ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

at

DERECROFT, LOW WOODSIDE FARM, LANCHESTER CO. DURHAM DH8 7TG

Prepared for

DAVID ELLWOOD

Contract No: 11015

Date: May 2007

Ian Farmer Associates (1998) Limited
Unit 1, Bamburgh Court, Team Valley Trading Estate, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, NE11 0TX
Tel. 0191 4828500
Fax. 0191 4828520

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

During March 2007, Ian Farmer Associates Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological evaluation at Derecroft. Low Woodside Farm, Lanchester, Co. Durham DH8 7TG

The investigation was commissioned by the owner Mr David Ellwood as part of an application to build garages to the west of his property.

As the area of development lay in the vicinity of the course of a major roman road – Dere Street it was decided that an archaeological evaluation should take place to determine the quantity and quality of any surviving archaeological deposits.

The evaluation eventually comprised of two trenches within the area of the proposed garage. Excavation was by JCB with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. This was followed by manual excavation and recording of the archaeological deposits.

The excavation of trench 1 revealed little evidence of the roman road or any other significant archaeological deposits. It is possible that the ground level had been truncated.

The second trench, excavated at right angles across the presumed course of then road revealed two ditches circa. 1.5m apart, the eastern ditch may have been recut at least twice. No traces of the actual roman road survived.

An alternative suggestion for at least the eastern ditch complex is that it may be the robber trench for a stone culvert? It is also possible that the roman road had been flagged at this point and had been completely robbed away. The surviving archaeological deposits were significantly disturbed by tree roots. There were no roman artefacts found and environmental samples proved negative.

The recommendation is that if development is to take place with no further archaeological intervention on site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Ian Farmer Associates Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Derecroft, Low Woodside Farm, Lanchester, Co. Durham DH8 7TG during March/April 2007.

1.2 The investigation was commissioned by the owner of the property, Mr David Ellwood and specifically related to the construction of a new garage within an enclosed yard area on the west side of the client's house.

1.3 The requirements for the archaeological work followed the advice given by Central Government as set out in Planning Policy Guidance: Note 16 (PPG16), Archaeology and Planning, issued by the DoE in 1990, and the recommendations of the assistant county archaeologist, Lea White, Durham County Council.

1.4 It is known that the route of the Roman road known as Dere Street is believed to pass directly through the proposed development site (SMR 3045, 3046) as it heads north from the roman fort of Lanchester (Longovicium). Circa. 1.5 miles south east of the present site.

1.5 It was decided therefore that an archaeological evaluation should take place on the site. The work was to consist of two trenches located in such a way that the roman road, Dere Street could be located and its state of preservation could be determined.

1.6 This report presents a summary of the results of the evaluation and is to be used as an aid in making planning decisions in as much that they affect the archaeological deposits.

2.0 DEFINITION OF AN EVALUATION

2.1 An archaeological evaluation has been previously defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in their by- laws; standards and their Policy statements. A copy of such is available on request.

3.0 SITE SETTING (FIGS. A1.1, A1.2, A1.3)

3.1 The site is located within an enclosed yard area on the west side of the clients house The northwest boundary of the site is marked by a post and rail fence as is the southeast boundary. The eastern area is marked by a gravel driveway. The southwest boundary is marked by a fence and a barn. The site development is centred on the Ordnance Survey Grid Reference NZ 14185/49479. The site area measures c. 275sqm.

4.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 The site is situated on an eastward facing slope, within a 'rolling' topography of hills created by ice sheets and glacial melt waters. The height above sea level is between 175m and 180m above sea level. The nearest bench mark is located on a stone pillar, 60m SE of the site. Its value is 175.47m above sea level

4.2 Details of the geology underlying the site have been obtained from the British Geological Survey. Map sheet 20, 'Newcastle upon Tyne', Drift edition, 1: 50 000 Series, published in 1992. The map indicates that the site to be underlain by boulder clay (glacial till) overlying Lower Carboniferous coal measures.

4.3 There is a water pump above a spring, circa 40m south of the present site. There indications of springs or other water sources in close proximity to the site.

5.0 HISTORICAL SETTING

5.1 The importance of the site is due to the possible location of the major roman road, *Dere Street* which is thought to pass directly through the proposed development site. (SMR 3045,3046)

5.2 The roman road, *Dere Street* was a major trunk road from the roman fortress and settlement, Eboracum, now the present City of York to Scotland. It was the roman equivalent of today's A1 trunk road, at least the northern section.

5.3 There are eye witness accounts of a low ridge marking *Dere Street*, in fields 0.7km NNE of the present site.

5.4 There are roman finds in the area, mainly metal detecting finds. For example, a brooch from near Esp Green Farm (SMR 3432) and an Antoninianus coin of the Emperor Galienus (AD258-268) from the Castle Hill area (SMR 5433).

5.5 The roman fort of Longovicium, is located, c. 3km to the SE and is located immediately southwest of *Dere Street.*

5.6 It is likely that Dere Street remained in use into the late medieval period and the location of Low Woodside farm is at least partly due to close proximity of the roman road. The farm itself has at least 17th century origins and is a Grade 2 listed building.

5.7 At Esp Green farm, circa. 500m southeast of the present site are the remains of St Margaret's chapel, which are 14th century in date and now survives as a rectangular platform, 27m x 7m and 0.7m high. It currently lies under pasture.

6.0 SITE METHODOLOGY

6.1 A site grid was established based on the Ordnance Survey grid. Pegs at the end of each of the trenches were tied in to this grid, See Fig. A1.3

6.2 All vertical measurements on site were tied in to the nearest Ordnance Survey bench mark.

6.3 Two trenches were set out in locations proposed by the assistant County Archaeologist, Lea White, see Fig A1.3. Trench 1 measured c. 10m x 2m and was positioned at right angles to the barn, within the enclosed yard. Trench 2 measured 20m x 2m and was located parallel to and immediately NW of the access drive for Derecroft. The location of trench 2 was astride the suggested course of the roman *Dere Street* as indicated on Ordnance Survey maps.

6.4 It was hoped that trench 2, would yield important information concerning the exact location and the state of preservation of the roman road together with any related features, e.g. ditches.

6.5 All trenches were excavated using a JCB excavator with a ditching bucket to an appropriate depth. This was carried out under supervision by an archaeologist.

6.6 Following mechanical excavation of the trenches, excavation took place manually.

6.7 Recording of archaeological features consisted of planning and section drawing at either 1:20 or 1:10 scale. These were subsequently reduced to fit A3 size paper. A context sheet record and a sample sheet record were compiled also. Photography comprised of colour slides and prints, monochrome and finally digital photographs.

6.8 Any artefacts/ecofacts recovered were to be recorded and stored for further study. On this occasion however, there were no artefacts/ecofacts recovered. Appropriate context sampling was carried out on site and evaluated. The results of the sampling proved negative, i.e. no snails, bones, shell etc. and most of the deposits were significantly disturbed by bioturbation, in this instance tree roots. See below.

6.9 Both trenches were left open at the request of the owner of the property, David Ellwood.

7.0 RESULTS

7.1 Explanatory Note

7.2 Trench 1

7.2.1 The following figures and plates are associated with Trench 1: Fig.A1.3, A2.1, and A2.2. , Plates A3.1 and A3.2

7.2.2 Trench 1 measured circa.10m x 2m and was aligned NE-SW. It was located immediately NE of the present barn/stable and was positioned at right angles to the barn. (Fig.A1.3)

7.2.3 The sequence of deposits is follows; context (1) comprised of comprised gravel which formed the driveway of the house. This was only 3cm thick

(average). This had recently been laid down. Context (2) was a c. 0.3m thick layer of ash and crushed ceramic building material (CBM); this provided a compacted hardcore deposit base for the gravel drive.(Fig.A2.2)

7.2.4 This hardcore deposit directly overlaid natural boulder clay (glacial till), known as context (3).

7.2.5 Cut into the boulder clay was a 0.8m square construction pit of unknown depth (5).This had been filled with concrete (4). It was subsequently discovered that this was a concrete base for a metal girder forming a structural element for 20th century barn that had formerly stood on the site. (Fig.A2.1, Plate A3.2)

7.2.6 No other features were found in this trench,

7.3 Trench 2

7.3.1 The following figures and plates are associated with Trench 2: Fig. A2.3, A2.4, A2.5 and A2.6, Plates A3.3, A3.4, A3.5 and A3.6.

7.3.2 Trench 2 measured 20m x 2m and was aligned NE-SW. It was located circa.5m northwest of the end of the barn. The trench was parallel to and alongside the north-eastern edge of the driveway. Its location was also determined by the suggested course of the roman road, *Dere Street.* (Fig.A1.3)

7.3.3 Personal communication from the owners of the property prior to the excavation of the trench indicated that recently at least three trees had been cut down and tree stumps had been dug out from the general vicinity of the trench. The excessive quantity of roots located in the trench subsequently confirmed this.

