

AD219

**Land at Ford Road, Lanchester,  
County Durham  
Archaeological Evaluation**



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
2. Archaeological and Historical Background	3
3. Aims and Objectives	5
4. Methodology	5
5. Results of the Evaluation	6
6. Discussion	8
7. Bibliography	8

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context List	9
Appendix 2: Written Scheme of Investigation	10

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Trench location plan
Figure 3	East facing section of Trench 1
Figure 4	Trench 5- section of gully 503
Figure 5	Trench 10 – plan and section

## LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1	Trench 3 looking south
Plate 2	Trench 5 gully 503 looking north-east
Plate 3	Trench 6 looking north
Plate 4	Trench 7 looking west
Plate 5	Trench 8 looking west
Plate 6	Trench 10 looking east

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*AD Archaeology was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development at land to the east of Ford Road, Lanchester, County Durham.*

*Subsequent to a desk-top-assessment and geophysical survey ten evaluation trenches were excavated across the site. No significant archaeological deposits or features were located in the trenches. The only features identified were a post-medieval boundary gully in Trench 5 and riverine deposited material in Trench 10. Pre-modern ploughsoil survived in all trenches but no significant archaeological features were present. The site lay on sloping ground close to the river and would not have been favourable for settlement activity. In view of the results of the geophysical survey and trial trenching no further archaeological work would be appropriate.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 The Project**

1.1.1 AD Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development on land to the east of Ford Road, Lanchester. The archaeological works were undertaken in week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> March. This trenching follows a rapid desk-based assessment and geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016).

### **1.2 Location, Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The development area lies on the southern outskirts of Lanchester, on the east side of Ford Road and is bounded to the north by modern housing with open fields to the south (Fig.1). The site, centred on NGR NZ 1663 4690, has a total area of 3.6 hectares which at the time of the survey was pasture. The site is located on steadily sloping west-east ground with the eastern third of the site, close to the Smallhope burn being, set at a lower level. The ground is more undulating in the eastern third of the site with several shallow troughs

1.2.2 The Bedrock geology of the site is Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed 309 to 312 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. The superficial geology is Devensian glacial till and glaciofluvial deposits of Devensian sand and gravel. Formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by Ice Age conditions (BGS 2016).

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **Prehistoric Period**

2.1 Although there is no evidence for prehistoric activity on the site, there is known prehistoric activity in the wider area. An enclosure site known from cropmark evidence is located at Esp Green north east of Lanchester. To the south of the site are two possible sites of uncertain date, identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs.

### **Roman Period**

2.2 The site lies 600m east of the Roman Fort of Longovicium. There is a complex of associated features, including a road (known as Dere Street), a cemetery, a reservoir, an aqueduct, a bathhouse and a civilian settlement (or vicus) all of which are located to the west of the development site.

### **Early-Medieval Period**

2.3 The HER records the site of the Roman fort as a possible site of the Anglo-Saxon battle of Brunanburh, 937 AD between King Aethelston and an alliance from Scotland and Ireland. However, Lanchester is one of six credible locations so the site of the battlefield remains disputed. Little is known of the early medieval rural settlement pattern in this part of Durham, but Lanchester Church was founded in the mid-12th century, possibly upon earlier foundations.

### **Medieval Period**

2.4 The village of Lanchester has its origins in the medieval period. It is probable that the focus of the village lay near to the modern village centre near All Saints Church and as such the proposed development site lies beyond the extents of the village itself probably falling within the agricultural fields surrounding it.

### **Post Medieval and Modern Periods**

2.5 Lanchester Village developed principally on the eastern side of the river around All Saints Church before spreading to the west. The settlement pattern around Lanchester remained predominantly agricultural after the end of the medieval period. Enclosure in the 17th or 18th centuries transformed the landscape from one of large open arable fields into one characterised by smaller fields bounded by hedges owned by individual landowners. The Ordnance Survey Maps show the site as open fields, with one building present in the 1920s but removed by the 1970s.

2.6 A geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016) was undertaken at the site. The geophysical survey has produced good results and it has been possible to distinguish anomalies relating to modern disturbance and geology from other magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin. The geophysical survey has identified an area of possible post-medieval ridge and furrow at the eastern side of the surveyed area and the line of a former field boundary observed from Ordnance Survey mapping. The survey has also identified a possible relict field boundary and three fragmentary curvilinear anomalies in the central part of the surveyed area. The geophysical survey has produced no evidence to suggest the presence on the site of a clear or significant archaeological site.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The objective of the evaluation trenching was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological features on the site and to determine their nature, depth, importance and level of preservation.

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

#### **4.1 General Methodology**

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in compliance with all the relevant codes of practice by suitably qualified and experienced staff.

#### **4.2 Excavation and Recording**

4.2.1 The evaluation trench strategy was agreed with the County Archaeology Officer and was undertaken in accordance with an approved trench plan and written scheme of Investigation (Appendix 2). Ten trenches (six 50m by 1.8m in size and four 25m by 1.8m in size) were excavated (Fig. 2). The location of Trench 4 was moved slightly to avoid a tree.

## **5. RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION**

### **5.1 Trench 1 (Figs.2-3)**

5.1.1 Trench 1, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the south-western corner of the site. The natural subsoil (102) varied from an orange sandy clay toward the southern end of the trench to a brown clay containing lenses of orange sandy clay and small sandstone fragments, and was located at a depth of 0.70m BGL (122.15mAOD). The natural subsoil (102) was overlain by a grey-brown sandy clay (101), 0.50m in depth and a 0.20m deep grey-brown loam topsoil (100). A small west-east valley or hollow runs through the southern end of the field (intersected by Trenches 1 and 3) deepening to the east and is discernible as a shallow depression at the southern end of Trench 1 (fig.3).

