



Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group

The Hagg - A Project Plan for 2019

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 the 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 under Fieldwork Reports and on OASIS.

During the period 2014 - 2016, work focussed on drawing together the results of previous years' excavations with the aim of developing a unified interpretation as a basis for further work. Also, several opportunities arose where the findings to date were discussed 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 is 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 determined that excavation should not extend beyond the abandonment phase; those protocols should be examined in the next phase(s) 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" was written; it is available on the SWAAG website. The Plan includes 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 larger open 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 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 1. 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 available on the SWAAG website, www.swaag.org.

For 2018 the SWAAG Trustees agreed to fund, from SWAAG reserves, a further large, open area exploration of site 103. The excavation focussed on the recommendations from the 2017 excavation and included the remainder of Zone 2 together with a part of Zone 3 (Figure 2); a full listing and the priorities for this 2018 excavation work can be found in the 2017 Hagg Excavation Report on the SWAAG web site. The results from that excavation continue to support the view that the site is Romano-British, abandoned towards the end of the 4th century AD. The excavation exposed further walled, metalled and flagged areas (possible yards?) interconnected by pathways and trackways. There were no definitive signs of any settlement but there was some evidence of buildings on the site. The pottery was again almost exclusively Roman, the majority of local origins. Significant numbers of querns stones were uncovered, particularly querns of the Traprain Law type, a type normally associated with the Roman military. The post-ex specialist finds reports are available on the SWAAG web site and the 2018 report is in preparation.

For 2019, the SWAAG Trustees have approved and will fund a further (community) exploration at site 103. However, it will not be a single open area exploration but will focus on the unexplored section of Zone 3 (Figure 2) and will include evaluation trenches at several other areas of the site, see Figure 3.

This Project Plan, describes the details of the 2019 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 for them and that to gain a better understanding of the site the next step should be to undertake a large open area excavation.

Figure 3 shows an overhead photograph of the 2018 excavation. Marked on that figure are the approximate target areas for exploration in 2019. The full extent of the excavation will be determined on site depending on the information generated as the excavations proceed and the staff available.

The 2019 explorations will be directed towards providing information to help answer the following research questions:

- What was the purpose/function of site 103: a settlement, a site for animal husbandry, an industrial complex, some combination of all of those, or something else entirely?
- Settlements are often associated with middens, can a midden(s) be identified on site 103 or elsewhere in the surrounding area?
- Was site 103 the focus of activities in the area or was it part of a much more extensive and widely spread complex?
- Is there any evidence of earlier settlements, (e.g. pre Romano-British) on the site and if so, how did they evolve to what was found at the abandonment phase?

- If exploratory work suggests settlement or other human activity in the surrounding area, would more extensive investigations be able to confirm those findings and also show how they relate to site 103?

Although the primary purpose of the Project is to answer the above archaeological research questions, the Project is a community project and will involve SWAAG members, members of the public and students from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne Archaeology Department (“Students”) all of whom will have varying levels of archaeological skills. Accordingly, the Project will also strive to meet the following objective to provide all participants with:

- training and experience in archaeological excavation methods and techniques, including digging, planning, recording, context recording and management, finds handling and management, surveying, etc.

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”).

This Project Plan incorporates a degree of flexibility to take account of factors such as ongoing results, the numbers of volunteers available and the weather. Because of those factors the planned extent of the area of the exploration must be considered as tentative.

The approximate locations of the planned evaluation trenches are illustrated in Figure 3 in relation to the 2018 excavations at site 103. The size of each of the trenches will be determined on site in relation to the ongoing results, weather and the numbers of volunteers available.

The evaluation trenches will be marked out using GPS. The trenches will be de-turfed by hand and if appropriate sub-divided into smaller work areas. The size of each area will take into account the number of volunteers available and will be excavated by, as far as possible, a dedicated team.

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

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

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, to be defined by the SA). The excavations will be accurately tied into the OS national grid and accurately levelled relative to the OS datum, using traditional survey techniques with 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 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 shall be responsible for ensuring that the 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.

4. Surveying

Geophysical (resistivity and magnetometry) and topographic (e.g. GPS) surveys will be carried out as necessary. Surveying may 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. 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. All 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 analyses 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.

The matter of an archive for this and previous excavation work is under consideration. Initial indications suggest possible local archives to be: the Richmondshire 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 and direction of the SA. Changes to the scope of an excavation or any procedure must not be made without first securing the agreement of the SA.