7.3.4 The sequence of archaeological deposits/cuts (contexts (1) to (21) were as follows:

7.3.5 Recently redeposited topsoil, after the removal of the trees, context (1) overlying all previous deposits. At the extreme west end of the trench, Section A2.4, P1 this lay directly over a thin layer of clay (2) overlying a mixture of ash, clay and ceramic building material known as context (3). This was provisionally interpreted as hard standing material at a former gateway to a field. This was subsequently confirmed by the landowners.

7.3.6 Context (4) extended almost three quarters the length of the trench, the deposit comprised of a brown loam with frequent cobbles composed of sandstone, There was also extensive bioturbation in the form of tree roots of varying thicknesses.

7.3.7 Context (5) was saturated (at least within the ditch (7))silty clay which not only filled the ditch but overlapped the west bank also. No artefacts/ecofacts were recovered from the deposit, despite sieving and environmental sampling. There was a lot of reworking of this deposit within the ditch caused by water movement and tree root growth. In addition there was evidence of deposit upheaval caused undoubtedly when the nearby tree stumps were pulled out. (Fig.A2.4)

7.3.8 The deposit, context (6) was a silty/clay, orange/brown in colour, with no inclusions thought extensively disturbed by tree roots. It had one very large boulder, and occasional cobble. It may have also been truncated. This has been provisionally identified as the clay base for the roman road, *Dere Street*. This deposit was sieved and sampled for artefacts and environmental evidence. Again however there no finds and the environmental evidence were inconclusive.

7.3.9 The western edge of what had been the roman road was marked by a linear ditch (7) which was aligned N-S, presumably along the route of *Dere Street*. It was circa. 0.65m wide and 0.5m deep at the point it was sectioned. It had a flat base and slightly concave sides. This ditch was cut into the natural clay, context (14). See Fig.A2.3 and A2.4

7.3.10 Context (8) was a mixture of grey, brown and black clay, silt and sand mixed which was saturated. The deposits had been mixed up, probably caused by root disturbance. There was no evidence of any distinct layering. No artefacts and ecofacts were recovered from the fill and environmental analysis proved negative. The backfill filled a series of cuts, contexts which may have part of a ditch complex (contexts (19), (20), and (21)

7.3.11 East of the ditch complex were a series of deposits in the following order; (9) a black/brown silty loam mix, overlying context (10) a brown soil horizon with occasional sandstone cobble,

7.3.12 Context (10) overlay context (11) orange brown silty clay with occasional cobble which had been deposited over the top of the natural clay horizon, context (14). This may have been a natural hill wash horizon, this was sampled but no artefacts or ecofacts were recovered.

7.3.13 The top of the east bank of the ditch complex was marked by a small lens of grey/brown clay with fragments of shale (12). This is now interpreted as part of the natural rock head which lies just beneath the glacial till in this area. Debris from this deposit had been washed down into the base of the ditch complex and forms a silting (13) of a 'cut', context (19). This was sampled but failed to yield anything that could be used for dating etc. (Fig. A2.5,A2.6)

7.3.14 Contexts (15), (16), (17) and (18), in descending were limited to the eastern third of the section and comprised of a series of sandy silts mainly orange, or yellow brown in colour. All of the deposits had inclusions of occasional sandstone cobbles and there was significant bioturbation by tree roots. There were no finds from these deposits and they are provisionally interpreted as hill wash deposits. There was no evidence of ploughing.

7.3.15 The final series of contexts described, (contexts (19), (20) and (21) are a series of possible cuts making up a possible ditch complex forming the boundary to the east edge of *Dere Street*. The west edge of the possible roman road is marked by a ditch (7).The ditch complex is not clearly understood as the cuts appear to be series of re cuts of the original ditch. These are discussed below where alternative interpretations are briefly discussed. At least three possible re cuts were discerned observed, the fill of which appears to be represented by one single deposit, context (8). This is because of the badly disturbed nature of the fill(s) caused by water movement and extensive root disturbance

7.3.16 No other contexts were observed within the evaluation trench.

8.0 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

8.1 A discussion of the results is presented below, together with a statement of the quantity and quality of the archaeological deposits. This is followed by recommendations for possible strategies for any future development.

8.2 Trench 1 revealed little useful information. The trench was located to the east of *Dere Street*. There was no evidence of significant archaeological deposits and the natural boulder clay (3) was close to the surface. It is likely that the original ground surface had been truncated and levelled, possibly as a result of the construction of a concrete and steel barn which had formerly stood on the site. The concrete base, context (5) is a remnant of the barn base.

8.3 The hard core layer , context (2) had been brought in from elsewhere and was used as a base for the present gravel drive (1)

8.4 Trench 2 appeared to confirm the route of *Dere Street* roman road. However this is indicated only by two ditches which were aligned NNE-SSW, either side of the roman road course. However even the interpretation of the ditches is not straight forward.

8.5 Until recently at least three mature trees were positioned in the vicinity of where trench 2 was located. These had been cut down during the construction of the new driveway. However not only had they been cut down but the stumps had been pulled out also and the disturbed ground surface had been re landscaped.

8.6 The result of this was that stratified deposits had not only been disturbed by the roots of the trees but the action of pulling the tree stumps also disrupted the deposits in the ditches.

8.7 However it appears likely that the damage to the roman road had occurred long before the trees were planted. No trace of a metalled or paved roman road had survived at least within the excavated trench. Complete destruction of a metalled surface may have caused by ploughing or surface after the road ceased to be used for its original purpose

8.8 Another alternative is suggested for the complete removal of the road. It is possible that the road was paved and curbed in the area to facilitate uphill movement for people, beasts of burden and wheeled vehicles. If so, as the road became more dilaptated and not maintained, the original curbs and paving were removed for use elsewhere – possibly even the original 17th century Low Woodside farm?

8.9 The west ditch (7) and east ditch (19), (20) and (21) complex are the only features to indicate that the road was there. However no artefacts were recovered from the fills of the ditches despite sampling and sieving. Environmental evidence was not forthcoming either.

8.10 The gap between the east and west ditch measured only 1.5m, undoubtedly it had been wider but the possible recuts of the east ditch has made the tgap between the ditches considerably smaller.

8.11 The lack of dating evidence , artefacts and ecofacts is a puzzle and a possible explanation is offered below

8.12 A roman road as important as *Dere Street*, being one of the main route ways into Scotland would have been expected to be more substantial with perhaps stone curbs and stone lined culverts at least on one side, with perhaps the original road constructed in such a way to allow surface water run off to drain into a culvert - perhaps on the east side?

8.13 If this was the case, the temptation to rob out stone culvert slabs for reuse elsewhere once the road went out of use must have existed. The action of removing the stone slabs would then have given the impression of a wide ditch that had been recut at least twice. This would explain the lack of roman finds perhaps as they would have been removed along with culvert.

8.14 It is possible that there had been a culvert on the west side of the road which had also been removed also – perhaps at the time of removal of any paving.

8.15 It is likely that *Dere Street* had been of more significant construction in this area during the roman occupation, especially as it had been built on the slope of a hill. However, by the post medieval period perhaps, the original road had been diverted and road was substantially robbed, in this area at least, for construction material.

8.16 What is reasonably certain however that is these ditches- if that is what they are marking the original course of what was once the principal roman road to Scotland?

8.17 In conclusion therefore, despite the fact that one of the principal roads of Roman Britain passed through this area, it must be assumed that it is the former site of the road and no significant trace remains, at least in this part of Low Woodside Farm. It is recommended therefore that there is no need for any further archaeological intervention during this development.

9.0 OASIS

9.1 Ian Farmer Associates Archaeological Services support the Online Access to Index Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS Project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeologically grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.