### **5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2)**

5.2.1 Trench 2, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the southern sector of the site. The natural subsoil (202) consisted of a mixed deposit of brown clay and orange sandy clay and was located at a depth of 0.55m BGL (119.82mAOD). The natural subsoil (202) was overlain by a grey-brown sandy clay (201), 0.35m in depth and a 0.20m deep grey-brown loam topsoil (200). Trenches 2, 7 and 8 were sited to investigate a linear north-south geophysical anomaly and a curvilinear geophysical anomaly. No evidence was located to suggest that these geophysical anomalies related to archaeological features.

### **5.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 2; Plate 1)**

5.3.1 Trench 3, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the southern sector of the site, being cut across the line of the shallow west-east valley running through the southern portion of the field (5.1.1). The natural subsoil consisting of an orange sandy clay (302) was located at a depth of 0.40m-1.20m (115.45mAOD). The natural subsoil (302) was overlain by a grey-brown sandy clay (301), 0.50m in depth and a 0.22m deep grey-brown loam topsoil (300). The west-east valley had been partially infilled at this point in the post-medieval period with dumps of sandstone rubble, broken tile and bricks in a matrix of brown loam and orange sandy clay (303) (10m wide and 0.80m deep) lying on its base and sides.

### **5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2)**

5.4.1 Trench 4, which was 25m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the southern area of the site. The natural subsoil consisting of a mixed deposit of brown clay and orange sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.52m (114.53mAOD). The natural subsoil (402) was overlain by a grey-brown sandy

clay (401), 0.32m in depth and a 0.20m deep grey-brown loam topsoil (400).

## **5.5 Trench 5 (Figs.2 & 4; Plate 2)**

5.5.1 Trench 5, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the central area of the site. The natural subsoil consisted of an orange sandy clay (502) and was located at a depth of 0.88m (114.95mAOD). The natural subsoil (502) was overlain by a grey-brown sandy clay (501), 0.65m in depth and a 0.23m deep grey-brown loam topsoil (500). A post-medieval north-south gully (502) ran through the central area of the trench. The gully (503) was 0.25m deep and 0.80m wide with a U-shaped profile and was filled with topsoil (500). The gully (503) represents a post-medieval field boundary present on mapping until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century and survives as a shallow north-south earthwork.

## **5.6 Trench 6 (Fig.2: Plate 3)**

5.6.1 Trench 6, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the central area of the site. The natural subsoil (602) consisted of an orange brown clay containing sandstone pieces and lenses of orange sandy clay in the southern half of the trench with interleaving bands of grey and yellow clay in the northern half of the trench. The natural subsoil (602) which was located at a depth of 0.65m (115.95mAOD) was overlain by a grey-brown sandy clay (601), 0.43m in depth and a 0.22m deep grey-brown loam topsoil (600). The trench was sited to intersect with two indistinct geophysical anomalies which are likely to relate to the variations in the natural subsoil that were evident in the trench.

## **5.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 2; Plate 4)**

5.7.1 Trench 7, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the western sector of the site. The natural subsoil (702) consisted of an orange brown clay containing lenses of orange sandy clay and small sandstone fragments and was located at a depth of 0.52m BGL (116.65mAOD). The natural subsoil (702) was overlain by a grey-brown sandy clay (701), 0.30m in depth and a 0.22m deep grey-brown loam topsoil (700).

## **5.8 Trench 8 (Fig.2; Plate 5)**

5.8.1 Trench 8, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the north-western sector of the site. The natural subsoil (802) consisted of an orange brown clay containing lenses of orange sandy clay and small sandstone fragments and was located at a depth of 0.41m BGL (121.23mAOD). The natural subsoil (802) was overlain by a grey-brown sandy clay (801), 0.21m in depth and a 0.20m deep grey-brown loam topsoil (800).

## 5.9 Trench 9 (Fig.2)

5.9.1 Trench 9, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented NNW-SSE and located on lower ground at the eastern end of the site. The natural subsoil consisted of an orange brown clay containing lenses of orange sandy clay and small sandstone fragments (902) and was located at a depth of 0.52m BGL (112.40mAOD). The natural subsoil (902) was overlain by a grey-brown sandy clay (901), 0.30m in depth and a 0.22m deep grey-brown loam topsoil (900). Narrow ridge and furrow identified in the geophysical survey did not penetrate beneath the level of topsoil (900) into the earlier ploughsoil (901) and must be relatively late in date (probably post-medieval).

## 5.10 Trench 10 (Figs.2 & 5; Plate 6)

5.10.1 Trench 10, which was 50m by 1.8m in size, was oriented NNE-SSW and located on lower ground at the eastern end of the site. The natural subsoil varied between yellow sandy clay and grey clay (1002) and was located at a depth of 0.55m BGL (110.82mAOD). The natural subsoil (1002) was overlain by a grey-brown sandy clay (1001), 0.35m in depth and a 0.20m deep grey-brown loam topsoil (1000). Toward the western end of the trench was a shallow 8m wide north-south linear depression that led to the burn to the north. This linear depression must relate to either a former course of the burn or erosion from an offshoot of the burn. Within the trench the depression was filled with deposits of pebbles, gravel and grey silt and silty clays (1003) that had been water deposited.

