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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

A watching brief was carried out during excavations for a toilet block and access track for a proposed caravan site at Brocklehead Farm, Eccleshill, Darwen (NGR SD 70662292). The watching brief was occasioned by the proximity of the site to the line of the Roman Road from Manchester to Ribchester shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1849 (Lancashire sheet 71). A feature which may possibly have been a side-ditch for the road was noted but this was not particularly convincing. There were no associated finds and the feature could just as easily be associated with 19th century colliery workings in the area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Messrs. Richard and Peter Wiggans of Brocklehead Farm who commissioned the watching brief and carried out the excavations. The assistance provided by Mrs. Dorothy Waring during the watching brief and the levelling exercise and to Laura and John who also assisted with the latter. The guidance provided by Messrs. P. Iles and D. Moir of the Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service is also acknowledged.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. J. M. Trippier Archaeological and Surveying Consultancy was instructed by Mr Wiggans of Brocklehead Farm, Eccleshill, Darwen to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in connection with the development of a caravan site on his land.
- 1.2. The proposed development had been the subject of a planning application to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (Application Number 10/04/0541) and the watching brief had been recommended by the Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service as part of the planning process.
- 1.3. This recommendation followed the advice given by central government as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16) issued by the (then) DOE and the Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service prepared a brief setting out their requirements in more detail and a project design was compiled in response to that brief. These documents are included as appendices to this report.

2. LOCATION

- 2.1. The farmstead at Brocklehead is located to the northeast of Darwen, just south of the built-up area of Blackburn proper and is approached from Roman Road by a private road. It is arrowed in blue on the 1:10560 map enclosed as **Fig 1**. and is shown in more detail on the 1:2500 map enclosed as **Fig 2**. The proposed caravan site is at NGR SD 70662292 and lies some 50m to the

northwest of the farmstead from which it is separated by the farm access road. It is shown in some detail on the 1: 1250 map enclosed as **Fig 3**.

- 2.2 The solid geology consists of the lower coal measures of which overlie the millstone grit of the Carboniferous era (IGS 1969). The drift cover consists primarily of Pennine drift, noted as boulder clay or medium to fine-textured till of the *Brickfield Association* (Hall and Folland 1970, 131). These are derived almost wholly from Carboniferous rocks and contain abundant sandstone and shale fragments (*ibid*, 7-10).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The route of the Roman road that ran between the forts at Manchester and Ribchester is thought to run close to the farmstead and is shown thus on the 1st edition OS map of 1849(see **Fig. 4**). The 19th century antiquarians Just (1846) and Watkin (1883) observed much of the road and it is surprising that neither mention the apparent proximity to Brocklehead Farm suggested by the OS line. However Margary (1957, 103) refers to a hump in a stone wall a little north of the Darwen-Heddlesden (*sic*) cross-roads as marking the line. Numerous attempts have been made to rediscover physical evidence for the line of the road, most recently by Darwen Archaeological Society who appear to have excavated a section at the foot of Grimshaw Brow some 800m north of the subject site. Despite this work extant physical evidence for the line of the road remains sparse.
- 3.2 The subject land is also the site of the former Brocklehead Colliery (LSMR PRN 7393) which is shown on the OS Map of 1894 as comprising a series of coal pits connected by tracks. Two existing coal pits and an old coal pit appeared to lie in the field in which the proposed caravan site will be located.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 Whilst the farming of the site and the development and working of the colliery may have damaged or destroyed the remains of the Roman road, it was also possible that some surviving remains could have been damaged by the proposed development works. As a consequence the Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service recommended that any groundworks associated with the development be accompanied by a formal archaeological watching brief.
- 4.2 The aims of the watching brief were:
- 4.2.1 To gain information about the archaeological resource within the subject area including its presence or absent, character and extent, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality in order to make an assessment of its worth in the appropriate context.
- 4.2.2 To create a record of the location, nature and date of any archaeological remains encountered in order to add to knowledge about previous history of activity on the site and its surroundings and to provide information to

influence future planning in the area

4.3 The objectives of the watching brief were:

4.3.1 To record the presence of any archaeological features and deposits;

4.3.2 To establish, wherever possible, the depth of any archaeological remains and their state of preservation;

4.3.3 To recover artefactual material, especially any that can be used for dating purposes;

4.3.4 To attempt to interpret the function of any archaeological remains;

5. METHODOLOGY

5.1 The watching brief was carried out during the digging of the foundation trenches for the toilet block, the base for the service track and the service trench for the proposed caravan site on the 16 June, 17 June and 1 July 2005 respectively.

5.2 The watching brief for the toilet block monitored a series of six trenches around the rectangular base, some 15.6m by 5.5m, which were excavated by a 6 ton hydraulic tracked machine with a 1m wide bucket. The trench sections were subsequently cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological contexts and features. Further monitoring was carried out during the excavation of the base for a 6m wide track which was some wide and ran in an elliptical shape for some 350m but only to a depth of 300mm.

5.2 The location of the trenches excavated for the toilet block was indicated on the trench recording sheets and on a measured site plan at a scale of 1:50 (See **Fig 5**). An exemplary section of the trenches was drawn on dimensionally stable media at 1:20 scale (see **Fig. 6**). Metric spot heights for trenches were recorded and related to the Ordnance datum by means of a temporary bench mark transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark at a height of 252.23m (OS 1971) incised on a gate post (NGR SD7098322574) on the track immediately to the north of Harwood Lane which lies some 530m to the south-east of Brocklehead Farm. The site of the base for a track is shown on **Fig. 3**. The sections uncovered by the excavation of were fully inspected and an exemplary section was drawn on dimensionally stable media at 1:20 scale (see **Fig. 8**).

5.3 A written record was maintained of archaeological features and finds encountered using trench recording sheets. Archaeological contexts were recorded using the standard multiple context method and all contexts identified in face sections were given unique numbers and described on pro-forma sheets.

