

Hodder Wastewater Treatment Works, Slaidburn, Lancashire, Phase Two Walkover Survey Report

June 2021

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Hodder Wastewater Treatment Works, Slaidburn, Lancashire, Phase Two

Walkover Survey Report

Written by Andy Phelps

With illustrations by Mark Tidmarsh

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Summary

In 2020 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Mott MacDonald Bentley to undertake a walkover survey at the site of the new compound related to Hodder Wastewater Treatment Works, Slaidburn, Lancashire (NGR: SD 71455 54475) The survey works were scheduled for completion in advance of the determination of planning permission (planning ref. 3/2020/0275), however, ground works had already commenced on site prior to OA North's arrival and the survey was restricted to those areas of the development that had not already been stripped of topsoil. The survey was undertaken in May 2020 and recorded a small number of features, including an elongated bank running parallel to the site's eastern boundary, but did not positively identify either the ridge and furrow or earthworks anticipated from the Historic Environment Record. It was noted at the time that the height of the grass may have obscured some features.

Following consultation with Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology) for Lancashire County Council, and Kay Morris, Environmental Coordinator for Mott MacDonald Bentley, it was decided that a second phase of recording be undertaken following the cutting of the grass in the required areas on the surviving margins of the field. This secondary phase was undertaken in May 2021, with the reduction in grass levels allowing the positive identification of both the earthworks in the north-eastern corner of Field 1 (Site 4) and the fragmentary remains of ridge and furrow to the south (Site 5). Both features are likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date and relate to the agricultural management of the land during these periods.



Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North would like to thank Kay Morris of Mott MacDonald Bentley for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Doug Moir of Lancashire County Council, who monitored the work on behalf of Ribble Valley Borough Council.

The project was managed for OA North by Paul Dunn. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Phelps and the illustrations were completed by Mark Tidmarsh.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 In 2020 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Mott MacDonald Bentley to undertake a walkover survey at the site of the new compound related to Hodder Wastewater Treatment Works, Slaidburn, Lancashire (NGR: SD 71455 54475) The survey works were scheduled for completion in advance of the determination of planning permission (planning ref. 3/2020/0275), however, ground works had already commenced on site prior to OA North's arrival and the survey was restricted to those areas of the development that had not already been stripped of topsoil.
- 1.1.2 The survey was undertaken in May 2020 and recorded a small number of features, including an elongated bank running parallel to the site's eastern boundary, but did not positively identify either the ridge and furrow or earthworks recorded on the Historic Environment Record (PRN 12994 and PRN 12993 respectively). It was noted at the time that the height of the grass may have obscured some features (OA North 2020).
- 1.1.3 Following consultation with Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology) for Lancashire County Council, and Kay Morris, Environmental Coordinator for Mott MacDonald Bentley, it was decided that a second phase of recording be undertaken following the cutting of the grass in the required areas on the surviving margins of the field. This secondary phase was undertaken in May 2021 and the following report sets out the results of this fieldwork.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies immediately to the south-west of Stocks Reservoir on land between Phynis Farm, to the south-west, and Hodder Wastewater Treatment Works, to the east (NGR: SD 71455 54475). Prior to the present development the area was pastoral land across two fields.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology of the area is mapped as Mudstone of the Hodder Mudstone Formation, formed in the Carboniferous Period (BGS 2020). The overlying superficial deposits are mapped as Diamicton, Devensian Till, formed in the Quaternary Period (ibid). The soils are recorded as slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils (Cranfield 2020).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in the Archaeological Survey Report produced by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU 1997). A further archaeological survey was undertaken by OA North prior to the construction of a new service reservoir, access road and pipeline (2007), which also included a desk-based assessment (DBA) of the area. However, a summary of the historical background is included here.
- 1.3.2 **Prehistoric Period**: there is very little evidence relating to this period within the immediate vicinity of the site. However, to the south-west, there are several enclosures in the Dunnow Area. There are also hillforts dating to the later prehistoric



period at Portfield, near Whalley (Beswick and Coombs 1986) and at Ingleborough (Haselgrove 1996).