## 6. DISCUSSION

6.1 No significant archaeological deposits or features were located in the trenches. The only features identified were a post-medieval boundary gully in Trench 5 and riverine deposited material in Trench 10. Pre-modern ploughsoil survived in all trenches but no significant archaeological features were present. The site lay on sloping ground close to the river and would not have been favourable for settlement activity. In view of the results of the geophysical survey and trial trenching no further archaeological work would be appropriate.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

AD Archaeology 2016. Rapid DTA and Geophysical survey of land to east of Old Ford Road, Lanchester

BGS 2016 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer

**APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	0.20m	Trench 1- topsoil
101	0.50m	Trench 1 –ploughsoil
102		Trench 1- natural subsoil
200	0.20m	Trench 2- topsoil
201	0.35m	Trench 2-ploughsoil
202		Trench 2-natural subsoil
300	0.22m	Trench 3-topsoil
301	0.50m	Trench 3-ploughsoil
302		Trench 3-natural subsoil
303	0.80m	Trench 3-infill of shallow valley
400	0.20m	Trench 4-topsoil
401	0.32m	Trench 4–ploughsoil
402		Trench 4-natural subsoil
500	0.23m	Trench 5-topsoil
501	0.65m	Trench 5- ploughsoil
502		Trench 5-natural subsoil
503		Trench 5- cut of post-medieval field boundary
600	0.22m	Trench 6- topsoil
601	0.43m	Trench 6- ploughsoil
602		Trench 6- natural subsoil
700	0.22m	Trench 7- topsoil
701	0.30m	Trench 7 –ploughsoil
702		Trench 7- natural subsoil
800	0.20m	Trench 8- topsoil
801	0.21m	Trench 8 –ploughsoil
802		Trench 8- natural subsoil
900	0.22m	Trench 9- topsoil
901	0.30m	Trench 9- ploughsoil
902		Trench 9- natural subsoil
1000	0.20m	Trench 10-topsoil
1001	0.35m	Trench 10- ploughsoil
1002		Trench 10- natural subsoil
1003	-	Trench 10- riverine deposit

## **APPENDIX 2- WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LAND TO THE EAST OF FORD ROAD, LANCHESTER COUNTY DURHAM**

### **1 Introduction**

1.1 This written scheme of investigation represents a methods statement for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed housing development at Lanchester, County Durham. The development area lies on the southern outskirts of Lanchester, on the east side of Ford Road and is bounded to the north by modern housing with open fields to the south. The site, centred on NGR NZ 1663 4690, has a total area of 3.6 hectares which at the time of the survey was pasture.

1.2 A rapid desk-top assessment and geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016) has been undertaken in advance of the proposed development.

1.3 Policy relating to the assessment and mitigation of impacts to the heritage resource within the planning system is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF2012). The Framework identifies that the planning system should perform 'an environmental role', contributing to and protecting the built and historic environment and that the pursuit of 'sustainable development' includes seeking improvements to the built, natural and historic environment.

1.4 The Framework further clarifies that, in circumstances where heritage assets will be damaged or lost as a result of development, Local Planning Authorities should require developers to record and advance the understanding of the asset to be lost in a manner appropriate to the significance of the asset. The evidence (and any archive) generated as part of the plan making process should be made publically accessible; copies of the evidence generated should be deposited with the relevant Historic Environment Record and archives with the relevant museum.

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework states that "Where a site on which a development proposal includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation" NPPF page 128. This Written Scheme of Investigation relates to the field evaluation stage of the project.

### **2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

2.1 Although there is no evidence for prehistoric activity on the site, there is known prehistoric activity in the wider area. An enclosure site known from cropmark evidence is located at Esp Green north east of Lanchester. To the south of

the site are two possible sites although of uncertain date, identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs.

### **Roman Period**

2.2 The site lies 600m east of the Roman Fort of Longovicium. There is a complex of associated features, including a road (known as Dere Street), a cemetery, a reservoir, an aqueduct, a bathhouse and a civilian settlement (or vicus) all of which are located to the west of the development site.

### **Early-Medieval Period**

2.3 The HER records the site of the Roman fort as a possible site of the Anglo-Saxon battle of Brunanburh, 937 AD between King Aethelston and an alliance from Scotland and Ireland. However, Lanchester is one of six credible locations so the site of the battlefield remains disputed. Little is known of the early medieval rural settlement pattern in this part of Durham, but Lanchester Church was founded in the mid-12th century, possibly upon earlier foundations.

### **Medieval Period**

2.4 The village of Lanchester has its origins in the medieval period. It is probable that the focus of the village lay near to the modern village centre near All Saints Church and as such the proposed development site lies beyond the extents of the village itself probably falling within the agricultural fields surrounding it.

### **Post Medieval and Modern Periods**

2.5 Lanchester Village developed principally on the eastern side of the river around All Saints Church before spreading to the west. The settlement pattern around Lanchester remained predominantly agricultural after the end of the medieval period. Enclosure in the 17th or 18th centuries transformed the landscape from one of large open arable fields into one characterised by smaller fields bounded by hedges owned by individual landowners. The Ordnance Survey Maps show the site as open fields, with one building present in the 1920s but removed by the 1970s.

2.6 A geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016) was undertaken at the site. The geophysical survey has produced good results and it has been possible to distinguish anomalies relating to modern disturbance and geology from other magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin. The geophysical survey has identified an area of possible post-medieval ridge and furrow at the eastern side of the surveyed area and the line of a former field boundary observed from Ordnance

Survey mapping. The survey has also identified a possible relict field boundary and three fragmentary curvilinear anomalies in the central part of the surveyed area. The geophysical survey has produced no evidence to suggest the presence on the site of a clear or significant archaeological site.

### **3 Recommended Course of Action**

3.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of significant archaeological features and/or deposits. Should significant deposits and/or features be located the aim of the evaluation is to determine the nature, extent, date and state of preservation of the deposits in order to inform potential subsequent stages of mitigation.

3.2 'Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment' by David Petts with Christopher Gerrard, 2006 notes the importance of research questions as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past allowing commercial contractors to demonstrate how their fieldwork relates to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment. The aim of NERRF is to ensure that all fieldwork is carried out in a secure research context and that commercial contractors ensure that their investigations ask the right questions.

3.3 Whilst there are no known archaeological features on the site, there is a growing awareness of the density of prehistoric settlement activity. In recent years development control-led archaeological investigation in the area has contributed significantly to our knowledge of the density of settlement and activity in this area during the prehistoric period (North East Regional Research Framework, Petts & Gerrard, 2006).