5.4 The archaeological stratigraphy for the development area, and observations of features/deposits excavated are discussed at Section 6 below. Context 'cut'

numbers appear in square brackets while layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets. Where a feature is discussed, it is referenced with its cut and associated fill number.

- 5.5 A photographic record of the watching brief was prepared using a Fuji 3.2 mega-pixel camera to create digital images and Pentax P30 35mm SLR cameras to take colour slides. The photographic record includes more general photographs that illustrate the nature of the works undertaken and their site context. A photographic register and a photo location plan are included at Figs.9 and 10 of this report.
- 5.6 The watching brief conformed to the current best practice and to the standards and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists was also carried out in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects* 2nd edition 1991.

6. RESULTS/STRATIGRAPHY

- 6.1 Six trenches were excavated for the toilet block to a maximum depth of 1.05 m and a width of 1 m. The layout of these trenches is shown on the plan at **Fig. 5** and in the plate on the front cover. The individual trenches are shown on **Plates 3-6**. The stratigraphy was the same in all trenches with the exception of a cut and filled feature at the eastern extremity of *Trench 1* which faced into *Trench 6* (**Plate 7**) and a land drain which cut *Trenches 1 and 4*. (**Plate 8**) The section of *Trench 1* showing the possible ditch is shown at **Fig. 6**. The bases of the trenches provided levels of between 235.64 and 235.83 m ODM (see **Figs. 5 and 7**).
- 6.2 The uppermost deposit was a c.200-250mm deep layer of dark brown sandy silt (001) which comprised the top soil. Below this was a layer of dark grey ash and silt (002) 150mm deep which comprised the sub-soil. At the eastern extremity of *Trench 1* was a ditch-like feature [001] 400mm deep lying below the ashy layer which also abutted it to the west (see **Plate 7**). The fill of this comprised mid-brown sticky clayey silt (003). This feature cut through a 200mm layer of yellow friable sandy clay (004) which in turn came down onto light brown solid clay (005) containing occasional lumps of sandstone upto 200mm square by 20mm thick. The only other feature was a modern fire-clay land drain which cut *Trenches 1 and 4* the surface of which was uncovered within context (004) in the bottom of the trenches (see **Plate 8**).
- 6.3 The access track to the proposed caravan pitches was excavated to a depth of only 300mm (**Plate 9**). The stratigraphy comprised three deposits (**Fig. 8** and **Plate 10**). Firstly, a surface layer of dark brown silt (001), typically 100mm deep, which matched the top soil in the toilet block trenches. This came down onto a deposit of mid-brown silty sand (006) which had a maximum depth of 200mm. Below this was a deposit of orange clay (007) to a typical depth of 100mm to the base of the excavation.

- 6.4 Finally the archaeological contractor was called to monitor the excavation of a service trench which ran between an input point some 3m to the north east of the toilet block and a temporary septic tank pit, 1m square, some 35m to the east of the input point. Unfortunately the pit had been completely back-filled and the trench partially so by the time the archaeologist was called to the site. However it was noted that the trench was some 600mm wide and comprised a 500m layer of brown silty sand (008) which came down onto the light brown clay (005) in the other excavations. It was understood that there was an intention to excavate the site of a larger permanent septic tank but it seems unlikely that this will now be implemented in the foreseeable future and, if necessary, will need to be the subject of a further report.

7. FINDS

- 7.1 No finds were identified or recovered during the course of the watching brief.

8. INTERPRETATION

- 8.1 The stratigraphy of this site is fairly straightforward. There is a layer of dark-brown silty topsoil (001) which overlays the whole area and comes down onto an ashy subsoil (002) in the vicinity of the toilet block and a mid brown subsoil elsewhere. The underlying natural boulder clay was light-brown in colour but there was also an overlying deposit of yellow or orange clay visible in the toilet block trenches and the access track excavations.
- 8.2 The only feature of any note was a very distinct cut at the extreme east end of trench 1 for the toilet block (see para. 6.1 above) which was infilled with mid-brown sticky clayey silt. It is possible that this might have been a side ditch for the Roman road but, bearing in mind the overlying ashy deposit, it is just as likely that it related to the 19th century colliery workings in this area. Any lateral extension of this feature lay to the east outwith the area of the watching brief.

9. CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 Physical evidence of the Roman Road from Manchester to Ribchester was well documented in the 19th Century by Just and Watkin but has often proved elusive to modern archaeological investigation. This watching brief revealed a ditch-like feature which could be the remnant of the side-ditches which often lined Roman roads (Margary 1957, 230-1). However those that have been excavated on the Manchester to Ribchester Roman road have a much shallower profile (Aspin 1955,133) and it is just as likely that this feature related to 19th century colliery workings.

10. REPORT AND ARCHIVING

- 10.1 A copy of this report will be supplied to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period (six months after completion of the field work unless another date is agreed with the Specialist Archaeological Advisor or the Planning Officer (Archaeology)). The report will be provided as a PDF file on a CD-ROM.
- 10.2 The archive resulting from this watching brief, comprising notes, drawings and photographs, together with a copy of the report, will be deposited with the Blackburn and Darwen Unitary Authority Libraries and Museum Service in a format to be agreed with the Archives Officer.
- 10.3 The site archive shall be prepared and stored according to the UKIC *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term- storage* (1990) and the Museum and Galleries Commission *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections* (1992) 'Standards for the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives'.
- 10.4 A brief summary report of fieldwork, to appear in the Council for British Archaeology North West *Archaeology North West* will be produced and sent to the editor in time to appear within a calendar year of the completion of the fieldwork.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abbreviations

IGS	Institute of Geological Sciences
LMSR	Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record
LRO	Lancashire County Record Office
OS	Ordnance Survey
TLCAS	Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society

Maps

- IGS, 1969, *Geological Map of the British Islands*, Southampton
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OS, 1893, *1: 2500 scale Lancashire sheet 71.9*, Southampton
OS, 1909, *1: 2500 scale Lancashire sheet 71.9*, Southampton
OS, 1930, *1: 2500 scale Lancashire sheet 71.9*, Southampton
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Unpublished Manuscripts

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Wakefield

APPENDIX 1: LCAS BRIEF

BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Location: Brocklehead Farm, Eccleshill, Darwen

Proposal: Change of use of land to form a 30 pitch touring caravan site (including the construction of toilet block and access route).

