

Big Dig 2016: The Lost Village of Lodge Information for Volunteers



View towards Building Complex 1 (LD Brown)

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Introduction

Many thanks for volunteering to join the team for Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership's Big Dig 2016. Lodge is one of the Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership's 'Flagship Heritage Sites', a group of sites that will be consolidated to conserve them for current and future generations to enjoy. The Upper Nidderdale Landscape Partnership is a four year programme running until Summer 2018; funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and managed by Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

This document contains lots of information about this year's Big Dig. Please take some time to read through, and if you have any questions please get in touch with Louise Brown, Historic Nidderdale Project Officer (details at the end of the document).

The excavation is being led by Jim Brightman and Spencer Carter of Solstice Heritage (www.solsticeheritage.co.uk) and is being supported by Louise Brown.

Don't forget that there will be a chance for your friends and family to visit the site at our Open Day on Saturday 16th July, 11am to 3pm. (Please ask them to park at Scar House reservoir car park and enjoy the walk to the excavations).

Logistics

When

Week One: Tuesday 12th July – Saturday 16th July

Week Two: Tuesday 19th July – Saturday 23rd July

Timings

Please meet at the Scar House reservoir car park ready to leave at 9am. The site is a 2.5km walk from the car park and this meeting time ensures that we can start on-site by 10am. Similarly, we will aim to leave the site around 4:15pm to be back at the car park by 5pm.

We aim to work to the following timings, however these will need to be flexible depending on the work that is being undertaken at the time (for example, a break may be delayed if you are cleaning the excavation area for a photograph as this will take priority!)

Morning: 10am–1pm (Break: 11:15–11:30) / Afternoon: 1:30pm–4:15pm (Break: 2:45–3:00)

If you are unable to attend, please leave a text or voice message for Jim Brightman (07736 276694) by 8:30am.

Facilities

The site is in an open moorland setting and there are no facilities close to the site. Toilets are available at the Scar House reservoir car park, and a camping toilet will be available for use at the site. Please note that there is no running water at the site.

What to Bring

- Food and drink – Please bring enough food and drink with you for the day. There is nowhere to purchase anything! You may wish to bring some hand wipes or similar to clean up.
- Clothing – Bring plenty of layers, full waterproofs (jacket and trousers), sun hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. Stout footwear is required, ideally supported at the ankle and, if you have them, steel-toe caps.
- Medication – Please bring your own medication should you require it. It is useful to bring plasters and painkillers (paracetamol, for example, will not be available).
- Equipment – If you have a 4 inch WHS trowel, please bring it with you. You may also find a kneeler (or roofer's knee pads) and a pair of gardening gloves useful.

Site Rules

For health and safety reasons, we ask you to respect the following:

- No alcohol on site.
- No dogs on site.
- Smoking only in the designated area.
- Please don't eat/drink near to the excavation area.
- Mobile phones should be off and used only at breaks (if you need to leave your phone on, please let Jim Brightman or Spencer Carter know).

Wet Weather

A number of fieldwork tasks can proceed regardless of wet weather, but should there be significant rain then volunteers will initially be able to shelter in a tent on site before a decision is made about the safest way to proceed. In the event that rain is persistent and heavy then the excavations will be closed down for the day, and volunteers will return to the Scar House car park. Make sure you have suitable waterproofs with you should this happen. If heavy rain is forecast at the start of the day, then a decision will be made by the site supervisors as to whether to abandon that day's work. The site staff will still be at the Scar House car park between 8:30am and 9:00am to ensure that all volunteers are made aware.

Excavation

Background to the Lodge Settlement

Lodge is a former medieval grange farm for the Cistercian Abbey of Byland (Jennings 1992, 96) that was sold into private ownership following the dissolution of the monasteries in the mid-16th century. The settlement is recorded on Saxton's map of 1577 as 'Lodge howses', and appears on Ordnance Survey maps from the mid-18th century onwards. It was continually occupied up to abandonment in the 1920s (Buglass 2011, 3).