9.2 The online OASIS form has been completed and is awaiting validation thus placing the information into the public domain at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/

10.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & BIBLIOGRAPHY

10.1 The author(s) acknowledges the following people for their assistance during this project:

Mr & Mrs Ellwood (owners and developers of the property)

Ms Lea White, (assistant county archaeologist)

The main reference work referred to in compiling the project design is:

Petts, D. & Gerrard, C. 'Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment', Durham County Council 2006

For and on behalf of Ian Farmer Associates (1998) Limited

I J Stewart PhD AIFA

Geoarchaeologist

APPENDIX 1

LOCATION MAPS

IAN FARMER ASSOCIATES
Geotechnical & Environmental Specialists

Derecroft, Low Woodside Farm Lanchester, Co. Durham DH8 7TG
National Grid Reference: NZ 14185/49479
Contract No. 11015

Site Location Maps A1.1 & A1.2

REPRODUCED FROM ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CONTROLLER OF HER MAJESTY'S STATIONARY OFFICE

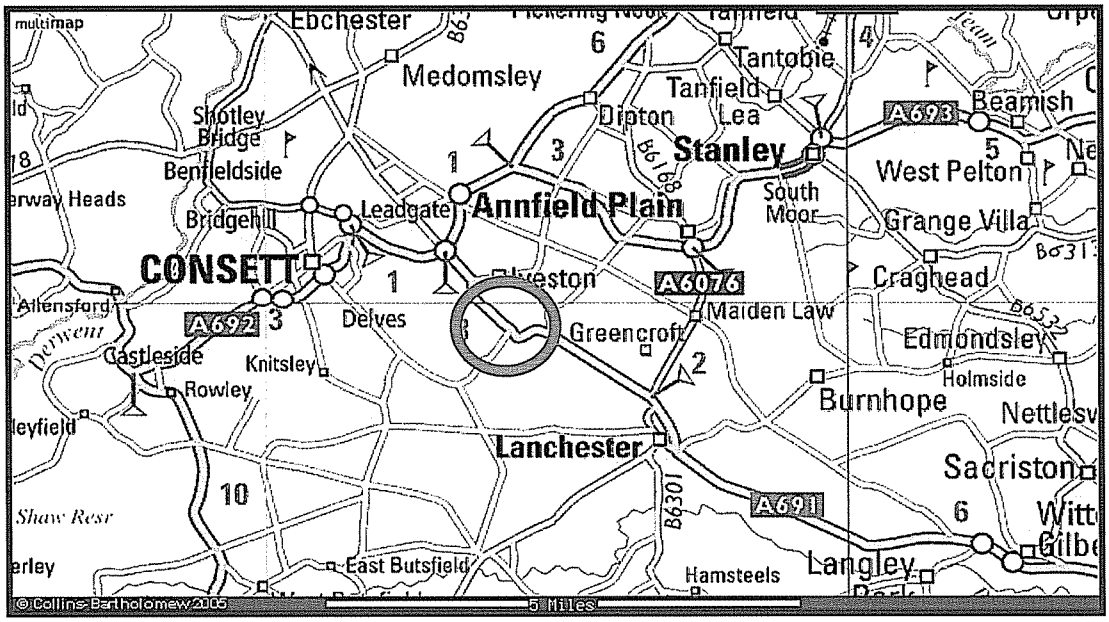

Fig.A1.1: Location of Derecroft, Low Woodside Farm, DH8 7TG

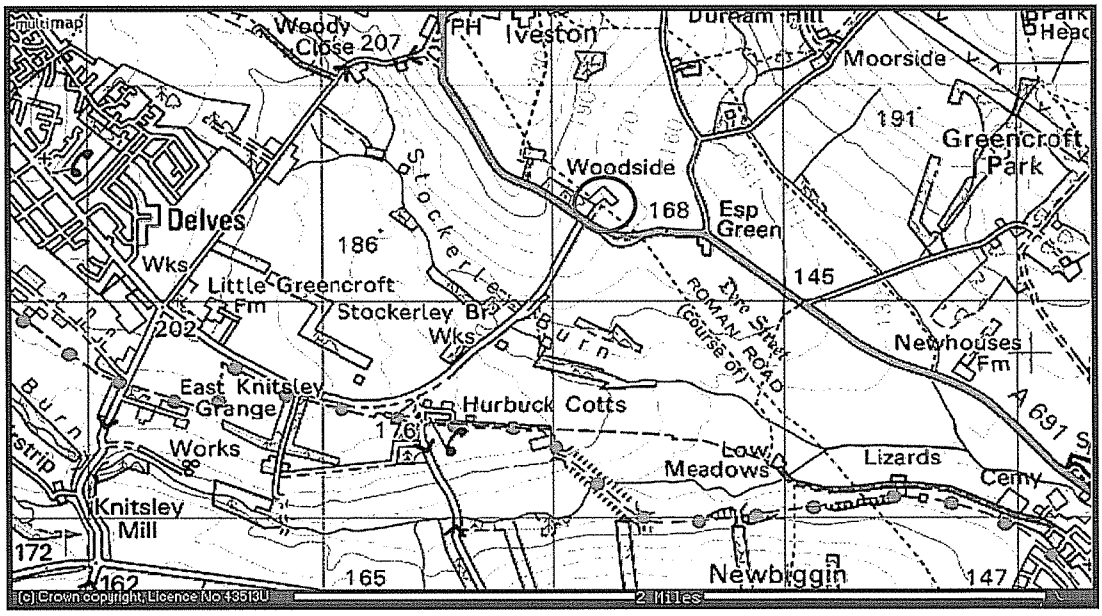

Fig.A1.2: Derecroft, Low Woodside Farm, NZ 14185/49479

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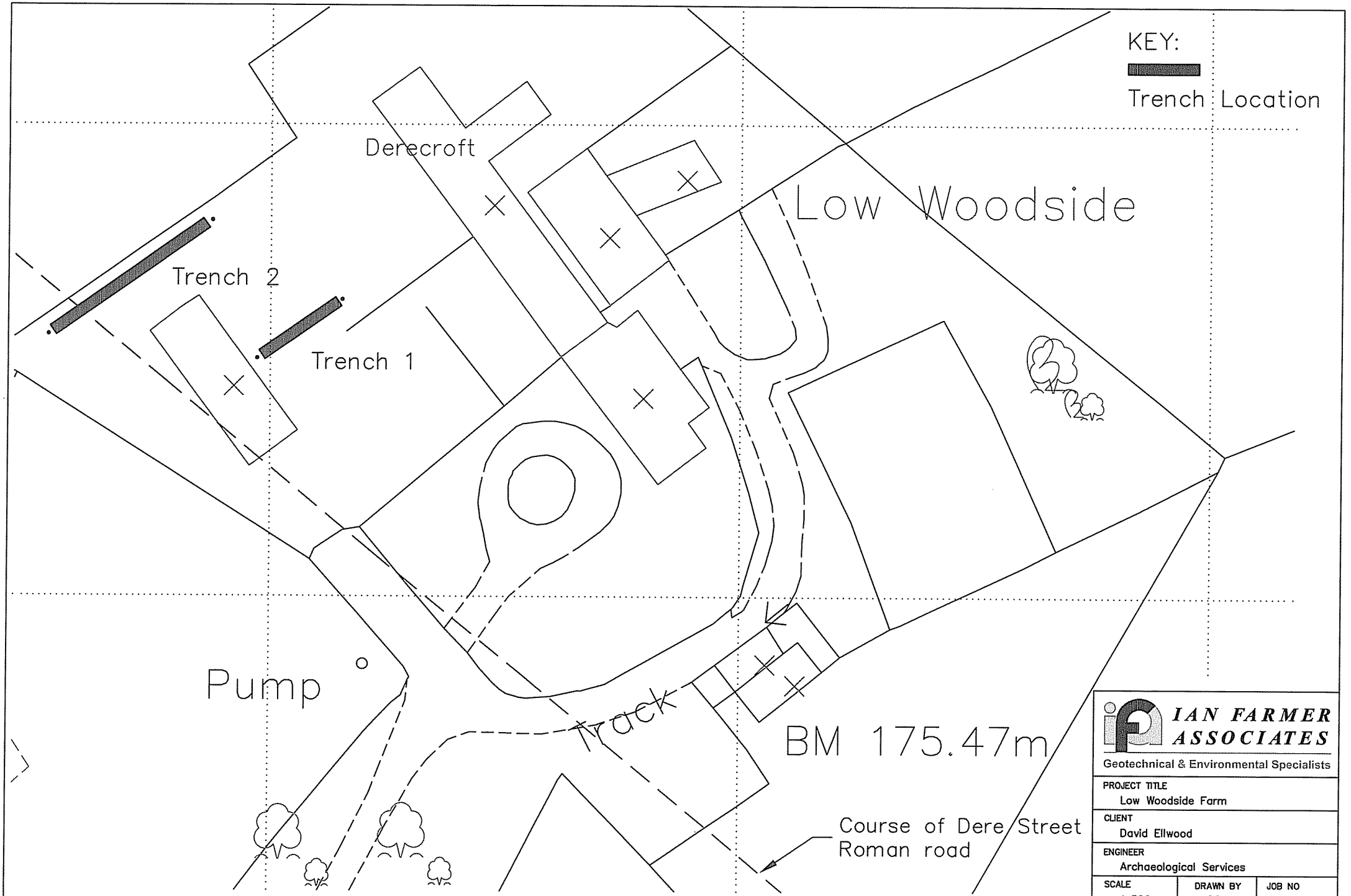

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IAN FARMER ASSOCIATES
Geotechnical & Environmental Specialists

PROJECT TITLE: Low Woodside Farm		
CLIENT: David Ellwood		
ENGINEER: Archaeological Services		
SCALE: 1:500	DRAWN BY: OS	JOB NO: 11015
DATE: 04.04.07	REV: 20.05.07	DRAWING NO: A1.3