1. Summary

- 1.1 The line of the Roman road that ran between the forts at Manchester and Ribchester is thought to run through the area of the proposed caravan site. The line of the road has been calculated by extrapolation from known lengths of road either side of the site. Although the parking of caravans is unlikely to cause any disturbance to any remains of the road which may survive on the site, the construction of an access and service track and of the service building with its associated service trenches may reveal evidence for the road and, if such evidence does survive, could damage or destroy parts of this evidence.
- 1.2 There is a possibility that archaeological remains may exist on this site but little is known of their extent or of their state of preservation. Lancashire Archaeology Service has advised that the archaeological deposits that may occur on the site should be recorded as they are encountered. **It has, therefore, been recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be carried out during development.**
- 1.3 This recommendation follows the advice given by central government as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16) issued by the DoE.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The farmstead at Brocklehead is located to the northeast of Darwen, just south of the built up area of Blackburn proper, and approached from Roman Road by a private road. The proposed caravan site is at NGR SD 7054623006, to the west of the farmstead.

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Planning application no. 10/04/0541 has been submitted to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, for the change of use of land to a 30-pitch touring caravan site. The plans include the construction of a toilet block with associated processing plant and soakaways, as well as an access track. **Lancashire County Archaeology Service has recommended that the ground disturbance required for the development be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.**

4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The route of the main Roman road that ran between the forts at Manchester and Ribchester is thought to run through the proposed caravan site. Its actual course has not been determined, the line having been extrapolated from known sections to the north and south (LSMR PRN 15506, 15507)
- 4.2 The land is also the site of the former Brockleshead Colliery (LSMR PRN 7393), which is shown on the OS 1:10,560 maps of 1849 as comprising a series of coal pits and old coal pits, connected by tracks. Two coal pits and an old coal pit appear to fall in the field proposed for the caravan site (see attached map extracts).

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- 4.3 Further details of the above sites can be obtained from the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record, quoting the PRNs.

5. Requirement for an Archaeological Watching Brief

- 5.1 Whilst the farming of the site and the development and working of the colliery may have damaged or destroyed the remains of the Roman road, it is also possible that some remains still survive and will be damaged by the proposed development works. As a consequence the Lancashire County Archaeology Service have recommended that any groundworks associated with the development be accompanied by a **formal archaeological watching brief**.

6. Objectives

The objectives of the watching brief are to gain information about the archaeological resource within a given area or site, including its presence or absence, character and extent, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality, in order to make an assessment of its worth in the appropriate context.

- 6.2 The results of the watching brief may be used to:

- produce a record of the location, nature and date of any archaeological remains encountered on the site; and
- add to knowledge about the previous history of activity on the current site and its surroundings; and
- provide information to influence future planning decisions in the area.

- 6.3 The watching brief will cover the whole of the area to be disturbed by the development including building foundations, service trenches and other earthmoving activities.

7. Schedule of Works

- 7.1 **An archaeological watching brief will be carried out during ground disturbance for the construction of the new toilet block and service track, and the installation of new pipes, drains or other services across the site.** This work should concentrate on recovery of information concerning the Roman road at the expense of colliery remains, but these (and other) features should also be recorded as appropriate.

- 7.2 **The watching brief should conform to current best practice and to the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.**

8. Reporting and archiving.

- 8.1 The watching brief will result in the production of a report comprising a written description of the features observed and an interpretation of their significance, together with sketch plans, drawings and photographs as appropriate. Should no remains be encountered then a brief report will still be necessary and should provide at least one sketch section and photograph demonstrating the absence of remains. A copy of this brief, and the project design for the work, should be appended to this report.

- 8.2 A copy of the report will be supplied to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period (a

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maximum of 6 months after the completion of the fieldwork unless another date is agreed in writing with the County Archaeological Officer). This should be provided as a PDF file on CD-ROM.

- 8.3 The watching brief will result in an archive of notes, drawings and photographs. A copy of these, together with a copy of the report and any finds, will be deposited with an appropriate museum
- 8.4 A brief summary report of fieldwork, to appear in the Council for British Archaeology North West *Archaeology North West* should be produced, even when the watching brief encountered no archaeological deposits. This should be sent to the editor of *Archaeology North West* in accordance with the standard format for summary reporting, and in time for it to appear within a calendar year of the completion of fieldwork.

9 General

- 9.1 A written project design, detailing how the work is to be undertaken, the name of the project director, the proposed staffing levels and the proposed programme of work shall be produced prior to the commencement of the project. This design should be to the appropriate IFA standard. The archaeological contractor may wish to refer to sections of this brief in the project design, rather than transcribe them. Costings shall be submitted under a separate cover to the project design.
- 9.2 The document entitled "General Conditions for Appropriate Archaeological Contractors in Lancashire" is in use as a model of expected practices and procedures. A copy of that document is attached as Appendix One.
- 9.3 The archaeological work may be monitored by the LCAS. The archaeological contractor should contact the LCAS to discuss and arrange this monitoring.
- 9.4 Access to the land will be arranged by the client and the successful contractor will need to liaise to ensure that suitable arrangements are established
- 9.5 This brief shall not be altered without the express consent of the LCAS. It allows some flexibility of approach but deviations from the agreed project design shall be discussed and agreed in advance with LCAS. A copy of the brief on computer disc can be supplied upon request.

10 Further information

- 10.1 Further information and details of the proposed development can be obtained from Mr A Atkinson of ACORUS R.P.S., Hollyshaw House, Whitkirk, Leeds, LS15 7BD.
- 10.2 Further queries regarding this brief or the general conditions can be addressed to the Lancashire County Archaeology Service, Lancashire County Council Environment Directorate, Guild House, Cross Street, Preston, PR1 8RD, Tel. 01772 531550. Fax 01772 534201.