Recent excavations have begun to challenge established models of prehistoric settlement morphology. It is therefore important for any evidence of prehistoric settlement to be studied in order to establish more firm chronologies. Also needed is the study of site function and the social role of settlements in the landscape (NERRF Research Priority Iii). Evidence of prehistoric burial activity would also be of importance (NERRF Research Priority NBiii).

The site lies close to the Roman fort, vicus (civilian settlement) and Roman road known as Dere Street, The Roman military presence has made a significant impact on the North-East and any information that throws further information on the fort and its relationship to the vicus would be important(NERFF Research Priority Riii).

Evidence of medieval agricultural activity on the site would be of lesser archaeological significance but would require some form of archaeological recording.

There are still very few excavated sites from the medieval period and it is essential that all opportunities are taken to further our knowledge of medieval settlement and agriculture. (NERRF Research Priority MD ii).

3.4 The area of the site that is being developed is 2.39ha. There will not be ground disturbance in two areas of the site (shaded grey); a roughly triangular area of public open space in the south-western corner; and the lower ground in the eastern portion of the site beyond the SUDS area (NB – the only groundworks in these areas will be a narrow open water course channel running south-west from the SUDS pond to the burn – marked as red channel on trench plan).

3.5 A trenching strategy consisting of 10 trenches (6 50m by 1.8m and 4 25m by 1.8m in size) has been designed to test for the presence/absence of archaeological feature, representing a 3% sample (720sqm) of the development area. The trench plan is designed to test geophysical anomalies and also some areas where no anomalies were identified (in case there are archaeological features present that have not been detected by the survey).

3.6 During the course of the trenching it may become apparent that variation is required, dependent on the nature, extent and importance of archaeological remains uncovered. It also may become apparent during the course of the operation that some areas where trenches have been sited are inappropriate for potential archaeological activity (for instance lying entirely within the line of a furrow) or due to logistical or practical reasons. Trenches can only be moved with the approval of the County Archaeologist.

3.7 Contingency will be allowed for the excavation of up to area of the site. This would mean up to an additional 480sqm in area beyond that excavated in the initial trenches if it becomes apparent during the evaluation that further investigation is required of any features or areas of archaeological interest encountered. If the full 2% contingency were required then the total sample of the site would be 5%.The implementing of contingency would require approval by DCC Archaeology Section and the client.

## **4 General Standards**

4.1 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists CfA (2014a) and will follow the CfA (2014b) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. All work will be

in compliance with the Regional Statement of Good Practice (Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East 2009).

## **5 Pre-Site Work Preparation**

5.1 All staff will familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff will be briefed in the work required under the specification and the project aims and methodologies.

5.2 An environmental sampling strategy in accordance with the previous advice of the Historic England Science Advisor (see 8 below) will be followed.

## **6 Fieldwork**

6.1 Each evaluation trench will be accurately surveyed and related to the National Grid, using a Total Station Theodolite or GPS system, and located on a map of the area at an appropriate scale.

6.2 Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. This machine stripping will be carried out under continuous archaeological supervision.

6.3 The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil, whichever is encountered first.

6.4 All faces of the trenches that require examination or recording will be cleaned sufficiently to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains, particularly the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil. All subsequent deposits will be hand-excavated.

6.5 In the event that small discrete archaeological features are revealed including but not limited to postholes and pits, during machining or subsequent cleaning of the trench, the trench will be expanded either side of the feature by a machine bucket width as standard. If further additional trench expansion is required this should be carried out following discussions with the County Archaeologist and the client.

6.6 The archaeology will be investigated sufficiently to establish its nature, extent and date, unless it is deemed of sufficient importance to require total preservation in situ. This will be achieved by excavation of the following samples of all exposed features.

- 50% of every discrete feature (e.g. pits, post-holes)

- 25% of the area of linear/curvilinear features (e.g. ditches, gullies) with a non-uniform fill
- 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features (e.g. ditches, gullies) with a uniform fill
- 100% of feature intersections will be examined

6.7 Within the constraints of the site, the excavations will be maintained in a manner that allows quick and easy inspection without any requirement for additional cleaning.

6.8 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for providing environmental or dating evidence. Sampling will be in line with the strategy agreed with Historic England Science Advisor and the County Archaeologist.

6.9 In the event of human burials being discovered, they will be left in situ, covered and protected and the coroners' office will be informed. If removal is essential, work will comply with relevant Home Office regulations.

6.10 Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.

6.11 The drawn record from the site will include a representative selection of long sections from the excavations that clearly allow the nature and depth and any significant changes in the deposits recorded to be demonstrated. If there is any uncertainty, advice will be sought from the County Archaeologist as to which sections may be appropriate for inclusion within the site record.

6.12 During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts will be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).

## **7 Archaeological Recording**

7.1 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate.

7.2 The stratigraphy of all trenches will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

7.3 All archaeological deposits and features, the current ground level and base of each trench will be recorded with an above ordnance datum (AOD) level.

7.4 A photographic record of all archaeological features will be taken, both in detail and in a wider context.

7.5 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled

## **8 Environmental Sampling and Scientific Dating Strategy**

8.1 This sampling strategy is intended to provide sufficient data to characterise the nature and informative potential of deposits and features identified during the works. Because this is the first stage of intrusive works and there is a possibility that a wide range of features may be encountered, this strategy is best set out as a series of principles.