APPENDIX 2

PLAN & SECTION DRAWINGS

TRENCH 1
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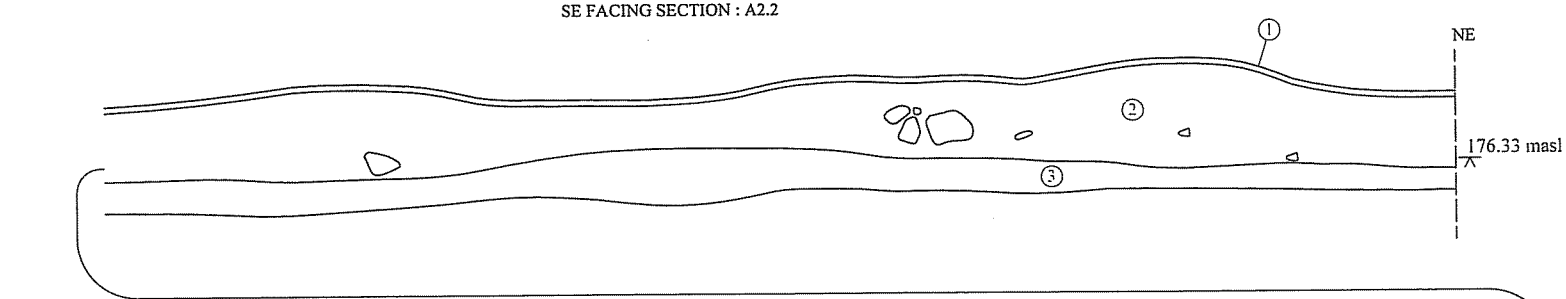

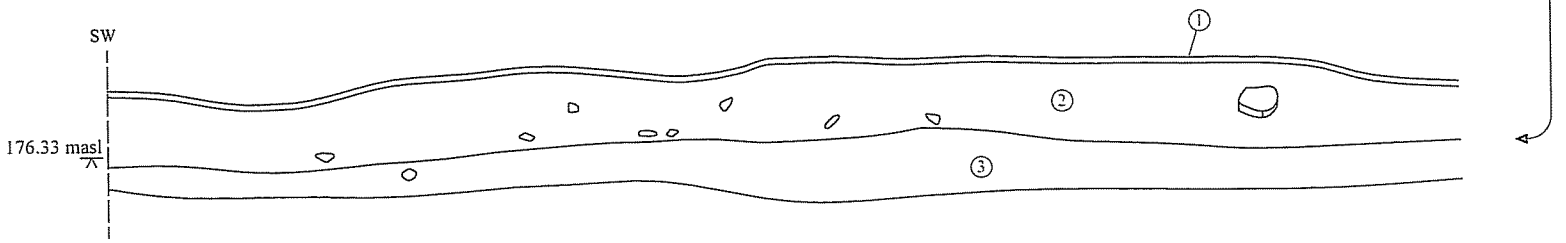

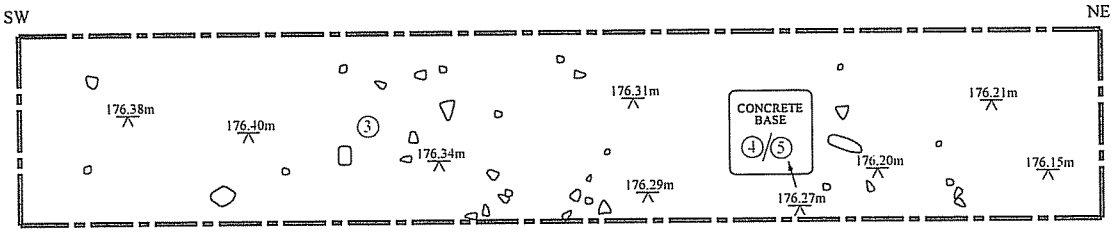

TRENCH 1
PLAN : A2.1

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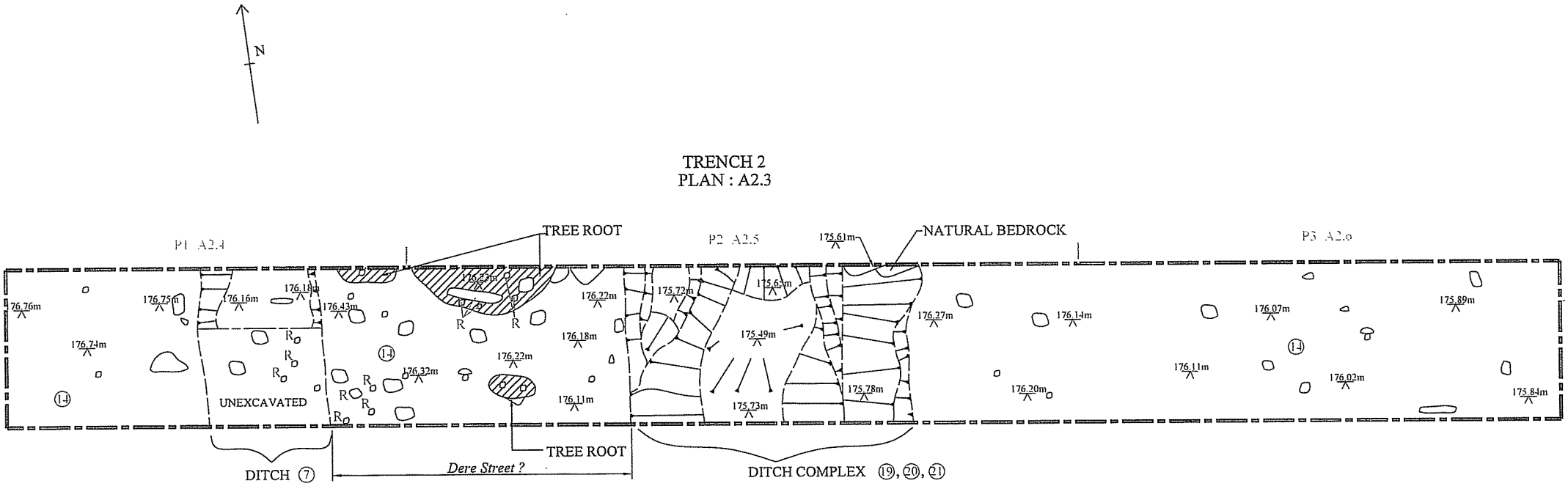
	CHECKED BY / DATE:	I.J.S, 01/05/07	NOTES: FIG A2.1 TRENCH 1, PLAN 1, SCALE 1:50 FIG A2.2 TRENCH 1, SECTION 1, SCALE 1:20
	DEPT. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES:		
	DRAWING No. / SCALE:	A2.1 (1:50), A2.2 (1:20)	



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	CHECKED BY / DATE:	I.J.S, 01/05/07	NOTES: TRENCH 2, PLAN1, SCALE 1:50 R = ROOT ▨ = DISTURBANCE
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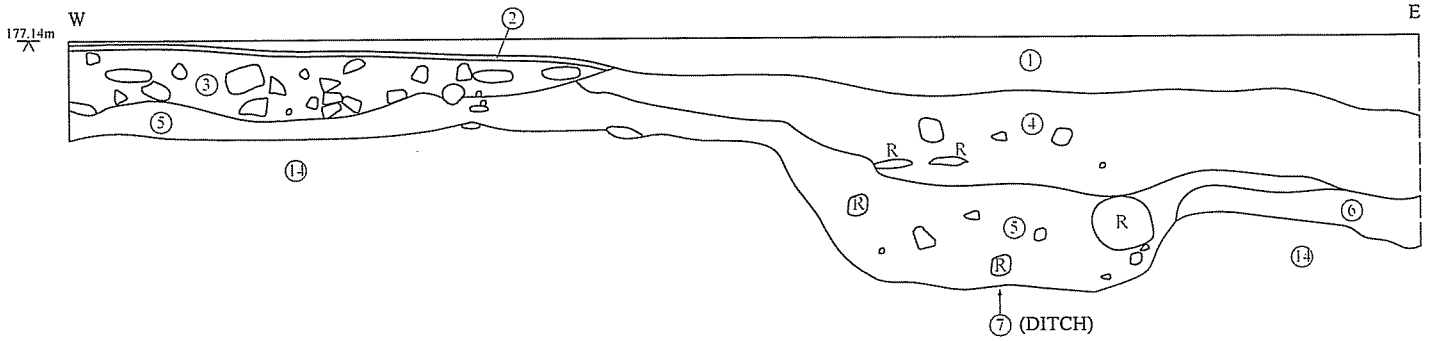
TRENCH 2

