

SWAAG

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The Swaledale Project: Proposed Excavation at Hagg Farm Site 103/407 Glacial Mound

1. Summary Description

Archaeological investigation is proposed at Hagg Farm Site 103 (where the first of what is envisaged as a continuing series of excavations has been completed) across SWAAG feature 103/407, a prominent shaped glacial mound, which immediately overlooks the main site and which is abutted by it, to investigate whether, as might appear visually and intuitively possible, there is an active association with the main site.

The works will comprise archaeological recording, survey and partial excavation.

This will be a community archaeology project conducted by the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group (SWAAG) with appropriate professional support.

2. Project Background: Summary

As part of an ongoing programme of archaeological works at Hagg Farm, Site 103 was surveyed using SWAAG landscape survey methods (for report and context see SWAAG Archaeological Report No. 1, July 2010) – see Figs. 1-2 below - and a geophysical survey was conducted over a significant proportion of the site (but not the target of this current proposal) by ASDU

(Archaeological Services Durham University) – see ASDU Report 2631. A two week excavation in July 2012 on areas of Site 103 highlighted by the geophysics (report currently being prepared by ASDU) has revealed a complex of roundhouse stone flagged floors and other features.

Pottery finds were, subject to expert verification, mainly of Iron-Age/ Romano-British provenance.

3. Project Background: Detail

SWAAG Archaeological Report No. 1 recorded a potential enclosure at Site 103 with several potential building platforms in the interior. A single sherd of black - burnished ware recovered from a mole hill may indicate occupation during the Romano - British period. A terrace to the south-west may reflect further activity in this area; an external platform was also recorded to the south-east. The enclosure is situated in a natural saddle within a steep slope. Spatially associated possible banks and trackways may indicate that the earthworks form part of a wider coaxial field system with associated settlements. A glacial mound is situated immediately to the east (feature 407) which may have been utilised and landscaped in the same period as the settlement or in different periods. On the northern portion of the summit of feature 407 there appears to be an oval of stones (feature 307). The Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS) report in April 1997 suggests that the mound was topped by an 'eye catcher' plantation constructed in the first part of the 19th century when Hagg farm was constructed as a shooting lodge (see Figure 6 below). Later development may have been a folly- type viewpoint, as there are spectacular views of Swaledale, but no documentary evidence for these suggestions has been found.

The July 2012 excavation immediately below the glacial mound appears to substantiate occupation of the site below the mound, where significant amounts of Iron-age and Romano-British pottery were found (subject to final expert confirmation) together with roundhouse flagged floors and other areas that may be occupation or enclosure sites. The ASDU report is in preparation.

A preliminary survey with metal detectors (as an authorized part of the July 2012 excavation) has indicated a number of metallic objects across the mound. The July 2012 excavation

below the mound found a small number of nails and similar objects that had some age, and some probable evidence of metal working in the form of possible furnace material that gave a metal response to detectors. All will be described in the ASDU report in due course.

4. Research Aims and Objectives

This project aims to investigate the glacial mound, feature 407, which overlooks Site 103 (see Figures 3-5 below) immediately to the east of the settlement site, to determine the relationship, if any, with the recently uncovered settlement below.

It is anticipated that the project, over time, may help address the following issues:

- a. Was the glacial mound in use at any period prior to the construction of the 19th century plantation?
- b. If so, what was the nature of its use?
- c. Is there any active association which we can demonstrate between any features on the mound and the settlement site below?
- d. What are the dates of the abandonment phase(s) of the structures on the site?
- e. Is feature 307 a structure or just random tumble from the wall surrounding the mound when it was robbed out? What information can be gained from the angle/alignment of the tumble?