These are:

- 30l samples will be taken from structural, occupational and industrial features, as well as pits and ditch fills. Other features should be sampled to help to characterise the deposits on the site. Priority should be given to processing samples from identifiable, dated features, or to those undated features which have potential for other forms of dating (e.g. radiocarbon dating).
- Bulk sample residues should be checked for the presence of industrial waste (e.g. slags, hammerscale) and small faunal remains (e.g. fishbones, small mammal/avian bones) as well as for plant material.
- The potential of buried soils and ditch fills to provide dated (using radiocarbon dating) pollen cores or Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating of sediments should be considered, although this type of sampling will be undertaken in consultation with the Historic England's Regional Scientific Advisor.

8.2 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens are identified, provision will be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings a minimum of one per building identified). Where applicable, samples to be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes.

8.3 The selection of suitable deposits for sampling will be confirmed at site meetings with the County Archaeologist. In principle palaeo-environmental samples will be taken from deposits which have clear stratigraphic relationships. Particular

attention will be paid to the recovery of samples from any waterlogged samples that may be present.

## **9 Monitoring**

9.1 The County Archaeologist will be informed on the start date and timetable for the evaluation in advance of work commencing (ideally 2 weeks' notice but as a minimum 48 hours before commencement).

9.2 Reasonable access to the site will be afforded to the County Archaeologists or his/her nominee at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation.

9.3 Regular communication between AD Archaeology, the County Archaeologist and other interested parties will be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

9.4 If appropriate, specialists will be contacted and allowed access to the site to help inform any detailed study / information retrieval depending upon the nature of the archaeological features being revealed.

## **10 Post Excavation Work, Archive, and Report Preparation**

### **10.1 Finds**

10.1.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the ClfA Guidelines for Finds Work (2008a) and those set by UKIC.

10.1.2 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum prior to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts, adequate provision will be made for recording them. Details of land ownership will be provided by the developer.

10.1.3 All retained artefacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

### **10.2 Site Archive**

10.2.1 The archive and the finds will be deposited in the Bowes Museum.

10.2.2 Archiving work will be carried out compliance with the ClfA Guidelines for Archiving (2008b).

10.2.3 Before fieldwork, contact will be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership will be provided by the developer.

### 10.3 Report

10.3.1 The HER requires one bound paper copy and one digital copy (in PDF/A compliant format) of the report.

10.3.2 The report will include the following as a minimum:

Each page and paragraph will be numbered within the report and illustrations cross referenced within the text.

The report will include the following as a minimum:

- OASIS reference numbers and an 8 figure grid reference
- The nature and extent of the proposed development and client information
- A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
- A location plan showing trench locations within the site. This will be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Historic Environment Record
- Plans and sections of main trench axes and excavated features located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
- Period based discussion of the known and potential archaeological sites within the proposed development area
- A summary statement of the results
- A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
- A description of the geology on the site
- Discussion of the physical impact of the proposed development on known and potential archaeological sites

10.3.4 Any variation to the above requirements will be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted

#### **10.3.5 Post-Excavation Assessment Report**

10.3.6 Should a significant archaeological site be located a post-excavation assessment report will include all the information necessary to make decisions about the future direction of the project in line with Historic England's Guidelines on the Management of Archaeological Projects (Historic England 2015). The report will be submitted to Durham Conservation Team for comment and approval prior to any further analysis or publication work commencing.

10.3.7 This document will be submitted within six months of the end of fieldwork unless previously agreed with all relevant parties.

10.3.8 The archaeological contractor will submit an updated specification for full analysis and publication in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. An appropriate level of publication will then be agreed with Durham County Archaeologist and will be prepared in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. A short report of the work will be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

#### 10.4 OASIS

10.4.1 The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.

10.4.2 AD Archaeology will therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. A pdf copy of the report will be uploaded to Oasis within 3 months of its production.