It has not been modified since abandonment and is a typical upland settlement from the 17th century made up of five building complexes based on the traditional Yorkshire longhouse of domestic

accommodation at one end and livestock at the other. Currently buildings are visible as footprints with several courses of stone work still standing. The remains of the settlement were surveyed in 2011 using 30m tapes and to an accuracy of $\pm 0.20\text{m}$ (Buglass 2011, 3). The remains have recently been re-surveyed ahead of this excavation.

Historical records from the 17th century onwards reveal information about some of the inhabitants of Lodge. Speight's 1894 book entitled 'Nidderdale and the garden of the Nidd: A Yorkshire Rhineland' notes two wills of Lodge inhabitants: *'in 1623 "Thomas Smith, of Lodge, in Netherdale," bequeaths his property to his son, "named after my own name." Ann Horner, of Lodge, by will dated 1656, gave Mr Smith, minister of the chapel at Middlesmoor, 40s., also 10s. to be paid yearly for ever to the poor within the said chapelry ; likewise 8s. to be paid yearly for ever towards the hiring and maintenance of a preaching minister at Middlesmoor Chapel.'* (Speight 1894, 492).

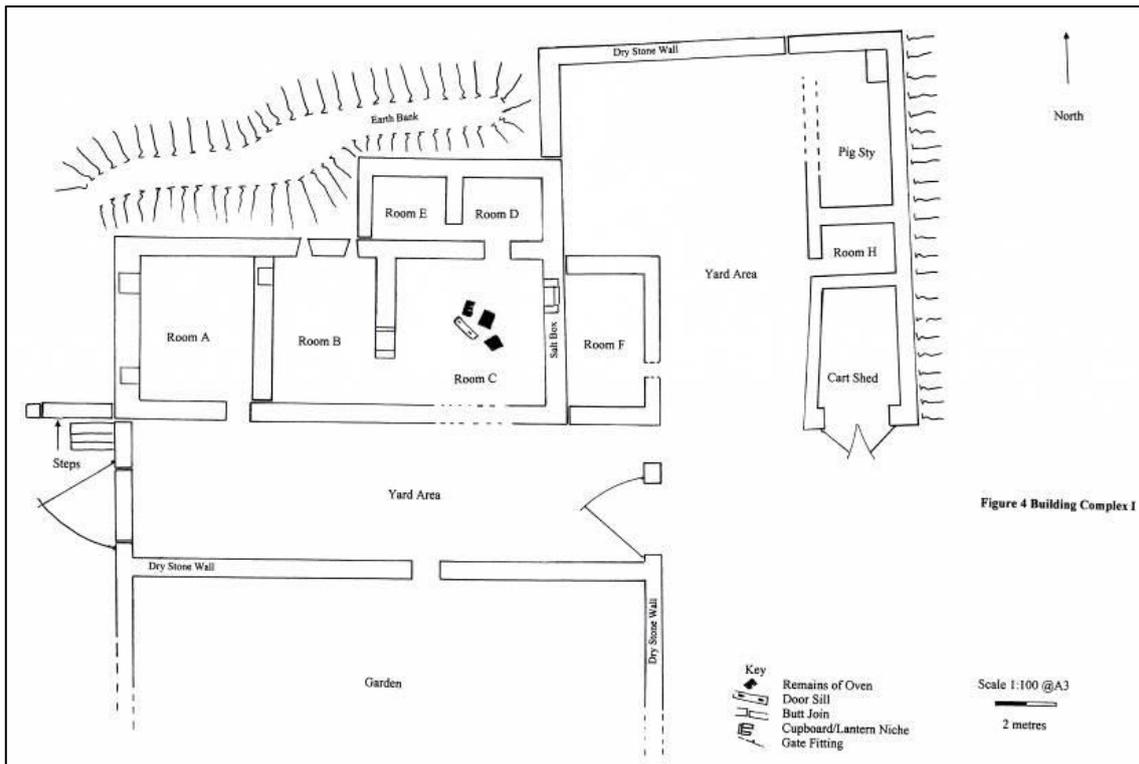
Big Dig 2016

We have a fantastic opportunity to investigate one of the buildings and its associated garden to see if we can gather more clues to the life of the settlement, and hopefully find some evidence of its Medieval past.