Members of SWAAG will be responsible for all support activities:

- Project Manager and liaison with land owner - Phillip Bastow
- Logistics - Rob Nicholson
- Surveying - Mike Waltons
- Finds - Rob Nicholson
- Staffing, Communications and H&S - Rod Flint
- Project Plan - David Brooks
- Budget - Mike Keenan
- Schools - Sue Nicholson
- Site Welfare Co-ordinator - Graham Smith
- Publicity/Press - Rod Flint

The Students will at all times be governed by this Project Plan but with first line management and supervision by University staff - Dr James Gerrard and colleagues.

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 and SA 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 SA and/or Project Manager will check the adequacy of PPE, especially footwear, and their judgement in this matter will be final.

SWAAG maintains comprehensive insurance through Export and General Insurance Services Ltd. 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 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 Safety Policy and 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 and Students will also participate 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 to SWAAG members and to volunteers from the public will be offered on site during the dig and will be provided by the SA as part of his/her scope of work, or by appropriately skilled SWAAG members. The Students will also be offered similar training but if appropriate it will be suitably modified by the University staff on site to ensure that the Students complete all that is necessary for their degree courses.

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 site:

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, the public, and specifically identified students and staff from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne Archaeology Department. There are no fees for participation in this Project

Children over 13 years of age but under 18 years of age are welcome on the 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, will be available on site and must be signed by the responsible adult before starting work.

The site will be open from 10th to 24th 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, the SA (if on site) otherwise the PM of their presence. All participants and visitors must sign out on departure. The Welfare Co-ordinator, the PM and the SA 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 Project Manager (“PM”) and must be restrained at all times.

10. Site Archaeologist - terms of reference

The Site Archaeologist will be an experienced archaeologist but may not be the same person each day. He/she will have the following responsibilities:

- The on site presence or other availability (e.g. telephone) of the SA will be agreed with the PM. For those days when it is agreed that the SA will be on site, the SA will be available between the hours of 9.30am to 4pm.
- In the event that the SA cannot be on site on the day or days agreed with this PM, then the SA 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 will supervise and control all of the required archaeological activities.
- The SA will, as agreed with the PM, provide daily briefings.
- The SA must agree with the PM (or his nominated deputy) any variations to the activities as set out in this Plan.
- As the site workers are expected to have 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.

SWAAG also wishes to acknowledge the support of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