### **Bibliography**

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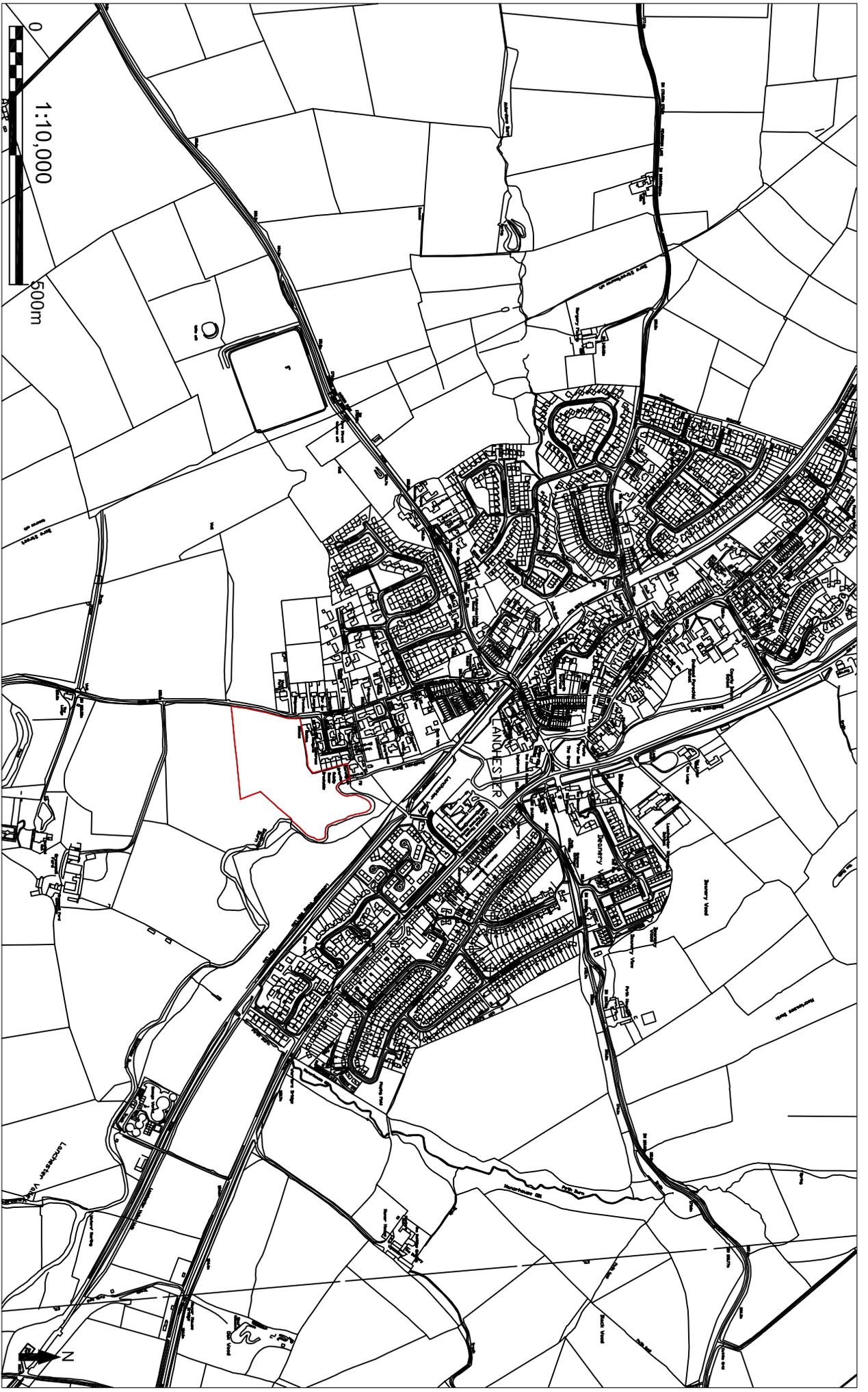
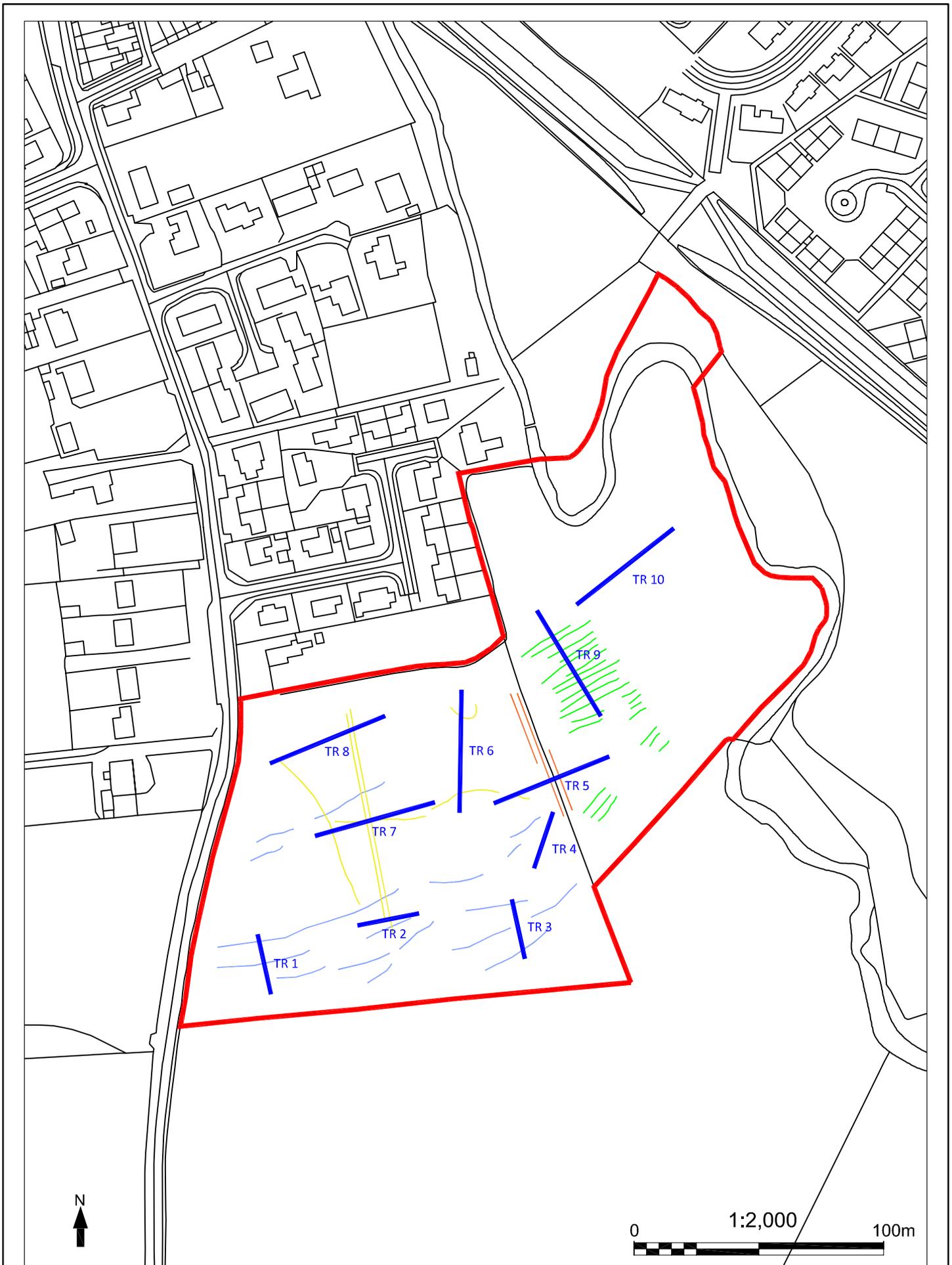