5. Scope and Methods

- a. The once enclosed area on top of Site 103/407 has a diameter just under 14 metres giving an inner area around 150 square metres. All that remains of the enclosing dry stone wall is largely the foundations, some of which are visible in places. There are two hawthorns, both of some age, whose roots would have to be avoided.
- b. The objective of the first-stage preliminary investigation is to de-turf and excavate down to the first abandonment phase/ first identifiable archaeological remains over approximately 36 square metres in a trench 9m x 4m extending northwards from the centre of the top of the mound to extend beyond the apparent north wall. The chosen area will be excavated and backfilled by hand by a small number of SWAAG volunteers (probably no more than 4/5 at any one time, who have received training in excavation, surveying and recording during 3/4 weeks supervised by ASDU) working on an intermittent but continuing basis with one or both of the two supervisors indicated at 6 (c) below, both of whom have excavation experience, always present. Turf will be stored to one side and reinstated on completion of the works. Plastic sheeting will be used for the storage of spoil during the course of the works.
- c. An experienced professional archaeologist (who has already visited and commented on the site) will be employed on a contract basis to visit the site as appropriate to review and advise on the excavation, and to review progress on a continuing basis on-line (see 5 f below). It is anticipated that the first such visit will occur once topsoil has been removed and cleaned away. Given the importance of avoiding inadvertent destruction of aspects of archaeological significance, the SWAAG team will err on the side of pausing work for frequent consultation. Supervision and advice will be provided between consultations by the personnel indicated at 6 (a) and (b) below.
- d. Following the removal of topsoil, the areas will be hand-cleaned for the identification of archaeological deposits. It is not the intention to excavate all the deposits within the areas to natural subsoil; depending on the nature and extent of deposits encountered, they will be sampled as appropriate. Small-scale extensions of the areas may take place where this is likely to significantly enhance understanding of the archaeological record.
- e. Archaeological features that are exposed will be recorded to ASDU standards. Areas where no archaeological features are present will also be recorded. Plans will be drawn at 1:20 and sections at 1:10; trench sections will also be drawn. The stratigraphic matrices will be established on site during the course of the works. Traditional surveying methods will be used to accurately place the mound and trench on to a Total Station map of site

103 produced by ASDU. A Dumpy Level will be used to provide accurate levelling. Colour and black and white digital photographs will be taken. A site diary will be maintained.

- f. Records and photographs will be entered on a dedicated area of the SWAAG website so that specialists as at 5 c, 6 a and b and 10 can review information and progress on-line between site visits.

6. Schedule and Supervision

- a) SWAAG member and archaeologist Gill Savage will oversee the project.
- b) Archaeology advisor will be Tim Laurie.
- c) SWAAG excavation supervisors will be Philip Bastow and Stephen Eastmead.
- d) The project is a SWAAG archaeology project and will include consultation with specialist professional freelance archaeologists as appropriate (see 5 (c) and 10).
- e) Excavation will take place over an undefined but continuous period from early October 2012, on approximately 2 to 4 'good weather' days per week until it is complete. Appropriate measures will be taken under advice from the professional archaeological consultant to preserve the site between sessions and, should it be contemplated that work might resume in the future, to protect the site from over-winter frost-damage.

7. Insurance

This is a SWAAG excavation restricted to SWAAG members and is covered by the SWAAG insurance policy arranged with Towergate Insurance through the CBA group scheme.

8. Health & Safety

- a. It is the responsibility of all SWAAG members to:
- b. Obey the instructions of the excavation Supervisor(s).
- c. Act responsibly.
- d. Always to bring Health and Safety concerns immediately to the on-site excavation supervisor(s) so they can be addressed. If that is not possible then to immediately notify everybody present.
- e. To wear suitable clothing depending on the activity and the tools being used.
- f. Safety boots should be used with hand picks and mattocks.

9. Not all SWAAG dig sites are suitable for children: this site is NOT appropriate

10. Professional support

In addition to the consultant archaeologist contracted for the excavation, appropriate specialist archaeologists will be commissioned at the discretion of SWAAG for:

- a. Environmental sampling: If environmental sampling is deemed to be appropriate, SWAAG would employ a professional archaeologist.
- b. Artefact recovery: If artefact identification is required, SWAAG would employ a specialist archaeologist.
- c. Conservation: Should particularly complex conservation requirements become apparent, an appropriately qualified and experienced expert will be called to site to excavate and package the object.
- d. Scientific dating: If samples of material suitable for scientific dating techniques are found then they will be collected or sampled. SWAAG would then decide whether and where they should be analysed. It may be necessary to store the samples in the interim until funding is available.
- e. Human remains: If such finds are made the remains will not be removed unless this is absolutely necessary. Where it is essential that the bones are lifted, appropriate permissions will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice before any work is begun. The local police, the Coroner and the County Archaeologist will be informed. If excavation of human remains is required SWAAG would employ an appropriate professional freelance archaeologist.

11. Metal detecting

Spoil from the excavations will be scanned by context by SWAAG metal detectorists, who will also scan layers / areas prior to excavation.

12. Visits

This SWAAG directed excavation will be restricted to SWAAG members only. There will be no visits by members of the public other than the landowners and family.

13. Facilities

- a. Shelter may be provided using the SWAAG tent.
- b. There will be no chemical toilet on-site.
- c. Vehicle access will be in front of West Hagg.
- d. Members will be asked to provide their own trowel, bucket, hand shovel, and when requested spade/shovel for de-turfing and backfill days. Excavation Supervisors will provide 1 or 2 wheel barrows, mattock, drawing and photographic equipment. SWAAG will provide documentation sheets, dig diary, tapes, lines, pegs, Dumpy Level, finds bags and polythene.