DBJune 2019



Figure 1: Site 103 showing excavated areas and features

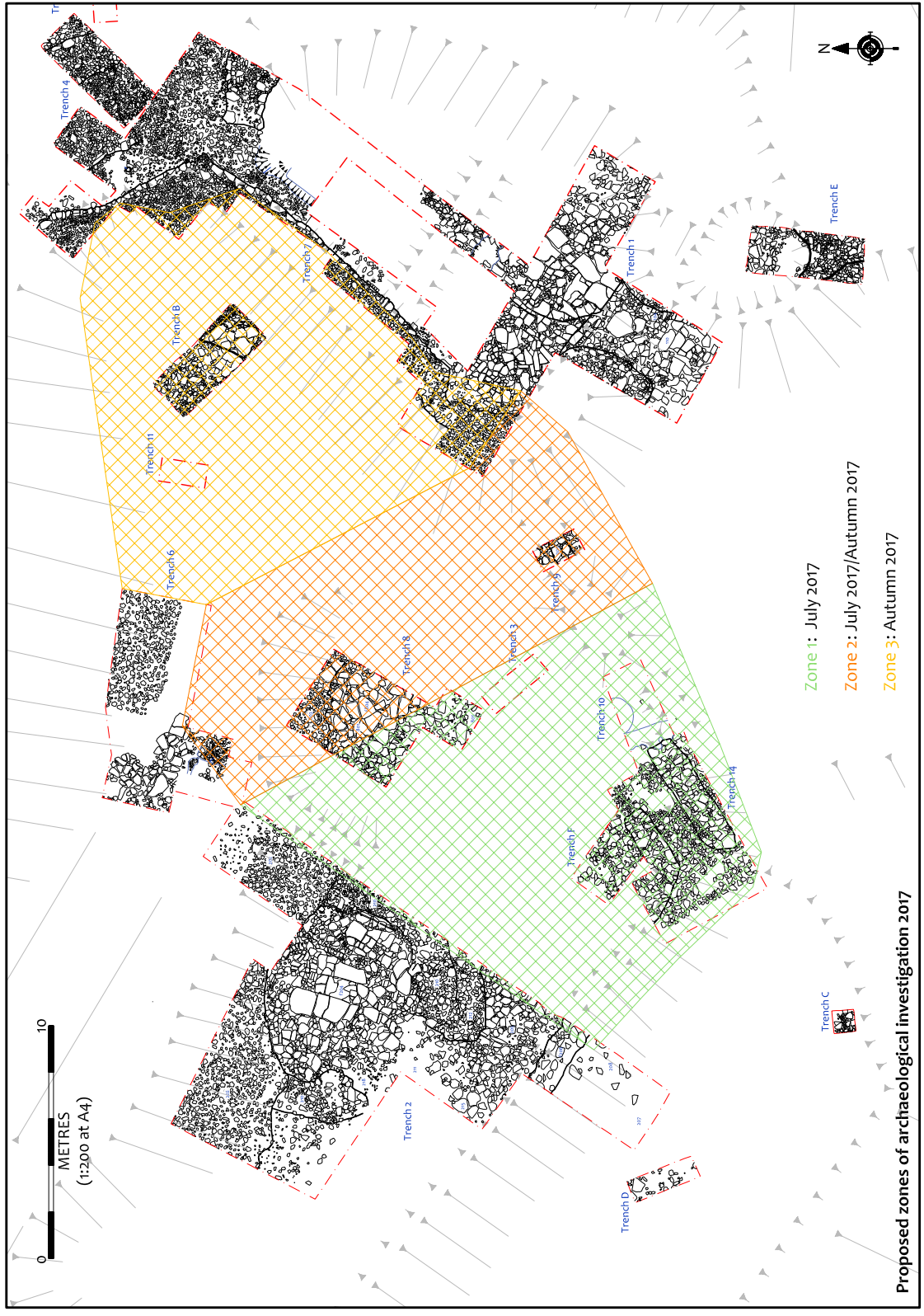


Figure 2: Site 103 showing the excavation zones.