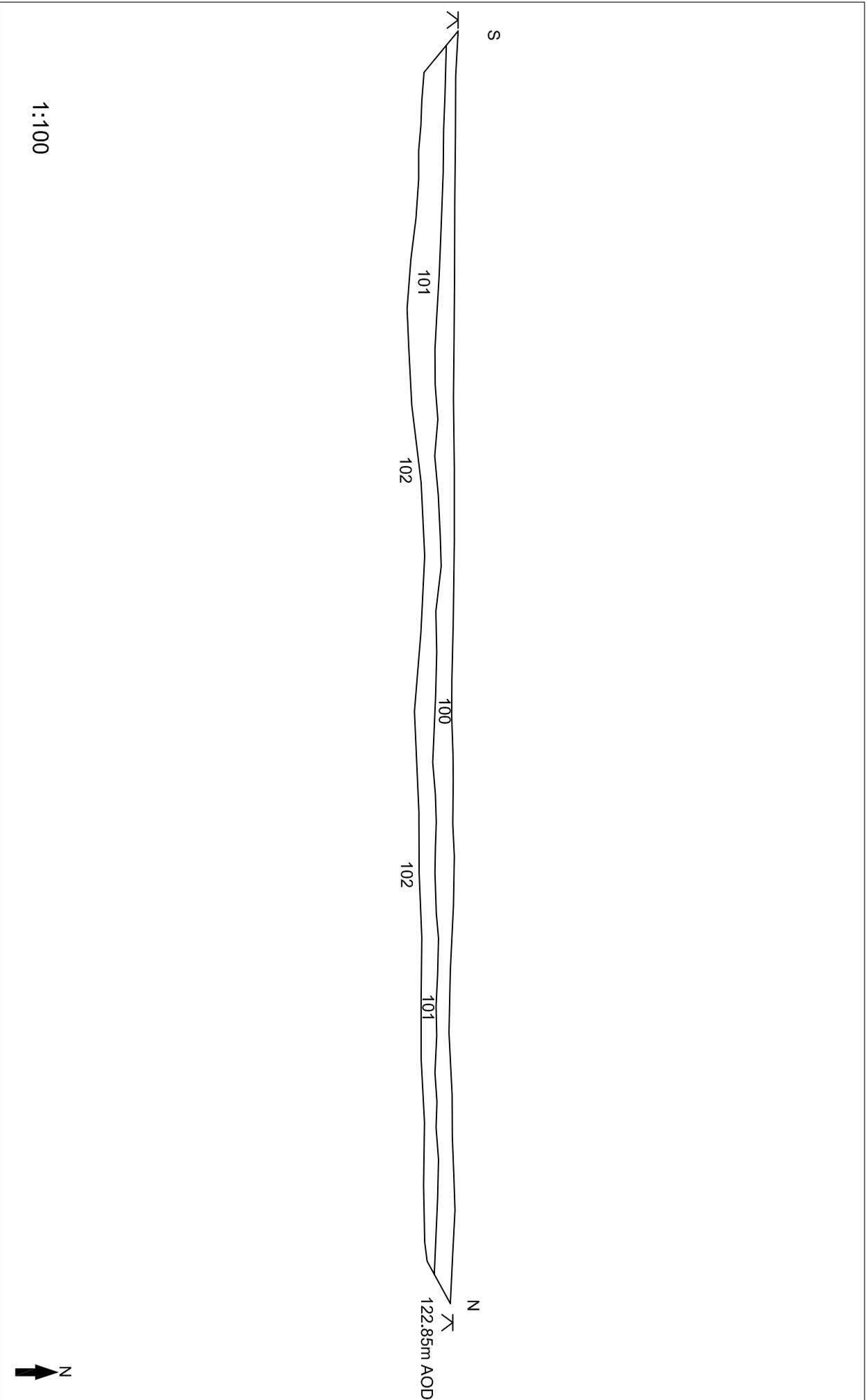
Figure 1: General location of site



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Figure 2: Trench location plan



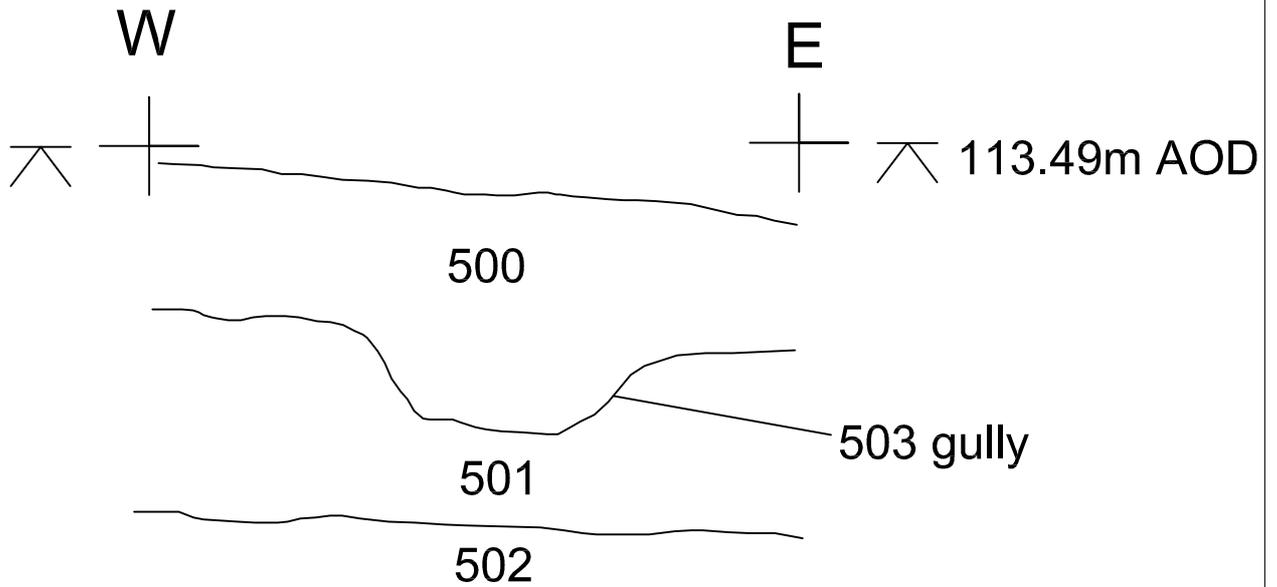
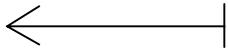