Appendix 1

General Conditions for Appropriate Archaeological Contractors in Lancashire

Organisations and individuals wishing to be included on the County list of Appropriate Archaeological Contractors are requested to fulfill the General Conditions below, which provide a model for best practice and professional conduct in archaeological work. Lancashire County Council will require the fulfillment of these conditions in its own contracts. Other clients are advised that it is their responsibility to satisfy themselves that their contractors meet all relevant standards.

1. Professional Standards

- 1.1 Contractors shall conform to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct, the IFA Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, and the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice.
- 1.2 Project Directors should be recognised in an appropriate Area of Competence by the IFA and the contractors should encourage as many of their staff as possible to join the IFA.
- 1.3 Contractors with a significant backlog of unpublished projects will not normally be included on the approved list.
- 1.4 Where students, volunteers or trainees are employed on a project, their use should be in accordance with IFA guidelines.
- 1.5 In cases of dispute, arbitration will normally be sought through the IFA or the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group.

2. Finance

- 2.1 Contractors shall make an audited set of recent accounts available at the request of the County Archaeological Curator.

3. Insurance

- 3.1 Contractors shall hold a current certificate of Public Liability and (where relevant) Employers Liability insurance, and shall produce it at the request of the County Archaeological Curator.

4. Health and Safety

- 4.1 Contractors shall comply with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and related legislation.
- 4.2 Site procedures shall be in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.

5. Project Design

- 5.1 Individual projects should be designed in accordance with a brief provided by the County Archaeological Curator. Before commencement of a project, Contractors should prepare a written Project Design and agree it with the County Archaeological Curator.

6. Sub-Contracting

- 6.1 The names of proposed Sub-Contractors should be included in the Project Design. All such Sub-Contractors shall be required to fulfil the General Conditions for Contractors.

7. Form of Contract

- 7.1 Before commencement of a project, the Contractor shall enter into a written agreement with the Client. Such an agreement should be in accordance with the IFA Model Contract for Archaeological Services or such other form as approved by the County Archaeological Curator.

8. Project Monitoring

- 8.1 The County Archaeological Curator may monitor progress throughout the project.
- 8.2 Contractors shall provide the County Archaeological Curator with an outline programme of work, and agree with the curator any proposed modification to this programme brought about by unforeseen circumstances. It is strongly recommended that Project Designs include a contingency factor to allow for such circumstances.

9. Administrative Charge

- 9.1 The County Archaeological Curator reserves the right to levy a charge for project monitoring. Monitoring visits shall be costed at £50.00 per visit and the number of such visits shall be stated in the project brief.

10. Publication

- 10.1 Publication shall be in a form and to a timetable to be agreed on completion of the site archive and narrative. A copy of the site narrative and publication synopsis shall be lodged with the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 10.2 Whilst acknowledging the need for confidentiality in some instances, archaeological information should enter the public domain as soon as possible and certainly within two years of the completion of fieldwork.

11. Archive

- 11.1 Before commencement of the project, arrangements should be made with the appropriate museum curator and the Lancashire County Record Office to ensure that these organisations can receive and curate the archive produced. Archive deposition should take place according to a timetable to be agreed on completion of the site archive and narrative.
- 11.2 The site archive, including finds and environmental material, should be conserved and stored according to the UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.

- 11.3 The archive (excepting the finds) should be deposited as soon as is practicable with the Lancashire County Record Office, Bow Lane, Preston and the finds stored, wherever possible, in a Registered Museum fulfilling the HBMC/MGC storage criteria with a copy of the paper archive. It may be felt more appropriate in some circumstances to store both paper archive and finds together, and this should be, wherever possible, within a Registered Museum fulfilling the HBMC/MGC storage criteria.
- 11.4 Any material not to be archived, such as unstable material or items to be retained by the landowner, should be fully analysed and reported upon.
- 11.5 A copy of the reproducible elements of the site archive should be deposited in the National Archaeological Record.
12. **Acknowledgement**
- 12.1 The collaborative role of the County Archaeological Curator shall be acknowledged in all publicity - including media releases, site displays, exhibitions and publications - arising from the project.

The role of the County Archaeological Curator is currently undertaken by:

Lancashire County Archaeology Service, Lancashire County Council Environment Directorate, PO Box 9, Guild House, Cross Street, Preston, Lancs PR1 8RD
Tel 01772 531734 Fax 01772 533423

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

A PROJECT DESIGN FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT BROCKLEHEAD FARM, ECLLESHILL, DARWEN, LANCASHIRE

BY J M TRIPPIER ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SURVEYING CONSULTANCY

FOR R.WIGGANS ESQ.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances

- 1.1.1 J. M. Trippier Archaeological and Surveying Consultancy has been instructed by Mr Wiggans of Brocklehead Farm, Eccleshill, Darwen to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in connection with the development of a caravan site on his land.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development has been the subject of a planning application to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (Application Number 10/04/0541) and the watching brief has been recommended by the Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service as part of the planning process.
- 1.1.3 This recommendation follows the advice given by central government as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16) issued by the (then) DOE and the Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service has prepared a brief setting out their requirements in more detail and this project design has been compiled in response to that brief.