- 1.3.3 *Roman*: to the west of the study area there is a known Roman Road, which effectively joins the forts of Ribchester to the south and Low Borrow Bridge, Tebay, to the north (7c Margary 1973, 377-382). The road is described as having a visible *agger* crossing fields either side of the River Hodder. No further Roman remains are known within this area.
- 1.3.4 *Early Medieval*: little is known of Yorkshire and Lancashire in the early medieval period, although it seems that the North of England, in general, fragmented into numerous small 'kingdoms' before the growing power of the Anglian kingdom of Northumbria began the process of coalescence (Newman, RM 1996a, 93). The early medieval origins of the area are traceable through local place names. The name Slaidburn is of probable Old English derivation, meaning sheep-pasture stream from *slaeget* and *burna*. The name Hamerton, again from Old English (*hamor* and *tun*), may derive from the personal name of the owner, or from a place where hammers were made (Smith 1961). It is presumed that the names relate to the expansion of the English kingdom of Northumbria in the seventh century AD. Other names such as gill, thwaite, fell, beck, Bu (meaning cattle), and Pen (meaning hill), indicate influences resulting from Norse settlement in the late first millennium AD (Kenyon 1991).
- 1.3.5 Later Medieval: prior to the Norman Conquest, the Forest of Bowland seems to have formed part of the holding of Earl Tostig, brother of Harold Godwinson (Mitchell 1971). In the early twelfth century the Forest was held by Roger de Poitou, until Henry I granted it to Robert de Lacy in 1102 (Farrer 1902, 383-3). Hammerton is listed as a vill in the Forest of Bowland, in the Domesday survey of 1086 (Higham 1985, 119). Slaidburn is referred to in the thirteenth century as 'Sclatbournewarde' (Mitchell 2004, 31), and during the same century the Forest of Bowland appears to have been owned by John de Lacy (op cit, 121).
- 1.3.6 Documentary references highlight the presence of a settlement at Hammerton (Beresford 1954, 238). The earliest examples are the 1377 and 1379 Poll Taxes for the Staincliffe Wapentake in Yorkshire (Fenwick 2005), with the former recording the constable for Hammerton as Robertus del Grene, and the *probi homines* (good men) as Johannes Piper and Willelmus Jackson. Two years later, the 1379 Poll Tax records 18 people eligible to pay in Hammerton. There is a possibility that Hammerton settlement became deserted, as were the nearby sites of Easington and Battesby, although their abandonment may relate to a change in settlement pattern rather than depopulation of the area (Newman R 1996b, 119).
- 1.3.7 **Post-Medieval**: there was some increase in settlement within the Forest of Bowland, as the medieval forest laws had become largely defunct by the late seventeenth century (Rackham 1998, 172). Although the majority of land for settlement had been enclosed by 1850 (Stansfield 2006), the Industrial Revolution had only a limited impact on the Forest of Bowland, unlike the remainder of Lancashire and Yorkshire. The area lacked coal reserves and had no fast flowing river valleys of a type sufficient to supply the power required for the textile industries. Flax processing, however, is known from the Newton area to the south-west (Higham 1989). There is limited evidence for the



use of water-powered mills, mostly for grinding corn, and an example is known in Slaidburn in 1609 (Rothwell 1990, 35). The builders of turnpike roads, canals and railways also largely ignored the Forest of Bowland, and thus it remained essentially rural in character and economy.

Modern Day: the most significant change and development in the area was the construction of Stocks Reservoir. Initially agreed in 1912, the work was not undertaken until 1923, with works extending over nine years at a cost of £1,400,000 (Clitheroe Advertiser and Times 1932). The reservoir was opened on the 9th July 1932 by Prince George (Mitchell 2004, 132; Rothwell 1990). During the building of the reservoir a temporary settlement called Hollins was constructed for the workers. This included living accommodation for between 330 and 500 workmen or 'navvies'. There were fifteen wooden huts, each allotted a housekeeper responsible for the catering and upkeep of the place. The workmen slept in cubicles with a communal living space. Apparently, each hut had a garden at the front and back in which vegetables were grown. Effectively Hollins was a small temporary community. Contemporary accounts, such as those found in the Blackpool Gazette, described it as having a main street and side streets, which had been named, shops and stores, a hospital, electric lighting, a water supply, sewerage scheme and even a cinematic theatre. The works also involved the construction of a 3- foot gauge railway for the removal and import of goods and waste (Mitchell 2004, 132).