SECTION 1 PART 1 : A2.4

PART 2



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	CHECKED BY / DATE:	I.J.S, 01/05/07	NOTES: TRENCH 2, SOUTH FACING SECTION SCALE 1:20 R = ROOT
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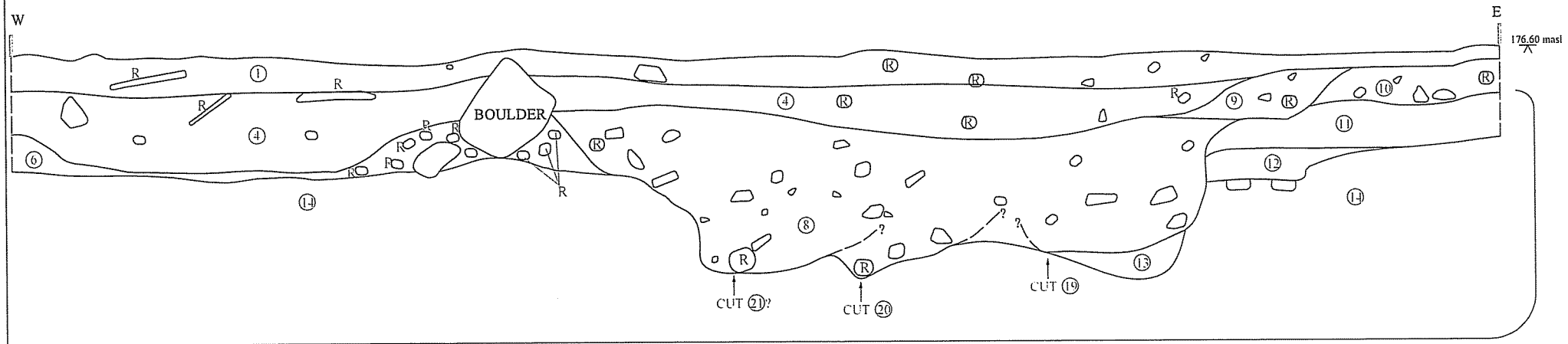

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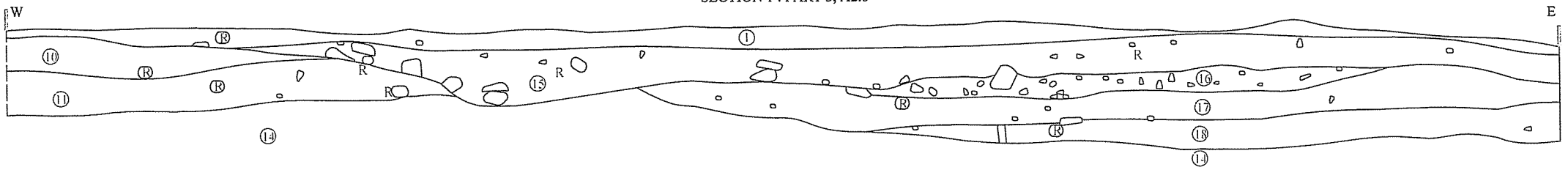

TRENCH 2

IAN FARMER ASSOCIATES Geotechnical & Environmental Specialists	DRAWN BY / DATE:	F.K., 10/04/07	CONTRACT NAME / No. LOW WOODSIDE FARM, LANCHESTER/11015
	CHECKED BY / DATE:	I.J.S, 01/05/07	NOTES:
	DEPT. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES:		TRENCH 2 PART 2, 3, A2.6, SCALE 1:20 SOUTH FACING SECTION R = ROOT
	DRAWING No. / SCALE:	A2.5, A2.6, (1:20)	

APPENDIX 3

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD (SAMPLE)

IAN FARMER ASSOCIATES
Geotechnical & Environmental Specialists

Derecroft, Low Woodside farm, Lanchester
Contract No. 11015
Photograph record of site (sample)

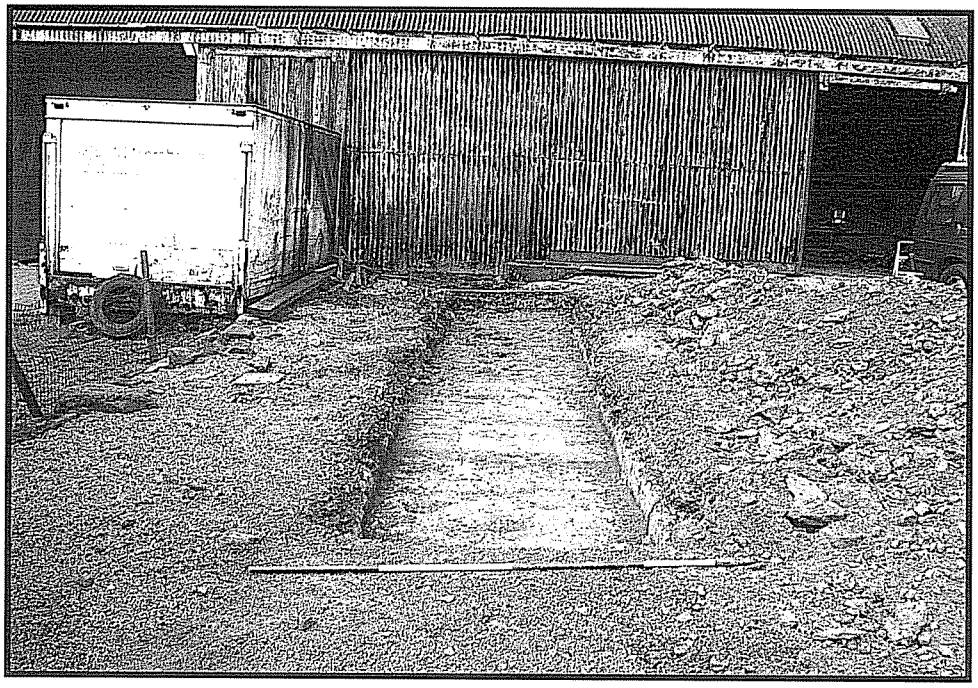

Plate A3.1: Trench 1 looking SW (Scales 2m)

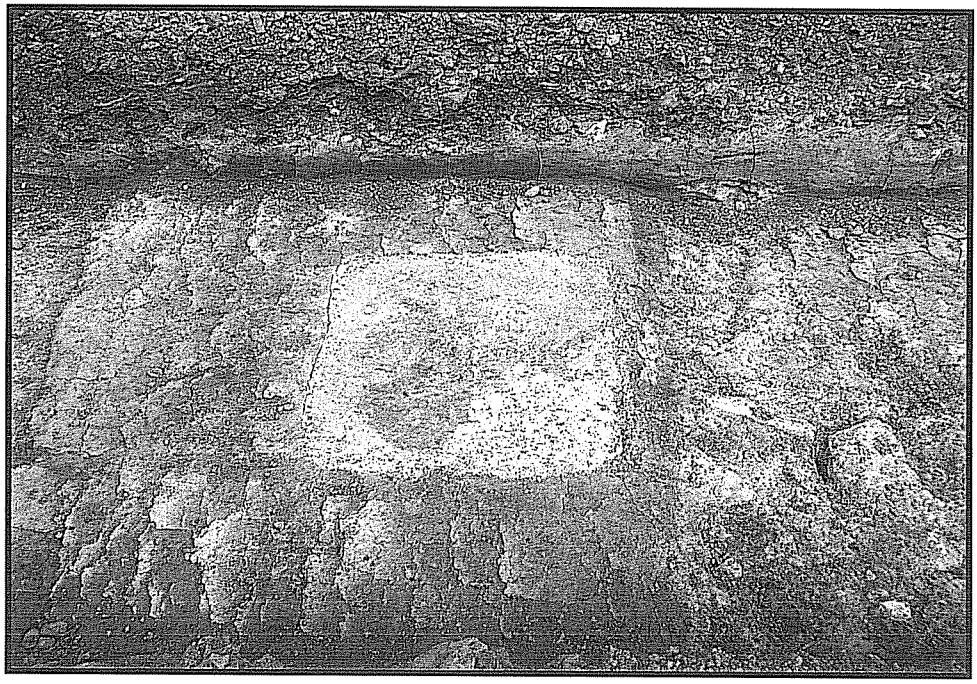

Plate A3.2: Trench 1, context (4) looking North

IAN FARMER ASSOCIATES
Geotechnical & Environmental Specialists

Derecroft, Low woodside Farm, Lanchester
Co. Durham
Contract No. 11015
Photographic Record of site (sample)