1.2 Site location

- 1.2.1 The farmstead at Brocklehead is located to the northeast of Darwen, just south of the built-up area of Blackburn proper and is approached from Roman Road by a private road. It is highlighted in yellow on the map enclosed as Fig 1. The proposed caravan site is at NGR SD 7054623006 to the west of the farmstead. It is shown in some detail on the map enclosed as Fig 3.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The route of the main Roman road that ran between the forts at Manchester and Ribchester is thought to run close to the farmstead. Its actual course has not been determined, but it is understood that a line extrapolated from known sections to the north and south (LSMR PRN 15506 & 15507) is denoted by a broken red line on the map enclosed as Fig.2. This line also accords with the description given by Margary (1957, 103).
- 1.3.2 The land is also the site of the former Brocklehead Colliery (LSMR PRN 7393) which is shown on the OS Maps of 1894 as comprising a series of coal pits connected by tracks. Two existing coal pits and an old coal pit appear to lie in the field in which the proposed caravan site will be located.
- 1.3.3 Whilst the farming of the site and the development and working of the colliery may have damaged or destroyed the remains of the Roman road, it is also possible that some remains still survive and will be damaged by the proposed development works. As a consequence the Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service has recommended that any groundworks associated with the development be accompanied by a formal archaeological watching brief.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The aim of the watching brief is to gain information about the archaeological resource within the subject area including its presence or absent, character and extent, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality in order to make an assessment of its worth in the appropriate context.
- 2.2 The results of the watching brief may be used:
 - To produce a record of the location, nature and date of any archaeological remains encountered on the site;
 - To add to knowledge about previous history of activity on the current site and its surroundings;
 - To provide information to influence future planning in the area

2.3 The objectives of the watching brief are:

- To record the presence of any archaeological features and deposits
- To establish, wherever possible, the depth of any archaeological remains and their state of preservation
- To recover artefactual material, especially any that can be used for dating purposes
- To attempt to interpret the function of any archaeological remains

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3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The watching brief will be carried out during ground disturbance for the construction of the toilet block, service track and service trenches for the proposed caravan site. It will concentrate on recovering information concerning the Roman road rather than the colliery remains although the latter (and other features identified) will also be recorded as appropriate.

3.2 An adequate written record will be maintained of archaeological features and finds encountered using trench recording sheets. Archaeological contexts will be recorded using the standard multiple context method and all contexts identified in face sections will be given unique numbers and described on pro-forma sheets.

3.3 The location of all archaeological features and finds will be indicated on the trench recording sheets and on a measured site plan. Sections and plans of significant archaeological features will be drawn on dimensionally stable media at 1:20 or 1:10 scale as appropriate. Metric spot heights for trenches and archaeological features will be recorded and related to the Ordnance datum.

3.4 An adequate photographic record will be prepared. This will include 35mm black and white prints, colour transparencies and/or digital photography illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include more general photographs that illustrate the nature of the works undertaken and their site context.

3.5 The watching brief will conform to the current best practice and to the standards and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

4. REPORT AND ARCHIVING (as section 8 of brief)

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY (as section 4 of appendix 1 to brief)

6. PROJECT MONITORING (as section 8 of appendix 1 to brief)

7. STAFFING

- 7.1 The watching brief will be undertaken by John Trippier BA (Hons) MRICS, PIFA. Mr. Trippier is a qualified archaeologist with over five years professional experience in this type of work. He has worked on excavations for both Manchester and Lancaster University (now Oxford Archaeology North) Archaeological units and for Matrix Archaeology Ltd of Stretford. In addition he worked during 2000 and 2001 as consultant archaeologist for the North Pennines Heritage Trust. He has carried watching briefs for the latter and on his own behalf.

8. INSURANCE

- 8.1 The archaeological contractor has both professional indemnity (£250,000) and public liability insurance (£2,000,000). Details will be provided if required.

10. CONTRACT

- 10.1 The Contractor will enter into a written agreement with the client. That agreement and this project design will form a contract binding on both parties.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY

DOE *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16)

English Heritage, 1991, *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed.

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Margary, I.D., 1957, *Roman Roads in Britain*, 2, London

