I pleased to confirm that SWAAG has permission to carry out on Hagg Farm land such Activities as they believe necessary to reach a full and detailed understanding of the archaeological heritage of the Farm. Such Activities may include landscape surveying, geophysical surveying, excavations and all associated techniques and skills. This permission is subject to the following conditions:

1. Before any Activities are started, SWAAG shall discuss them with me to ensure that they fit in with Farm plans for land and stock management.
2. All Activities carried out in accordance with this permission must at all times be managed by SWAAG members.
3. SWAAG may bring visitors on to the work site providing they are accompanied throughout their visit.
4. SWAAG shall ensure that appropriate third party liability insurance is in place and covers SWAAG members and visitors.
5. Cars shall be parked in the bottom field near the main entrance gate, although one or at the most two cars may be taken to, or near to, the work site for the purpose of transporting equipment, and anyone who needs help.
6. If a temporary toilet is to be used, it shall be positioned in the bottom field near to the main gate and parked cars.
7. Dogs, other than guide dogs, shall only be allowed on site by exception (permission to be given by SWAAG) and any such dogs as are on site shall be restrained at all times.
8. All and any finds discovered on the Farm remain the property of West Hagg Farm and must be returned to the Farm after they have been processed and studied. However, should any of the finds be of national significance, West Hagg Farm will consider allowing them to be exhibited, and retained in a museum(s).
9. Hagg Farm reserves the right to cancel this permission at any time.

Signed 

Date 1/3/2017

Name: David Clarke  
Hagg Farm.

Figure 5: Permission to undertake the Project