Aerial view of Lodge with Building Complex 1 to the north of Carle Fell Road (Google Earth)

The excavations will focus on Building Complex 1 where Buglass identified three components: main house and associated outbuildings (Rooms A–F), three buildings to the east of the house (Room G – Pig Sty, Room H and Room I – Cart Shed), and two garden areas to the south (Buglass 2001, 4). Rubble will be recorded and carefully removed from the interior of the domestic structure. This allows for the floor of the structure to be investigated and for the walls of the structure to be fully revealed. A trench will be excavated within one of the garden areas where it is hoped that we may encounter fragments of artefacts, such as pottery, as domestic waste (middens) were used to enrich the soils.



Plan of Building Complex 1 (Buglass 2011, 25)

Notes on Archaeological Excavation

These notes give a little bit of background to the process of archaeological excavation. There are many books on archaeological excavation and the *Old Scatness Excavation Manual. A case study in archaeological recording* (Dockrill *et al.* 2007) provides a good, clear explanation of the processes employed during an archaeological excavation. Training in the techniques of excavation will be provided on-site. If you have any questions at any point during the excavation, *please ask!*

Formation of the Archaeological Record

Excavation is a destructive process and it is essential that a full record is made at each stage of the excavation – this is termed ‘preservation by record’. These records include written descriptions, plans and sections drawn to scale, photographs, and lists of samples and artefacts. It is these records that help us to understand how the site or feature as we see it today was formed – ‘formation processes’. For example, at the end of a building’s life it will start to fall apart. The roof collapses with much of the roof material falling into the structure. Walls collapse and the rubble falls either side of the original wall. Earth builds up and vegetation grows over the ruined building, creating an earthwork. When the earthwork is excavated, the sequences of structural collapse are revealed and recorded in reverse order to how they happened in reality. We can then understand the original standing building before it collapsed and also how it entered the archaeological record.

Contexts

Each of the excavated deposits or features is assigned a unique number, a context number. A context record form is used to record each individual context – remember, archaeological excavation is

destructive and once you have removed a deposit or feature, you cannot put it back again! The record form used during the Lodge excavations enables the following to be recorded:

- General information i.e. what is it / where is it
- Stratigraphic and physical relationships with other contexts
- Soil / sediment description

Stratigraphy

There are two sets of relationships between contexts that we record, physical and stratigraphic. Physical describes all of the contexts that touch another context. Stratigraphic relationships are those that happen sequentially, i.e. what happened immediately after this context was laid down. During the post-excavation phase, it is the stratigraphic relationships that are used to construct a 'Harris Matrix' (see Harris 1989) which gives us a sequence of events in a chain from the oldest context at the bottom through to the youngest at the top.

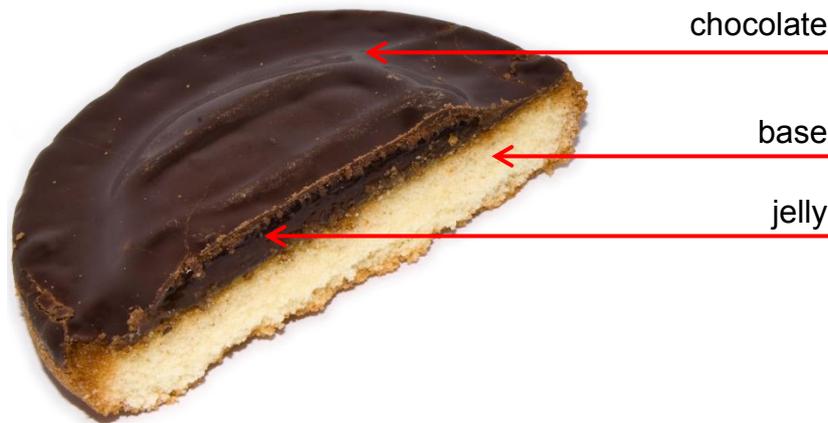
This is the section of the context record form that records these relationships (based on that developed by the North Atlantic Research Unit, School of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford. See Dockrill *et al.* 2007, 37–49).