14. Publicity

SWAAG Members and the YDNPA will receive updates by email. There will be no publicity or blog. The report will be published in due course.

15. Permissions

SWAAG will seek consent from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the landowner (whose consent has been obtained).

16. Post excavation assessment, reporting and archiving

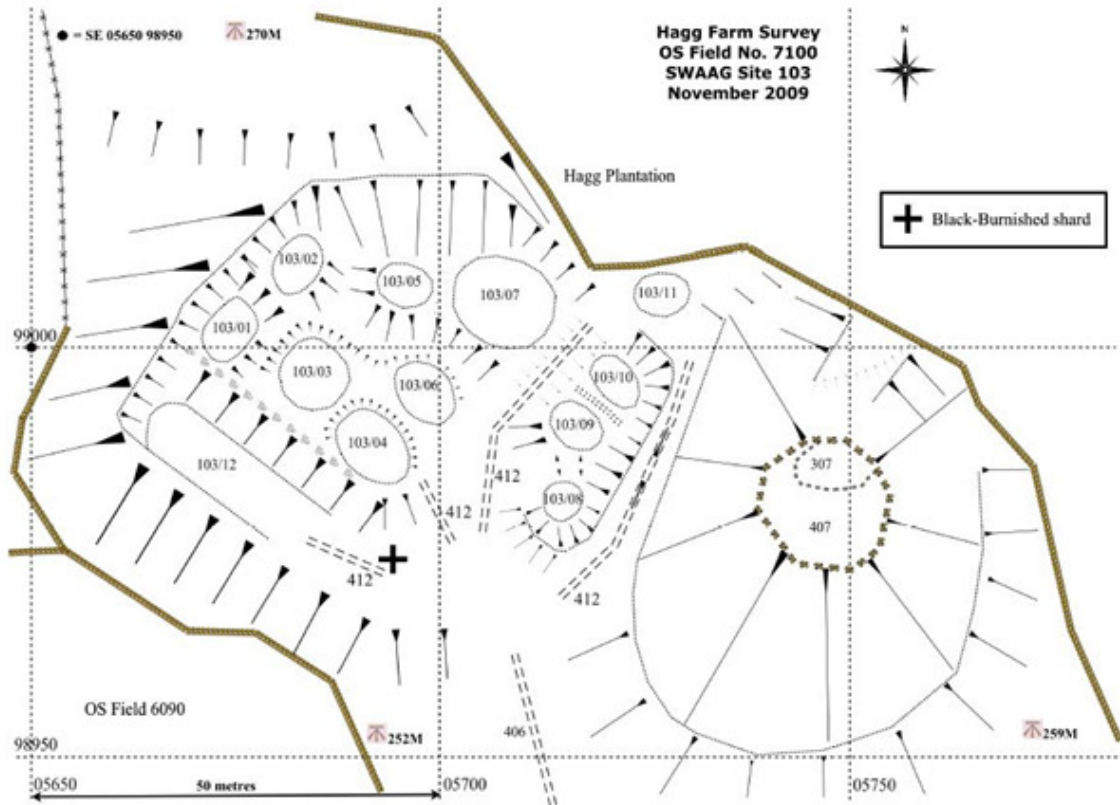
- a. Post excavation assessment
 - i. Specialist archaeologists will be called on, as necessary, to examine, process and assess the excavated material.
- b. Project report
 - i. The report will be prepared in a form suitable for use by SWAAG. A digital version in pdf format will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) via SWAAG.
 - ii. The report will be illustrated with copies of plans, sections, and photographs and will include:
 1. Summary
 2. Project background
 3. Archaeological and historical background
 4. Land use, topography and geology
 5. The excavated areas
 6. Discussion
 7. Sources
 8. Various Appendices containing Context and Stratigraphic information
 9. Other sections as appropriate
- c. Archive
 - i. A project archive using the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) will be assembled.
 - ii. The archive will be deposited with the Swaledale Museum on the understanding that if they ever need to be relocated, then they will be transferred to the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