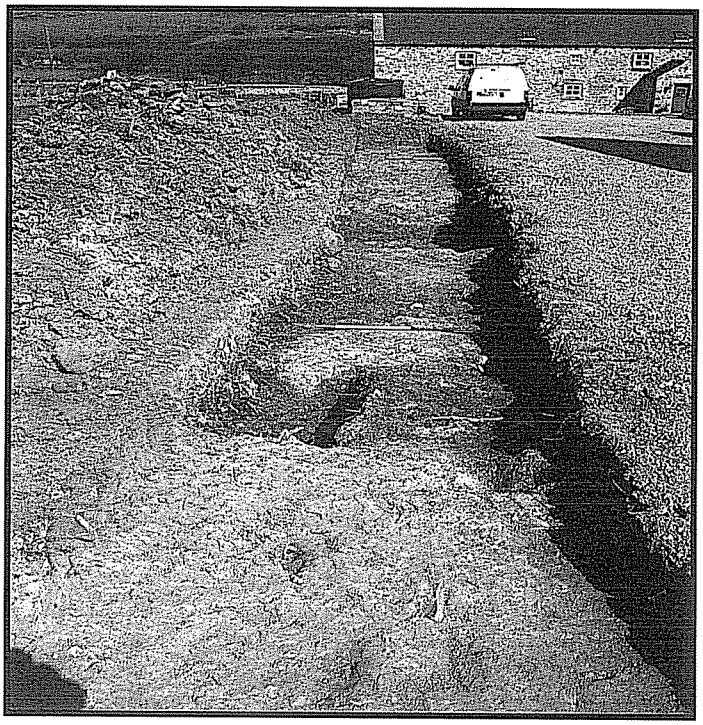

Plate A3.3: Trench 2 looking NE (Scales 1m)

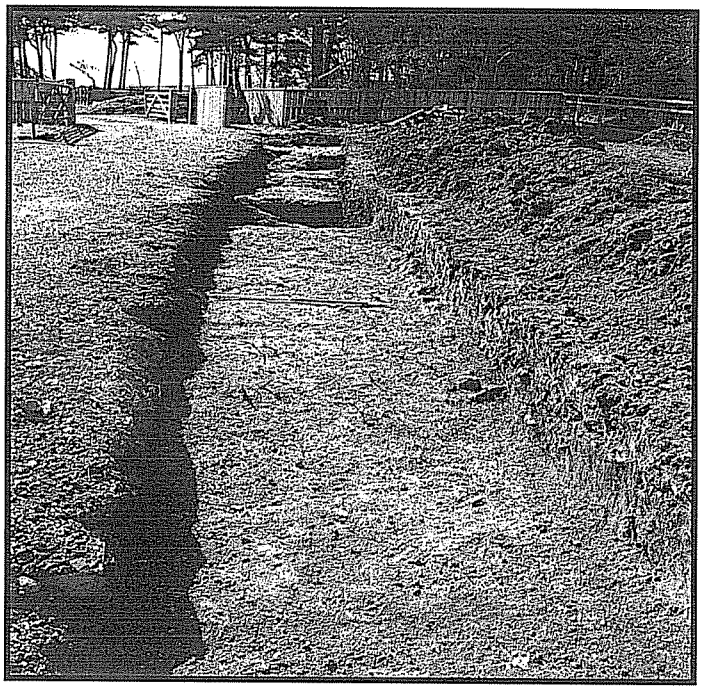

Plate A3.4: Trench 2 looking SW (Scales 1m)

IAN FARMER ASSOCIATES
Geotechnical & Environmental Specialists

Derecroft, Low Woodside Farm, Lanchester
Co. Durham
Contract No. 11015
Photographic Record of Site (sample)

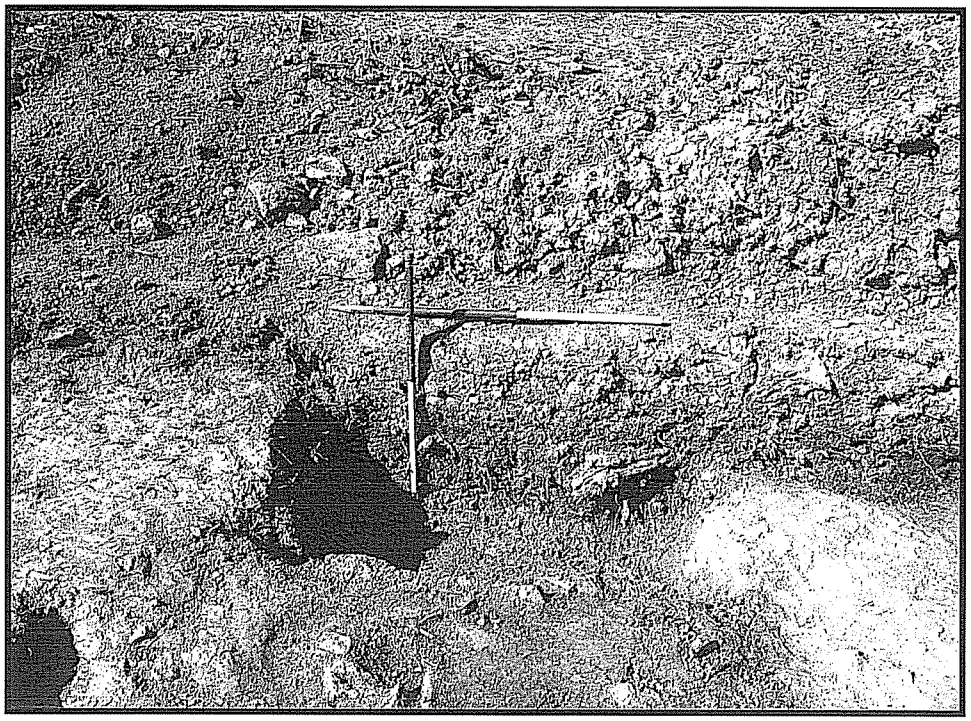

Plate A3.5: Section through West ditch (Scales 1m)

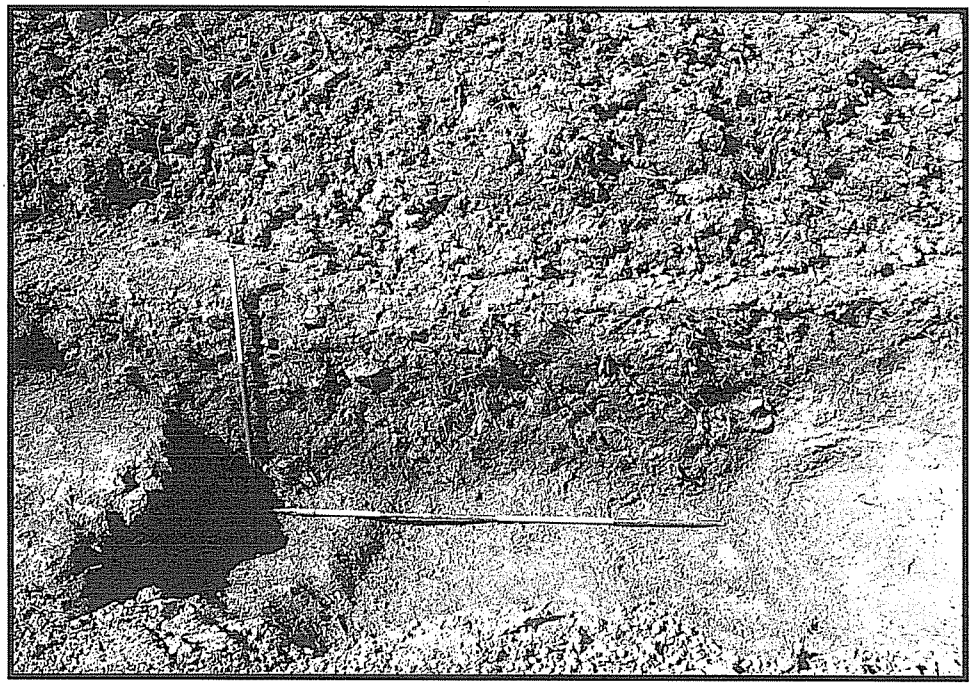

Plate A.3.6: Section through East ditch complex , (Scales 2m & 1m)

APPENDIX 4

CONTEXT TABLES

Trench	Context	Deposit/ Cut	Plan	Section	Artefacts	Ecofacts	Sampled	Other
1	1	Deposit	N/A	A2.2	No	No	No	
1	2	Deposit	N/A	A2.2	CBM	No	No	
1	3	Deposit	A2.1	A2.2	No	No	No	Natural
1	4	Deposit	A2.1	N/A	No	No	No	
1	5	Cut	N/A	N/A	No	No	No	

Trench 1 Context List

CBM = Modern ceramic building material

Trench	Context	Deposit	Cut	Plan	Section	Artefacts	Ecofacts	Sampled	Other
2	1	Deposit			A2.4, 2.5, 2.6	CBM	No	No	Root disturbance
2	2	Deposit			A2.4	CBM	No	No	Ditto
2	3	Deposit			A2.4	CBM	No	No	Ditto
2	4	Deposit			A2.4, 2.5	CBM	No	No	Ditto
2	5	Deposit			A2.4	No	No	Yes	Ditto
2	6	Deposit			A2.4, 2.5	No	No	Yes	Ditto
2	7		Cut	A2.3	A2.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	Dere street ditch
2	8	Deposit			A2.5	No	No	Yes	Root disturbance
2	9	Deposit			A2.5	CBM	No	No	Ditto
2	10	Deposit			A2.5.2.6	CBM	No	No	Ditto
2	11	Deposit			A2.5,2.6	No	No	No	Ditto
2	12	Deposit			A2.5	No	No	No	Natural?
2	13	Deposit			A2.5	No	No	Yes	Ditch silting
2	14	Deposit			A2.4,2.5,2.6	No	No	No	Natural till
2	15	Deposit			A2.5	CBM, pot.	No	No	Root disturbance
2	16	Deposit			A2.6	No	No	No	Ditto
2	17	Deposit			A2.6	No	No	No	Ditto
2	18	Deposit			A2.6	No	No	No	Ditto
2	19		Cut?		A2.5	No	No	N/A	Dere street ditch
2	20		Cut?		A2.5	No	No	N/A	Dere street ditch
2	21		Cut?		A2.5	No	No	N/A	Dere street ditch

Trench 2 Context List

CBM = Modern Ceramic Building Material

APPENDIX 5

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Contract No 11015, Derecroft, Low Woodside Farm Environmental analysis

There was no sampling of any deposits from trench 1 which proved devoid of archaeological deposits.