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Figure 3: Trench 1



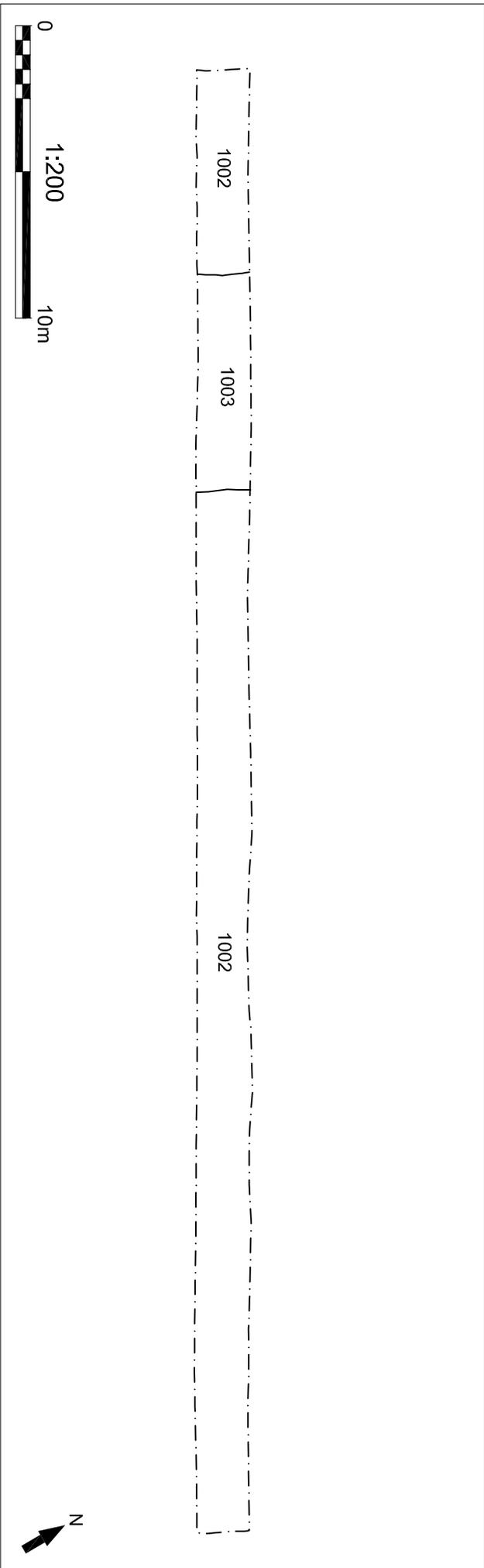
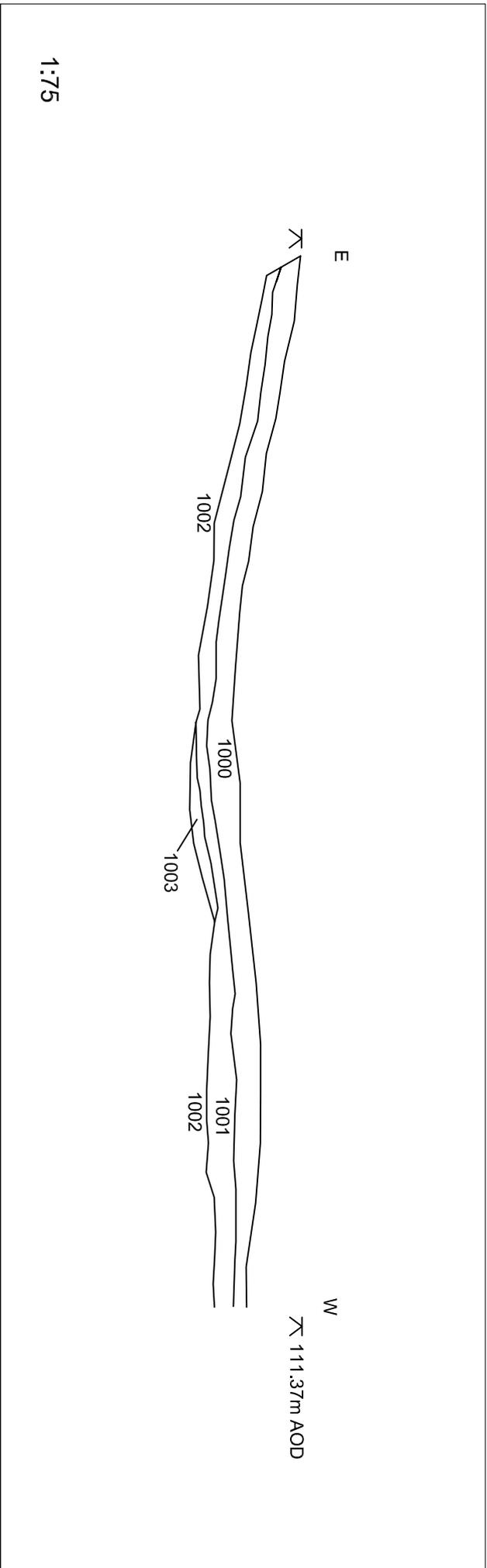
23.5m to W  
end of TR 5



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Figure 4: Trench 5





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Figure 5: Trench 10



Plate 1: Trench 3 looking south



Plate 2: Trench 5 gully 503 looking north-east



Plate 3: Trench 6 looking north



Plate 4 Trench 7 looking west



Plate 5: Trench 8 looking west



Plate 6 :Trench 10 looking east