SEALED BY:		SEALS:	
CUT BY:	ABOVE context	CUTS:	BELOW context
BUTTED BY:	being recorded	BUTTS:	being recorded
CONTAINS:		CONTAINED BY:	
BOUNDARIES with Context [] Sharp merging diffuse / even undulating		BOUNDARIES with Context [] Sharp merging diffuse / even undulating	
BOUNDARIES with Context [] Sharp merging diffuse / even undulating		BOUNDARIES with Context [] Sharp merging diffuse / even undulating	
BOUNDARIES with Context [] Sharp merging diffuse / even undulating		BOUNDARIES with Context [] Sharp merging diffuse / even undulating	
BOUNDARIES with Context [] Sharp merging diffuse / even undulating		BOUNDARIES with Context [] Sharp merging diffuse / even undulating	
PRIMARY MATRIX RELATIONSHIPS			
The context stratigraphically <i>above</i> this is		[]
The context stratigraphically <i>below</i> this is		[]
EQUAL TO:		CONTEMPORARY WITH:	

The first section of the form allows you to record ALL of the relationships that the context has. The term 'Primary Matrix Relationship' is used to identify the primary stratigraphic relationships that will then be used to form a matrix, or sequence of events. In simple terms:

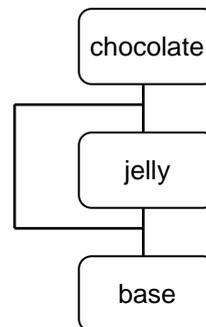
- The context stratigraphically above = What happened next?
- The context stratigraphically below = What had to be in place for this deposit to be laid down?

If we look at a Jaffa Cake, it is made up of three elements: chocolate, jelly and a base.

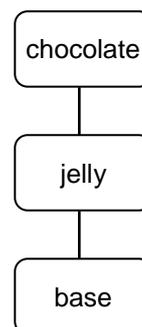


(https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9f/Jaffa_cake.png)

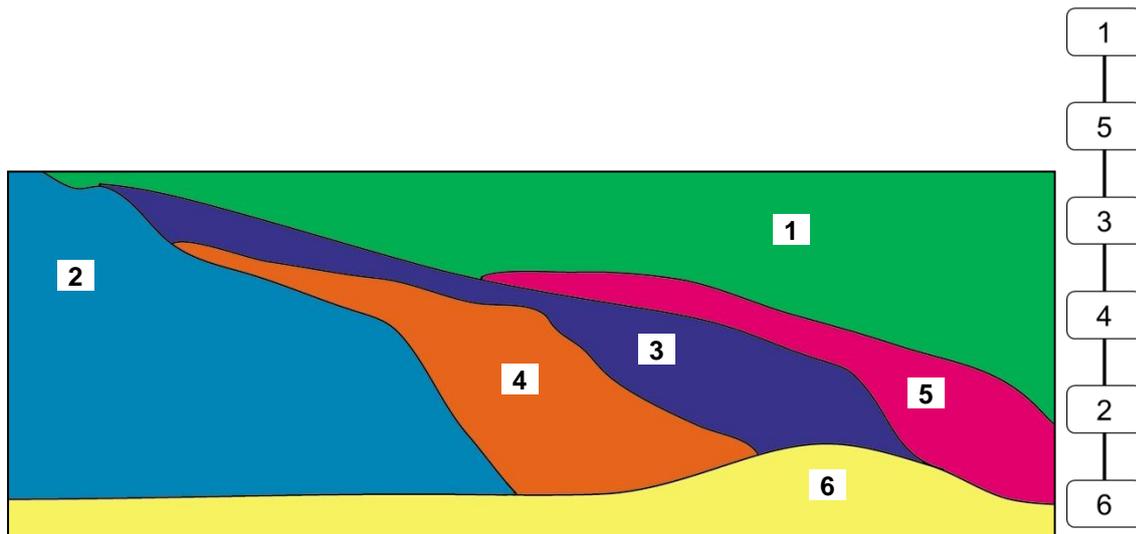
If we examine the chocolate, it has a *physical* relationship with both the jelly and the base. A matrix showing all of these relationships would look like this:



This does not give you the information about how the Jaffa Cake was formed, the sequence of events. If we look again at the chocolate, it has a *stratigraphic* relationship with only the jelly. The jelly had to be in place before the chocolate could be placed over the top. The resulting matrix for a jaffa cake shows us that the base had to be in place first, followed by the jelly, and then the chocolate:

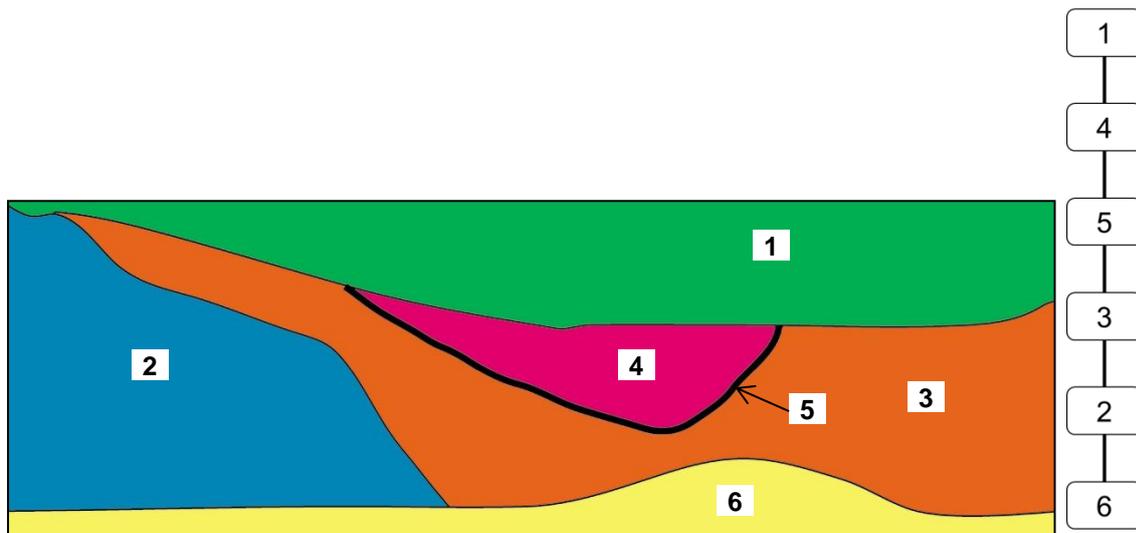


The following two archaeological examples show a section with the deposits / features labelled with their context numbers alongside their matrix. In the matrix, the stratigraphic relationships are shown as a chain of events from the oldest at the bottom to the youngest at the top.



Example 1

The first example shows a series of tipped deposits. This is a fairly straight-forward sequence where the first thing to happen to context [6] was the tipping of context [2], [2] was in place before context [4], etc. The physical relationships would still be recorded (e.g. context [6] has physical boundaries with contexts [2], [4], [3] and [5]) however, these do not give us the vital information about how the site was formed.



Example 2

The second example shows a cut [5] and fill [4]. In stratigraphic terms, context [3] had to be laid down before it was cut by [5]. Only when cut [5] (perhaps representing the cut of a pit) had been made, could it be filled by context [4].

It is hoped that this brief introduction will help when you are on-site with us at Lodge. See you there!

Bibliography

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