2 WALKOVER SURVEY AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and objectives

- 2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:
 - i. to determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
 - ii. to fully record any surviving earthwork features;
 - iii. to adhere to and fulfill the requirements of the planning condition associated with the archaeological potential of the development and, consequently, to provide further information so a subsequent scheme of mitigation can be accurately costed for or to discharge the condition;
 - iv. to compile a professional archival record of any archaeological features within the site ahead of their potential disturbance during the subsequent development of the area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Walkover Survey: was carried out by an archaeologist who traversed the full extents of Field 1 and Field 2, as far as practicable, in accordance with current CIfA (2019; 2020a) and Historic England guidelines (2017). Records of identified assets were compiled through digital photographic record, hand-written notes and annotation on to printouts of the area. GPS was used to locate features and to contribute to measurements where appropriate. Otherwise, measurements were taken by hand tools where feasible, by pacing or other such techniques for larger assets. Information from the survey was collated digitally, with spatial data uploaded into the project GIS (Fig 2).
- 2.2.2 Photographic Record: a Canon EOS digital SLR (18-megapixel) camera, with a selection of lenses, was used for the photographic record. The record comprises detailed photography; the detailed photographs of archaeological features incorporated a scale bar, where appropriate. Archival images comprise JPEG and Canon RAW format files (CR2). The data are stored on two separate servers on different sites, with appropriate back-up and disaster plans in place.
- 2.2.3 **Constraints:** Following on from the initial phase of survey, construction work was well established by the time of the secondary phase of works, with additional areas of Field 1 having been stripped of topsoil and being used to store the arising material in a large bund (Fig 2). The survey was completed in overcast and wet conditions.
- 2.2.4 **Archive:** a full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current CIfA (2020b) and Historic England guidelines (2015).



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the second phase of walkover survey are presented below and have continued the numbering sequence of features from the first phase (OA North 2020). It includes a description of the earthworks identified during the survey accompanied by appropriate photographs of each feature. It should be read in conjunction with the illustrations referenced in the text which can be found to the rear of the report.
- 3.1.2 The survey was undertaken during May 2021, on the margins of two fields which are currently occupied by a site compound and soil storage areas (Fig 2). The areas examined included those portions of the fields recently strimmed and as yet undisturbed by the current development. Both fields had most recently been set to pasture prior to the commencement of the present works.

3.2 Results

3.2.1 In the north-eastern corner of Field 1 the reduction in the level of the grass revealed a pair of parallel linear banks, extending in an easterly direction towards the field boundary (Plate 1, Fig 3) (Site 4). Each bank survived for a length of just 5m and stood to a height of 0.3m, with the northern bank measuring 7m in width and the southern example 5m wide. The banks defined a linear hollow 5m wide that terminated at a pair of stone gate posts on the field's eastern boundary (Plates 2 and 3). Each post stood to a height of approximately 1m, and an iron pintle hinge projected from the face of the southern post upon which a gate formerly hung. Beyond the gate lay an overgrown sunken hollow way that once extended north and south along the eastern edge of the field boundary and adjoined the main access track to Phynis Farm (Plate 4).



Plate 1: Earthworks (Site 4) at north-eastern corner of site, facing north with 1m scale





Plate 2: Stone gate posts at the eastern end of the linear hollow (Site 4), facing north-east with 1m scale



Plate 3: Stone gate-posts, facing west from hollow way





Plate 4: Sunken hollow-way on approach to Phynis Farm, facing south-east

3.2.2 At the southern end of this field the terminal ends of two parallel earth banks were recorded, perhaps the remnants of the ridge and furrow previously recorded in this field (Plate 5, Fig 4) (Site 5). Each bank measured 5m across and projected in a broadly north-easterly direction from the field's southern boundary but perhaps due to later disturbance were only observable for a distance of 9m. The banks defined two sides of a linear hollow, 5m wide and which at its southern end survived to a depth of 0.5m (Plate 6). The feature became gradually shallower to the north in step with the two earth banks.



Plate 5: Banks and hollow (Site 5) at southern end of field 1, facing south with 3x 1m scales





Plate 6: Terminal ends of banks and hollow (Site **5**), facing north-west. 1m scale to left of frame and 2m scale to centre, both at the base of the hollow feature

3.2.3 At its northern end the earth bank identified during the earlier phase of survey (Site 1) could not be further traced due to the presence of the soil bund on this area of the field, but it did not appear to follow the line of the field boundary. At its southern end it was observed that the bank gradually dissipated towards the southern boundary, providing a gentle terminal end (Plate 7) (Fig 2).