APPENDIX 3. FIGURES

Fig. 1: Site location map at 1:10560 scale

Fig. 2: Site location map at 1:2500 scale

Fig. 3: Site Plan at 1:1250 scale

Fig. 4: SMR Map showing possible line of Roman road

Fig. 5: The location of the trenches for the toilet block at 1:50 scale

Fig. 6: Toilet block trench section at east end of trench 1 at 1:20 scale

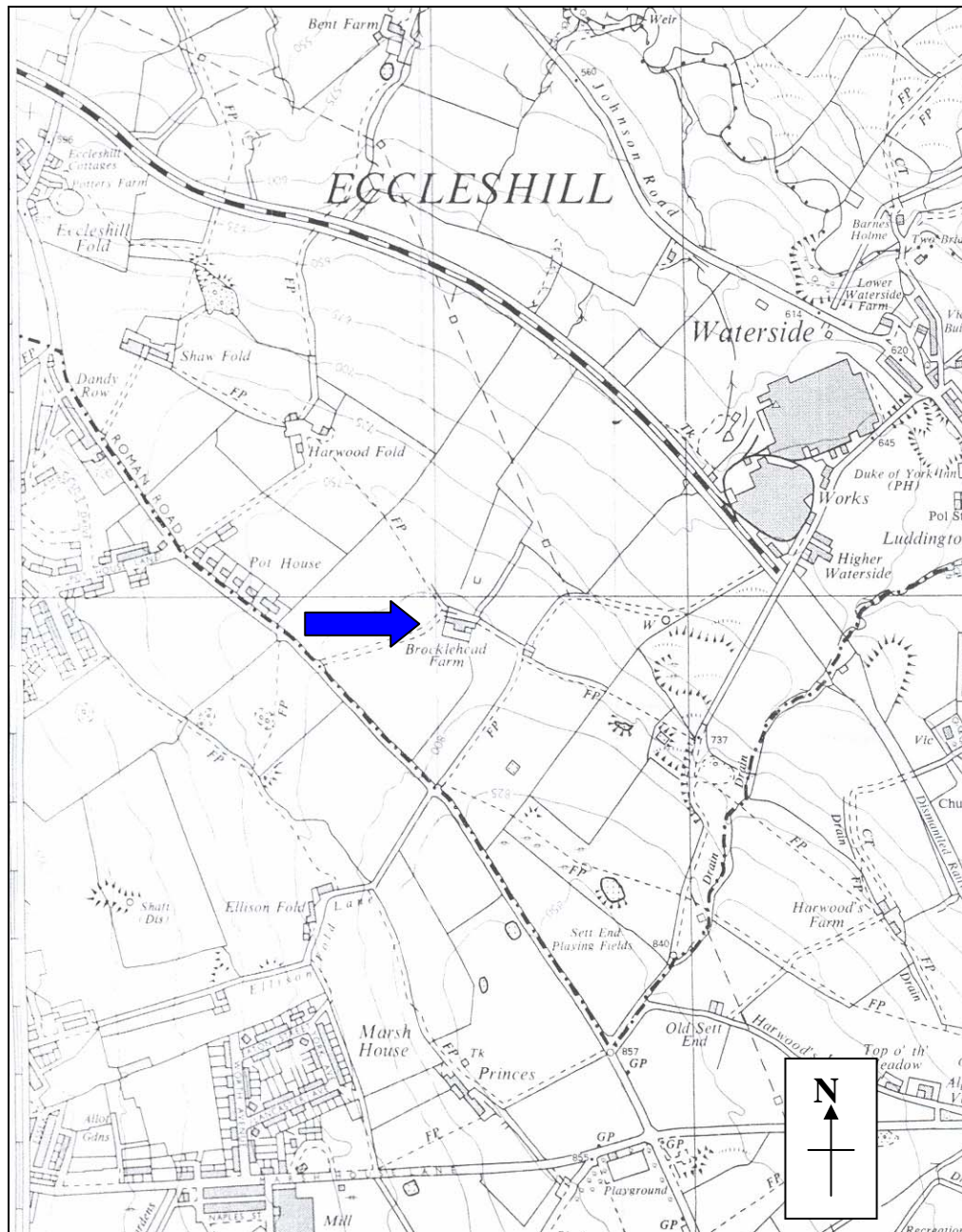
Fig. 7: Schedule of Levels