Trench 2 had been subjected to significant bioturbation by tree roots which meant that any archaeological deposits sampled had undergone significant disturbance.

From the ditch fills, (5) and (8), 30 litres of deposits were removed and sieved using a 2mm mesh sieve for artefacts initially. There were no finds of roman date or later.

The residues from the initial sieving were then reprocessed and selectively sieved for the recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils.

Sub sample fractions were briefly scanned using a low power microscope. There were no plant remains, apart from modern rootlet fragments and invertebrate macrofossils were absent.

No explanation can be offered at present to account for the lack of ecofacts (and artefacts) apart from the one offered in the discussion of the report.

APPENDIX 6

EVALUATION SPECIFICATION

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
On Land At *Derecroft*, Low Woodside Farm
Lanchester
Co. Durham
DH8 7TG

1.0 Site Location

1.1 The proposed development site at *Derecroft*, Low Woodside Farm, is situated on gently undulating land to the north-west of Lanchester, County Durham.

1.2 The proposed development is centred on OS grid reference NZ 14185/49479 (see Figure 1). The site is within an enclosed yard area on the west side of the client's house. It is bounded to the north and west by a post and rail wooden fence, to the south by a garage (to be demolished) and to the east by open gravelled driveway and car parking.

1.3 The site is covers a total area c. 275sqm.

2.0 The Development

2.1 The client for this work are Mr and Mrs Ellwood. Contact number 0786-0671464.

2.2 The client proposes to demolish the existing stable/garage and construct a new garage in the general vicinity.

2.3 Planning permission has not yet been sought. The results of this work will be submitted in support of any future planning application.

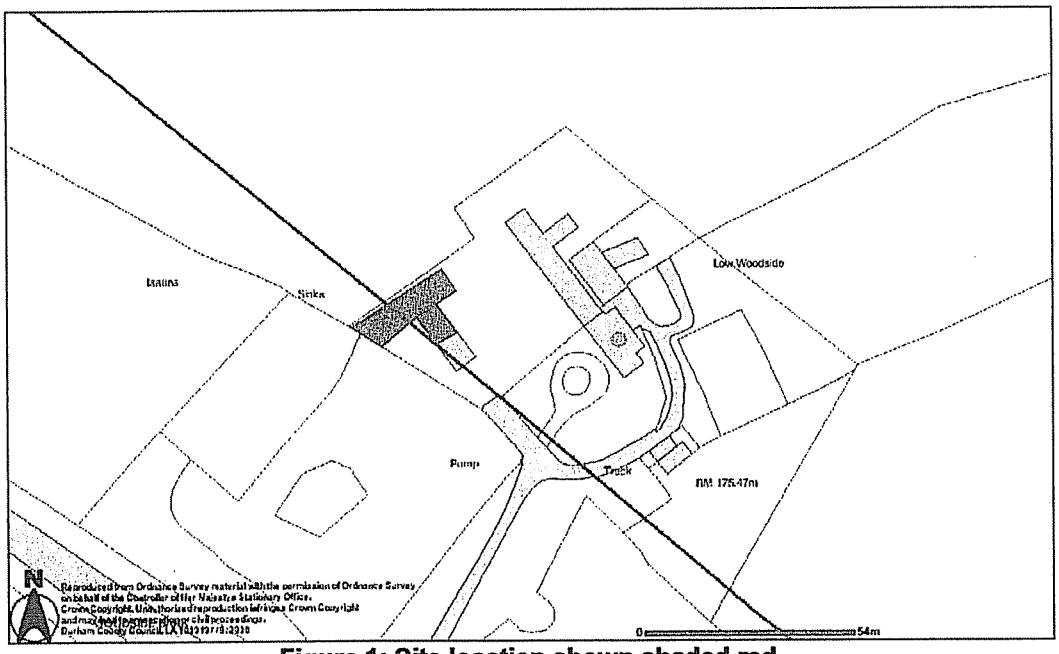

Figure 1: Site location shown shaded red.
The route of Dere Street is marked as a red line (© Durham County Council)

3.0 Background

3.1 There have been no archaeological investigations in this part of the County. However, the route of the Roman road known as Dere Street is believed to pass directly through the proposed development site (SMR 3045;3046) as it heads north from Lanchester Roman Fort to the south-east.

3.2 Metal detecting finds in the area indicate Roman activity. A "dragonesque" brooch was found near Esp Green Farm (SMR 3432) and an Antoninianus coin which shows the Emperor Galienus (AD258-268) which shows him wearing a radiate crown was found near Castle Hill to the west (SMR 5433).

3.3 At Esp Green Farm are recorded the remains of St. Margaret's Chapel, a 14th century chapel. This chapel was dependent on the Pre-monstratensian Abbey of St. Mary at Blanchland in C14. After 1539 the chapel fell into disuse, became ruinous and was alienated to secular uses. In C18 it was used as a cattle shed and in 1830 part of the material was used in the erection of new buildings at Esp Green farmhouse.The remains consist of a roughly rectangular platform 27m long with an average width of 7m and a maximum height of 0.7m. One or two stones are visible in the banks. The whole area is under pasture.

4.0 Archaeological brief

4.1 This brief sets out what archaeological works are required in order to evaluate the site, and how they must be carried out. Any further works required to mitigate the impact of the proposed development may be dealt with under a separate brief if required as a condition of future detailed planning permission.

4.2 There are no recorded archaeological remains within the development site. But given the site's location, there is likely to Roman activity on the site. The site has been previously undeveloped apart from the barn which is to be demolished.

4.3 The evaluation must include some basic documentary research into the site history to provide some context. In order to evaluate the archaeological potential for remains of any period the site must be sampled by evaluation trenching. The client also needs to construct a pipe trench leading to a storage tank and may take the opportunity to combine the two into one excavation. The archaeological work will take priority if this is the case.

4.4 **This brief does not constitute the "written scheme of investigation" which must be submitted by the developer to DCC Archaeology Section for approval in advance of evaluation works commencing on the site.**

4.5 Archaeological evaluation trenches will be required on the site. The area of highest impact by the proposed development must be targeted where possible, although it is recognised that due to the restrictions of the site this may not be strictly possible.

4.6 A minimum of two trenches must be opened and examined. One of approximate 10m in length must be placed to the north of the existing barn on the north side of the driveway. A second must be placed perpendicular to the barn near to the property line (i.e. between the barn and the house). A contingency budget for up to a further 5m of trenching must be allocated in the tender document.

4.7 The client may provide the digger and driver themselves. The archaeological contractor must liaise with the client over this in advance of tendering. Also see section 4.3 above.

4.8 The contingency is to be used to answer any questions of an unexpected nature which may be raised by the evaluation. It is more suitable in the long term to be able to answer questions of this nature whilst the archaeological team is still in the field. The contingency budget can only be utilised after consultation meeting between the developer, the contractor and the Durham County Council Archaeology Section.

4.9 The final trench layout plan must be agreed with the Durham County Council Archaeology Section before excavation commences on site.

4.10 The overall aim of the trial trenching will be:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, depth and character of any possible archaeological features identified
- to make suggestions, where possible, about further mitigation which may be necessary to preserve archaeological features *in situ*, or
- to make suggestions to preserve archaeological features by record, where necessary
- to determine if further archaeological interventions are required

4.11 Depending on the results of the evaluation phase, further works may be required as a condition of planning permission in order to mitigate the impact of the development on any archaeological remains. This will be dealt with by a separate brief should this be required.

4.12 Following the completion of trenching, the site must be left in a state as agreed with the client.

5.0 Recording

5.1 A sufficient sample of exposed archaeological features and deposits will be excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner to fulfil the purpose of the project. The complete excavation of all features is not a necessity, especially where these continue into sections or below the maximum depth of excavation.