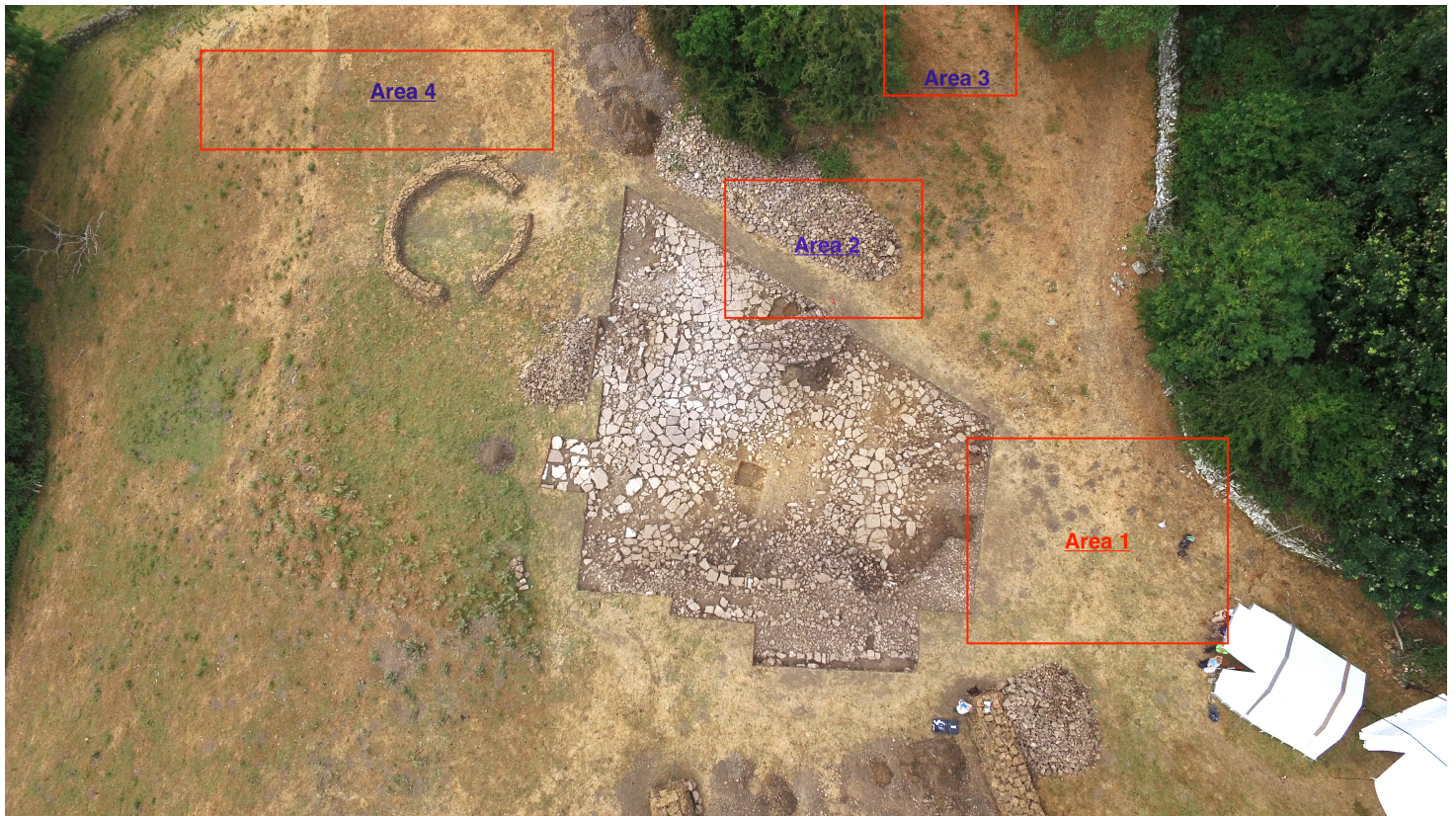


Figure 3: Approximate areas for excavation in 2019 superimposed on the 2018 excavation.



Your Policy Schedule

Export & General Archaeology Scheme

Important Information about your insurance policy

- Please read this policy quote in conjunction with your policy wording and statement of insurance.
- Should you have any queries or if any aspect of the policy does not meet the requirements, please contact us at 0208255 0617.
- Please keep this schedule safe with your policy wording

What is enclosed

- Your statement of insurance
- The summary of cover
- Your insurance schedule
- Please download links to:
[Summary of Cover.pdf](#)
[Policy Wording.pdf](#)

Your Quote details

Policy Number	EGAGP-1103	
Business or organisation name	Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group	
Proposer / Owner / Director	Robert Nicholson	
Risk / Head Office Address	2 Hetton Garth Leyburn North Yorkshire DL8 5HP	
Trade or Business Description	Archaeologists	
Date of Issue	14/05/2019	
Effective Date	06/07/2019	
Renewal Date	06/07/2020	
Expiry Date	05/07/2020	
Public Liability & Employers Liability	Included £5 million public liability £10 million employers liability	£ 150.00
Equipment Own/Borrowed	Over £2000 cost : £ 0.00 Below £2000 cost: £ 35,599.00	Below £2000: £ 320.39
Hired Plant	Not covered	£ 0.00
D&O / Trustees Indemnity (£250,000 limit)	Included	£ 150.00
Legal Expenses (£100,000limit)	Not Covered	£ 0.00
Personal Accident (age 16-75)	Not Covered Number of persons: 0	£ 0.00
Excess Value	Standard	0.00
Insurance Premium		£ 620.39
Insurance Premium Tax (IPT)		£ 74.45
Total		£ 694.84

Your insurance intermediary details

Name	Export & General Insurance Services Ltd
Agency No	PUUK/16/100001

Helpful Information

Speak with your intermediary about any queries or policy changes

The following excesses apply to the sections of your insurance policy

These amounts apply to your insurance cover.

cover	excess
Liability	£250
Equipments	£250
Hired Plant	£500
Legal Expenses	£250
D&O/Trustee	£250

Helpful Information

The excess is the first part of each and every claim paid by you.

Endorsements that apply to your policy

You can find more information about your endorsements in your policy wording

An **endorsement** is a change to your policy terms and conditions which can either restrict your cover or provide you with extra cover

Your insurance company

Insurer	China Taiping Insurance (UK) Co Ltd
Registered No	1766035
Registered Address	2 Finch Lane, London, EC3V 2NA

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4: Insurance Policy Schedule

Hagg Farm
Fremington

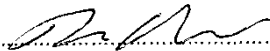
To: SWAAG, c Mr Philip Bastow.

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