Fig. 8: Exemplary section for caravan access road at 1:20 scale

Fig. 9: Photographic register

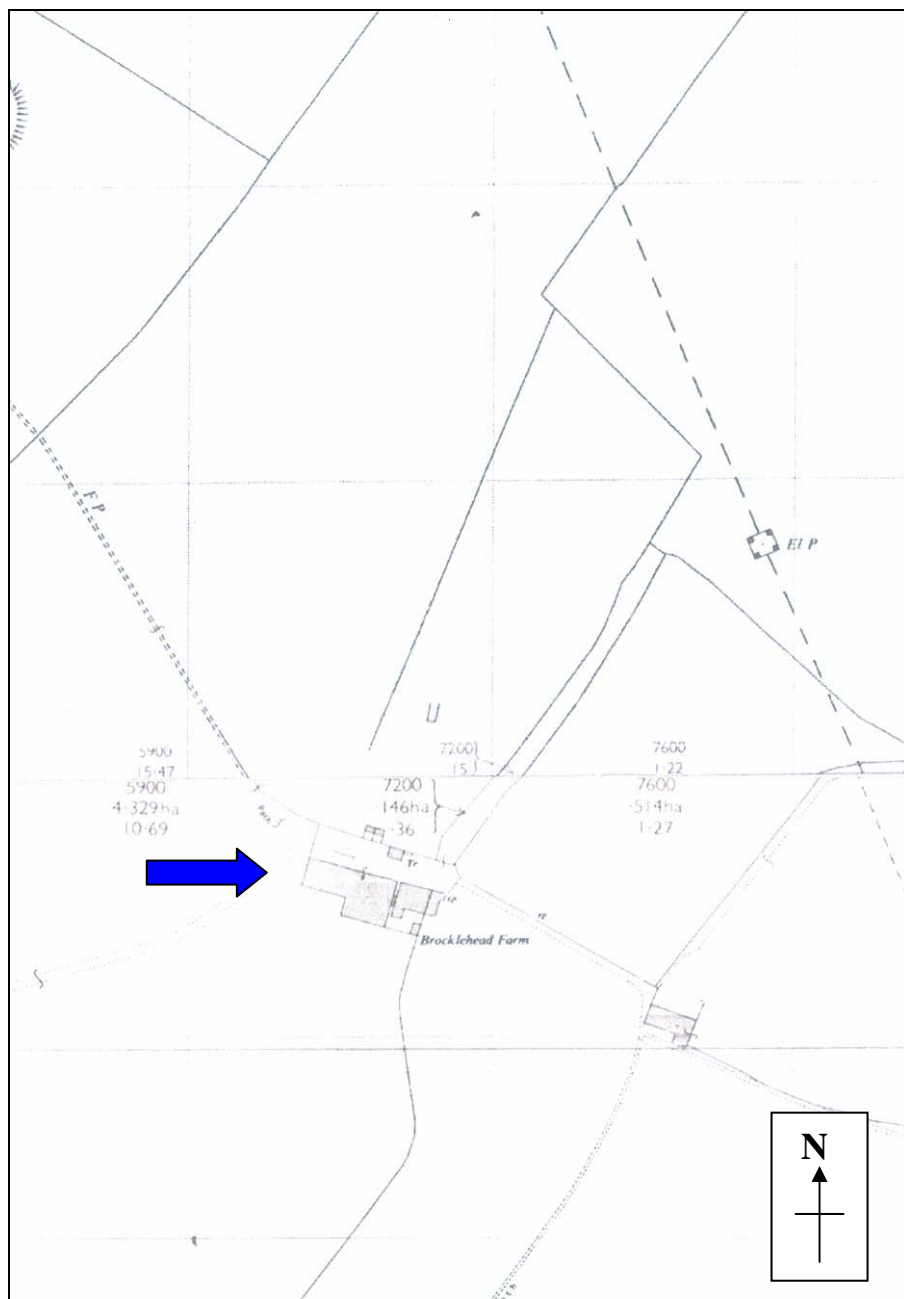
Fig.10: Photo Location Plan A

Fig. 11: Photo Location Plan B



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FIG. 1 LOCATION MAP



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FIG. 2 LOCATION MAP

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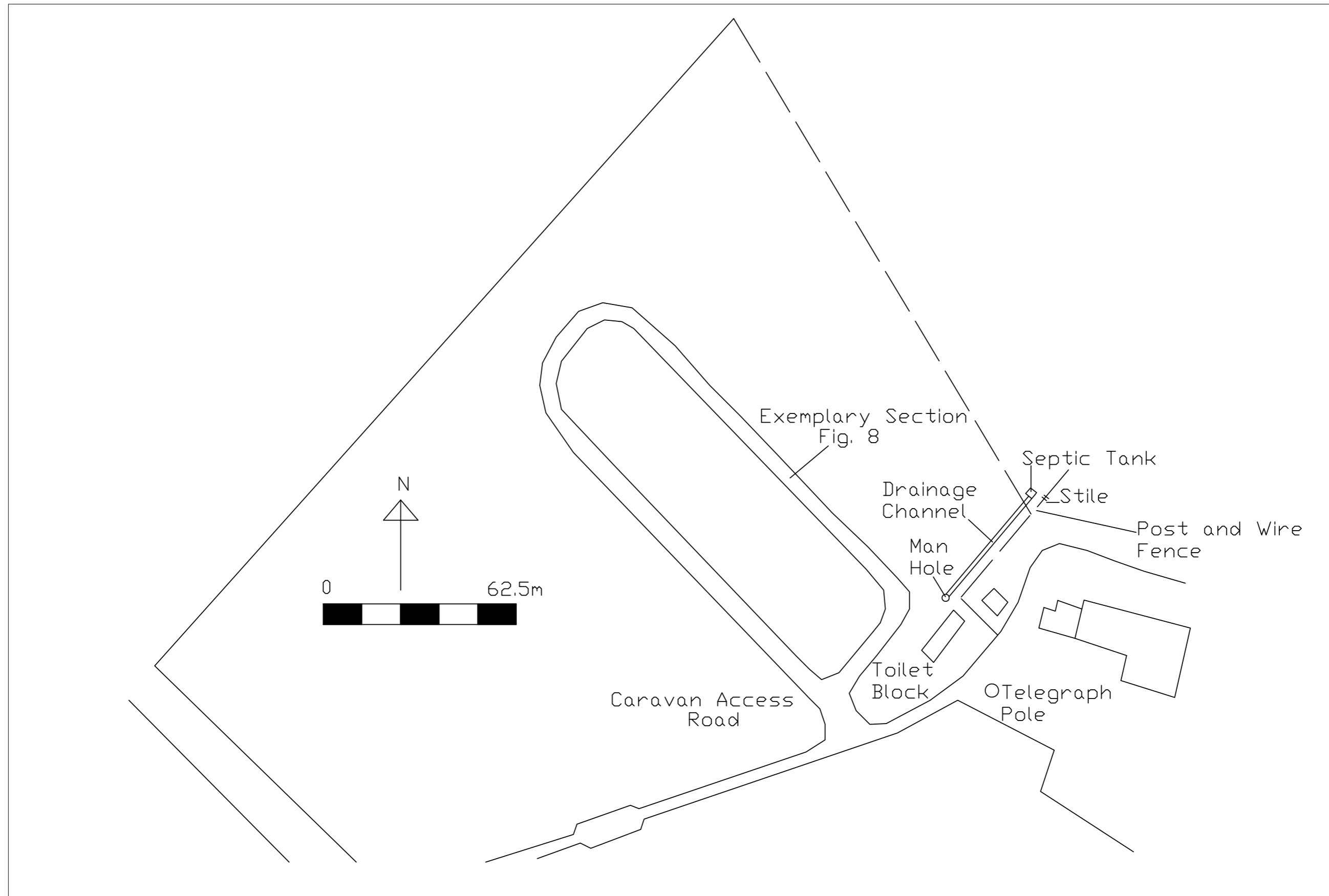