Plate 7: Earth bank identified from previous survey (Site 1), facing north with 1m scale



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 Following the reduction in the level of the grass two features were identified in addition to those observed during the previous phase of field work.
- 4.1.2 The first lay in the north-eastern corner of Field 1 and was recorded as two parallel sections of bank that appeared to flank the sunken approach to a gate way that once provided an entrance to a sunken hollow-way beyond. The southern bank may have been disturbed by a later service trench as demarcated by a concrete marker at its eastern end. At present, a temporary area of hardstanding obscures the western edge of these banks, although they may survive beneath this area. To the east, the hollow-way defined the eastern edge of the field, extending to the south where it adjoined the access track to Phynis Farm. The earthworks are likely to be those identified during the walkover survey of 1997 and recorded as PRN 12993.
- 4.1.3 The second feature lay close to the field's southern boundary and presented as the terminal ends of two earth banks divided by linear hollow. These features may have been the remnants of the ridge and furrow recorded during the walkover survey conducted in 1997 (PRN 12994) but if so, were in a fragmentary condition and later disturbance had removed any trace of them to the north.
- 4.1.4 Both features are likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date and associated with the agricultural management of the land. It is possible that the shallow earth bank identified during the initial phase of recording in May of 2020 represents another slightly better-preserved element of the ridge and furrow that may have once covered this field but between them there is insufficient evidence to offer a more precise date for their creation.