5.2 Any human remains encountered must be accurately recorded, including *in-situ* examination by a palaeo-pathologist, but not removed from site until a Section 25 licence has been obtained from the Department of Constitutional Affairs. Both the client and the DCC Assistant Archaeology Officer must be informed if human remains are found.

5.3 A full record of excavated features must be made using a single context planning system. All archaeological features will be photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections must be drawn at 1:10, and plans at 1:20. All levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum and the trenches accurately located with the National Grid. Photographic records must use black and white prints and colour slide. Suitable digital images of the site for inclusion on the Keys to the Past website must be included with the report.

5.4 Pottery and animal bone must be collected as bulk samples by context. Significant small finds must be three dimensionally located prior to collection. All finds must be processed to MAP2 standards and subject to specialist assessment. Palaeo-environmental samples must also be taken where appropriate. If necessary conservation of finds must be appraised to allow for specialist study (see section 6.0 Specialist Services below).

5.5 **Scientific dating techniques such as the use of high-resolution radiocarbon dating and full analysis of ceramic assemblages (i.e. petrological analysis), including thermo-luminescence dating must be applied if the site yields suitable material.** X-ray photography of metal objects must be used where appropriate.

5.6 All relevant procedures relating to artefacts which fall under the Treasure Act (1996) must be adhered to must any such finds be discovered in the course of the evaluation.

6.0 Specialist Services and Reports

6.1 The vast majority of sites where excavation takes place will require the input of archaeological specialists for dating, artefact analysis, palaeo-environmental sampling and conservation. Contingency sums must be set aside for all of these areas and clearly indicated in any tender documents. In the instance of palaeo-environmental remains and conservation, policies as follows must be adopted. In each case the specialist involved must be kept informed of the start date and progress of sites so that sampling and necessary on site conservation needs can be timetabled

6.2 Specialist advice regarding the need for palaeo-environmental sampling, appropriate sampling techniques and research questions for specific sites must be identified in advance. The successful contractor must make contact with, and ensure that any proposed sampling strategy includes the input of Jacqueline Huntley, The English Heritage Science Advisor for the NE, University of Durham, Archaeology Department, Biological Sciences Laboratory, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE. The contractor's environmental specialist must be named in the project design/WSI.

6.3 WSI/Project designs which fail to indicate that contractors have discussed the environmental potential of the site with the EH Science Advisor will not be approved.

6.4 Specialist conservation advice and services must be budgeted for in all tenders along with other specialist services. A contingency amount must be identified for the appraisal of the conservation needs of artefactual material excavated on site and for the initial stabilisation of such finds where needed so that they may be studied as part of the post-excavation for the project. In the first instance for sites within County Durham advice must be obtained from Jennifer Jones, Conservation Laboratory, Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE. If contractors intend to use a different source of advice then the specialist must be named in advance.

7.0 OASIS

7.1 The Durham County Council Archaeology Section supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. 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.

7.2 The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ within 3 months of completion of the work. Contractors are advised to ensure that adequate time and costings are built into their tenders to allow the forms to be filled in.

7.3 Technical advice must be sought in the first instance from OASIS (oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk) and not from Durham County Council Archaeology Section.

7.4 Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, Durham County Council Archaeology Section will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

7.5 The archaeological consultant or contractor must indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted to Durham County Council Archaeology Section for approval

8.0 Health and Safety Policy

8.1 Contractors are expected to abide by the *1974 Health and Safety Act* and its subsequent amendments as stated in the *Construction and Design Management Regulations 1994.* Appropriate provision of first aid, telephone and safety clothing as described in the *SCAUM* manual on archaeological health and safety must be followed. Each site must have a nominated safety officer.

8.2 Adequate safety fencing must be placed around excavated trenches in order to ensure inhibit easy access by the public. Clear signage regarding excavation trenches must be displayed on the fences and site perimeter as necessary. These items shall be agreed with the client prior to work commencing and detailed in the WSI.

8.3 Contractors are advised to identify the location of any services or overhead wires which may cross the site and ensure that they are clearly marked before trenching commences so that they can be avoided.

8.4 The undertaking of a risk assessment prior to the commencement of works is required. A copy of the risk assessment shall be circulated to the client and any other sub-contractors working on the site at the same time. Contractors must ensure that all staff working on the site are fully briefed on all health and safety issues relating to the site prior to working there.

8.5 Extra care and attention shall be taken in areas where excavation goes below 1.20m. It may be that shoring or stepping of the trench may be required in such an instance. The risk assessment shall identify if this is likely to be an issue on this site.

8.6 The archaeological contractor is responsible for all on-site safety issues related to the archaeological work required in this specification.

9.0 Publication

9.1 All assessments, evaluations and watching briefs which do not progress to further excavation and research (with the relevant post-excavation and publication scheme and costs), must have a time and budget allocation identified for publication. This must be to a minimum standard to include a summary of the work, findings, dates, illustrations and photographs and references to where the archive is lodged.

9.2 Archaeological contractors must provide clients with some approximate costs of producing a publication. Editors of regional journals, either the *Durham Archaeological Journal* or *Archaeologia Aeliana* must be contacted for information on outline publication costs, fuller figures may be worked out on completion of the watching brief. As the final note is largely unpredictable in advance, a contingency sum must be set aside at the outset of work in the tender.

9.3 County Durham Archaeology Section produces an annual publication every March which highlights the archaeological work conducted in the county over the previous 12 months. To this end, it is now a requirement of every specification that a précis of archaeological works conducted in the county as a result of PPG16 must be submitted to the DCC Archaeology Section.

9.4 The précis must be no more than 500 words in length and it would be appreciated if JPEG or TIFF images of a minimum of 300dpi are also included. The summary must be sent to the County Archaeologist by the beginning of December of the same year in which the work was conducted.

10.0 The Report

10.1 At least two copies of the report must be sent to the client as well as two to the SMR (one digital). The evaluation report must include the following:

- executive summary
- a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with 10 figure central grid reference
- OASIS reference number
- contractor's details including date work carried out
- nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details
- description of the site location and geology
- a trench plan to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features can be correctly orientated
- discussion of the results of field work
- context & feature descriptions
- features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format
- plans and section drawings of the features drawn at a suitable scale
- recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work, including publication
- bibliography

10.2 A report synthesising the results of the works must be produced for the client and the County Durham SMR. This must include a site location plan with NGR references, and also be accompanied by additional plans/map extracts to display noted and recorded archaeological features as appropriate.

10.3 The report must be presented in an ordered state and contained within a protective cover/sleeve or bound in some fashion (loose-leaf presentation is unacceptable). The report must contain a title page listing site/development name, district and County together with a general NGR, the name of the archaeological contractor and the developer or commissioning agent. The report must be page numbered and supplemented with sections and paragraph numbering for ease of reference.

10.4 The report must seek to identify any deposits remaining on or associated with the site that will remain following the completion of the evaluation.

11.0 The Tender

11.1 Tenders for the work must include a method statement and the following:

11.2 Brief details of the organisation and the number of staff who are proposing to carry out the work including any relevant specialisms or experience.

11.3 The earliest date at which the work can be commenced and the amount of notice required to initiate the fieldwork.

11.4 Details concerning proposed methods of recording.

11.5 Statement agreeing to complete the OASIS forms on completion of the evaluation report.

11.6 An estimate of how long the work will take broken down by time and cost in terms of data collection and report production (the anticipated extent of the work must be confirmed with the client in advance) on a *per diem* basis where possible (this is particularly in reference to the specialists' costs). The tender must include a breakdown of costs attributable to:

- travelling and subsistence
- fieldwork
- finds analysis
- report production

- archiving and **publication**
- administration
- other

11.7 Contingency sums must be clearly allocated for the following:

- additional 5m trenching
- conservation of finds
- scientific dating
- environmental sampling
- other

12.0 Submission of Report

12.1 This evaluation must be considered as a project in its own right. At least **two copies of the report** must be sent to the client. One paper copy of the report and a PDF on CD-ROM with digital images (JPEG's) of the site for the *Keys To The Past* website must be sent to the Archaeology Section, Durham County Council for inclusion into the County Durham Archaeological Archive (SMR) at:

Archaeology Section, Adult and Community Services, Culture & Leisure, Durham County Council, The Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TS.

13.0 The Archive

13.1 The site archive comprising the original paper records and plans, photographs, negatives etc, must be deposited in the appropriate museum at the completion of post-excavation. This must be in accordance with County Archaeological Archive policy, a guidance note on which can be obtained from the County Archaeology Service.

14.0 Notice

14.1 The County Archaeologist must be given two weeks notice in writing of the commencement of evaluation works. During such works the County Archaeologist or his nominated representative must be allowed access to the site and excavations at all reasonable times.

November 2006
L White