17. Publication

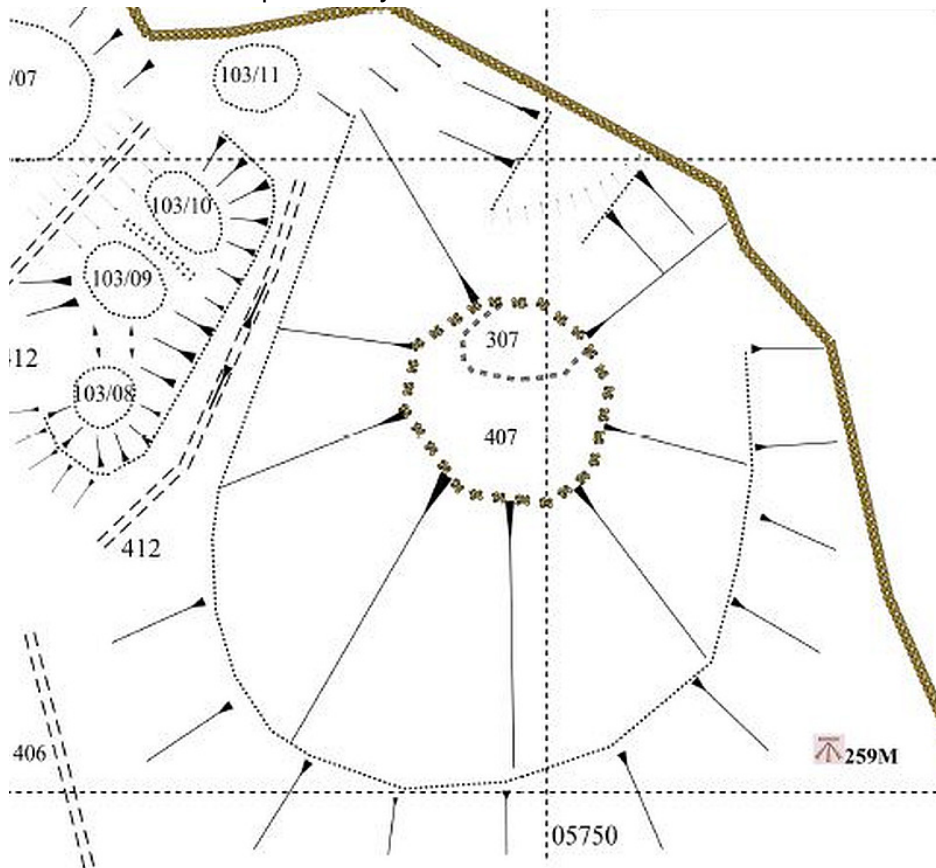
- a. SWAAG will publish the report on its website. The form of publication is not currently known. The options are:
 - i. As a web page
 - ii. As a pdf document
 - iii. As part of a larger SWAAG report on the Site 103 excavation of July 2012.
 - iv. As a SWAAG Lulu.com publication

- v. As part of the Fremington Project centred on Hagg Farm
- vi. A combination of the above (most likely)

22. Figure 1. SWAAG Landscape Survey Site 103



23. Figure 2. SWAAG Landscape Survey Site 103 / 407



24. Figure 3. View mound looking north showing the two hawthorn on either side.



25. Figure 4. A landscape panorama of the mound.



26. Figure 5. Glacial mound dominating Trench 1 of the July 2012 excavation.



27. Figure 6. EDAS Site 40 datasheet.

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HAGG FARM SURVEY			
Site 40			
Location			
Site name and location: Probable tree circle, south of Hagg Wood Plantation			
NGR: SE05749898 centred		Height (AOD): 260m approximate	
OS field no: 7100 in km SE0598		Parish: Reeth, Fremington & Healaugh	
Concordance			
NAR No: SE09NE16	RCHME YDP No:	LB No and Grade:	Phase 1 BS:
Description			
Type: Tree circle; Eye catcher?			
Period/Date: Post-medieval; 18th century?; 19th century?			
Form: Ruined structure			
Length:	Width: c. 15m	Height/Depth: c. 0.3m	
Materials/Land use: Pasture			
Date inspected: 22.05.96	Date surveyed:	Date photographed:	
<p>Description:</p> <p>A circular enclosure, c. 15m in diameter and delineated by a ruined drystone wall standing up to c. 0.3m high, lies on top of a natural mound to the south of Hagg Wood Plantation. There is a shallow ditch on the external side of the wall. There may be a shallow raised sub-circular feature on the north side of the interior of the enclosure and a shallow irregularly-shaped depression in the south side of the natural mound [1]. The site is shown as a circular wooded area on the 1839 tithe map and is named as "Round Plantation" [2]. It is also shown as wooded on the OS 1857 6" map and is depicted on Clarkson's 1848 map and the OS 1913 25" map as a circular field boundary [3]-[5]. The site was also recorded by the NAR from the OS 1857 6" map, as an undated enclosure [6].</p> <p>The cartographic evidence suggests that the site had been established as a plantation by the early 19th century and that it may have remained wooded until the early 20th century. The circular plan of the site suggests that it may have been established as an eye catcher, possibly associated with early 19th century construction of The Hagg. The shallow depression in the south side of the natural mound on which the enclosure stands may be a small quarry which supplied material for its construction [7].</p>			