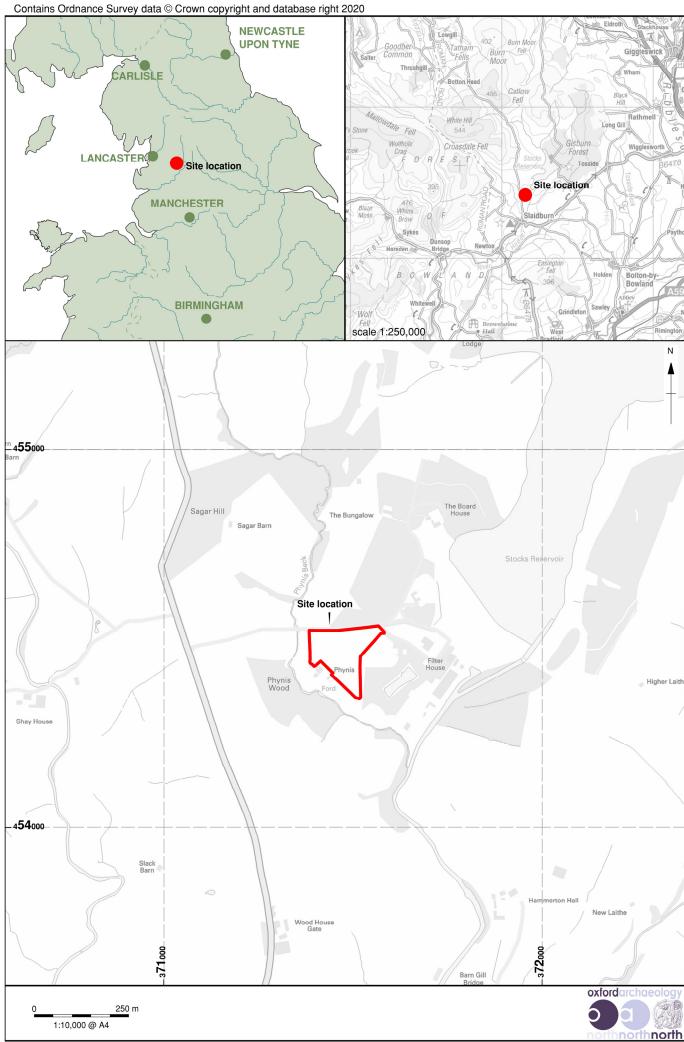


Figure 1: Site location

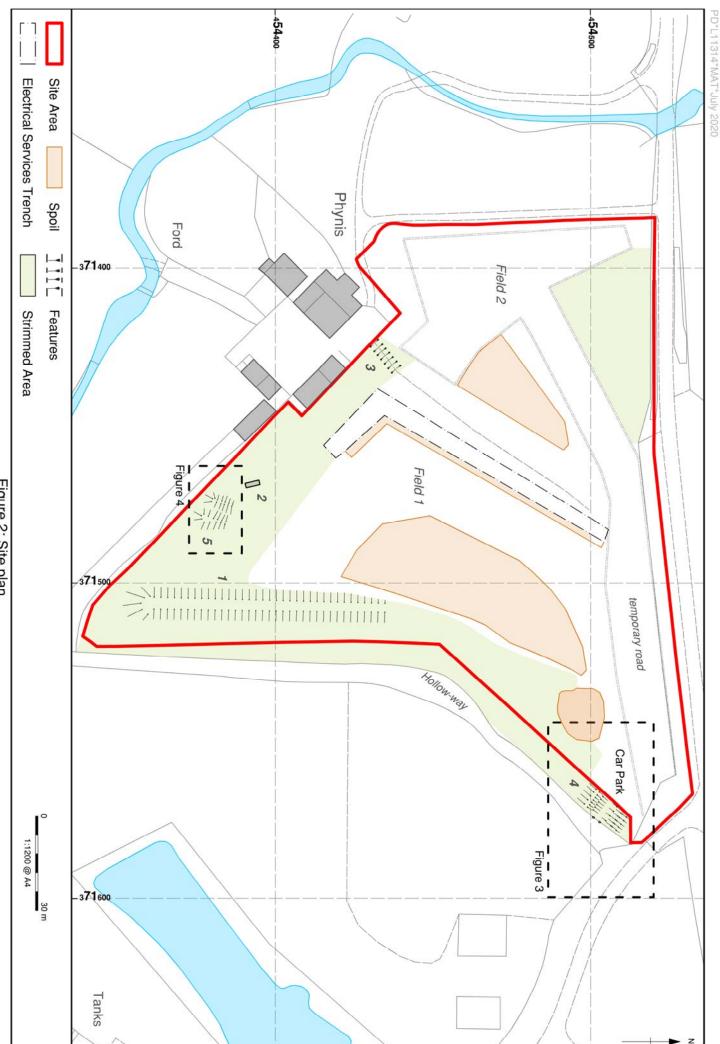


Figure 2: Site plan

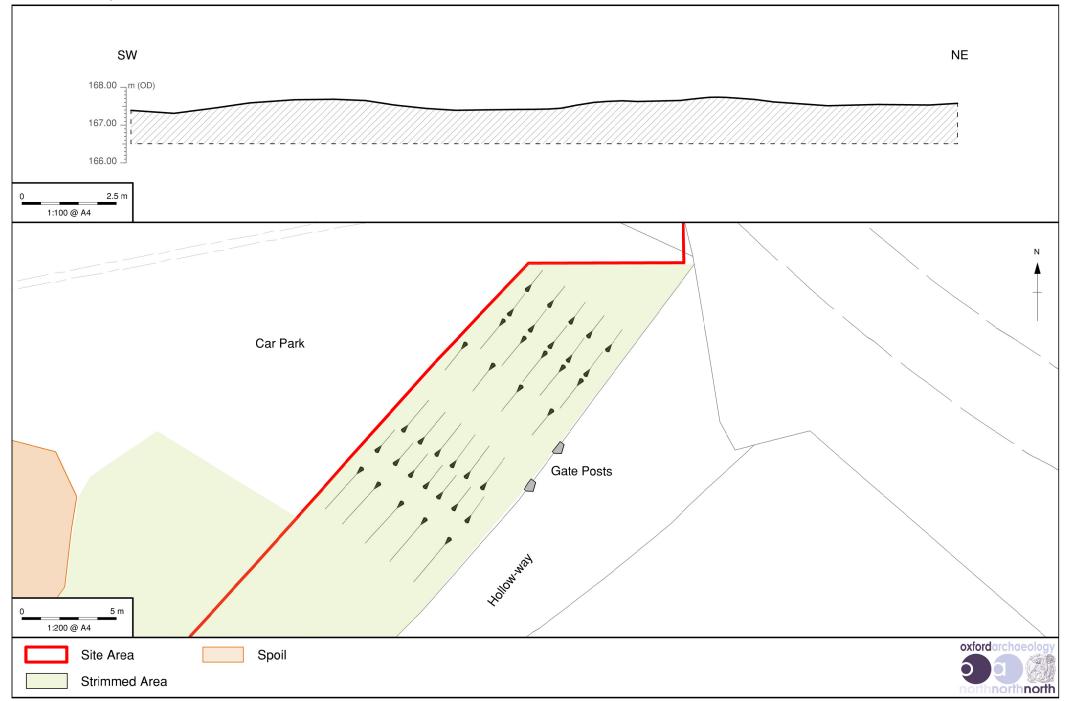


Figure 3: Topographic detail and profile through Site 4

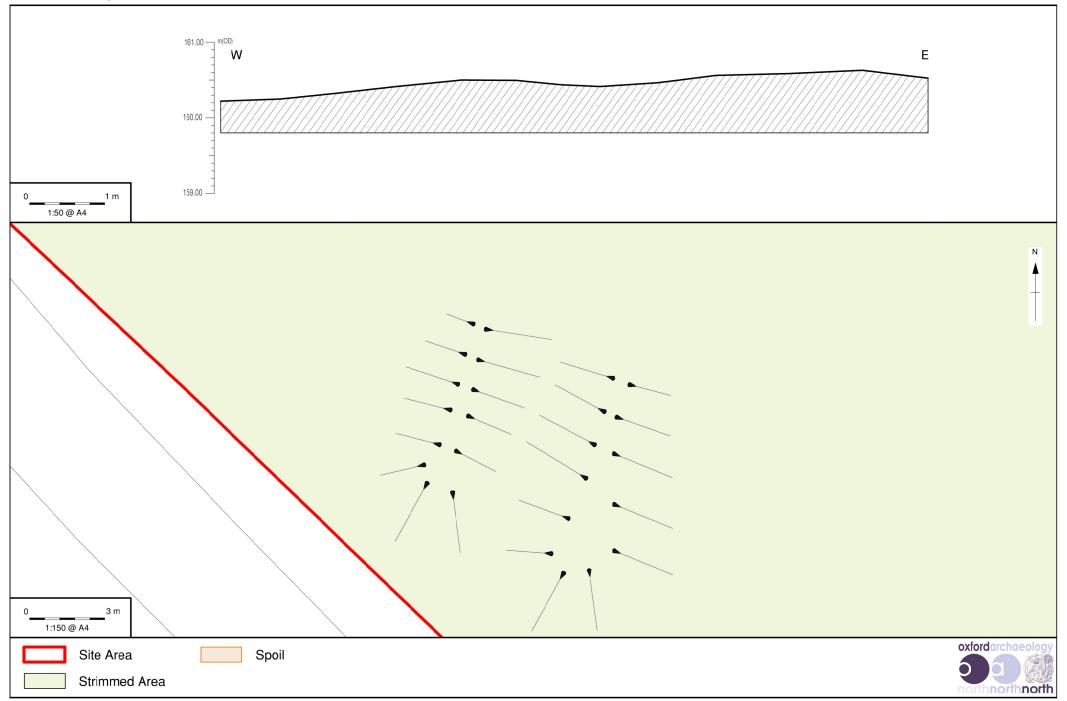


Figure 4: Topographic detail and profile through Site 5



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APPENDIX B SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name: Hodder Wasterwater Treatment Works

Grid Reference SD 71455 54475 **Type:** Walkover Survey **Date and duration:** May 2021, 1 day

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA North, Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills,

Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QD, and will be deposited with

Lancashire County Record Office in due course.

Summary of Results: Following on from an initial phase of walkover survey in May 2020

OA North returned to the site in May 2021 to inspect the margins of two fields following the reduction in the grass levels. The second phase of works identified two parallel earth banks in the north-eastern corner of Field 1 that defined the northern and southern edge of a linear hollow that extended up to the field's eastern boundary. The hollows junction with the boundary coincided with a pair of stone gate posts which once connected the field to a sunken hollow-way that demarcated the eastern boundary of the field. At the southern end of the field the terminal ends of another two parallel earth banks were recorded, again divided at their centre by a linear hollow. The features extended in a north-easterly direction for only 9m before disappearing.

It is likely that the earth banks in the north-eastern corner of the site represent the earthworks recorded on the Lancashire HER as PRN 12993, with the features to the south perhaps forming the remains of the ridge and furrow formerly recorded on the site as

PRN 12994.





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