Fig. 3: Site Plan

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FIG. 4 SMR MAP SHOWING POSSIBLE LINE OF ROMAN ROAD

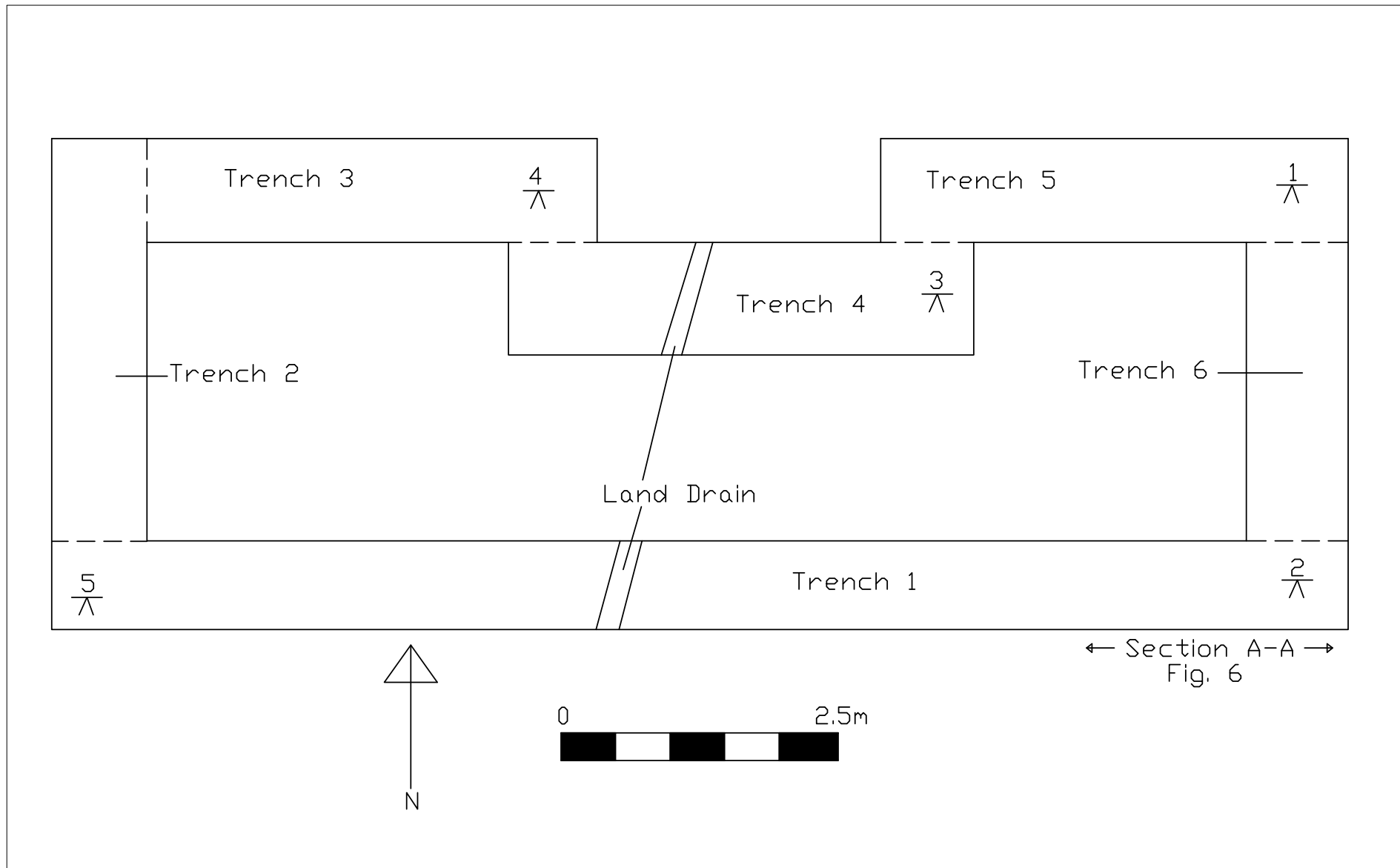


Fig. 5: Trench Plan for Toilet Block

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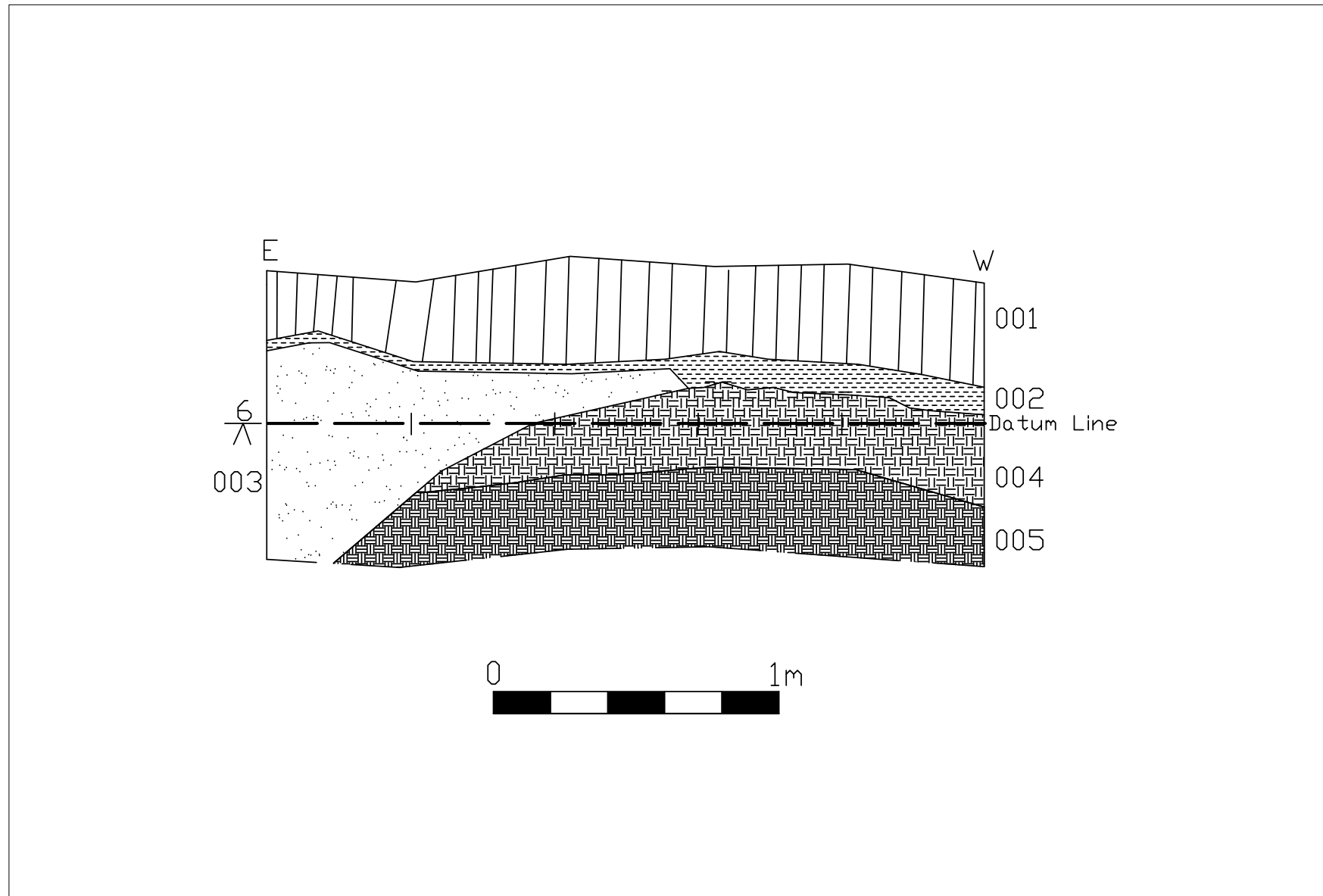


Fig. 6: Toilet block trench stratigraphy

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Level No.	ODM
1	235.64
2	235.82
3	235.79
4	235.79
5	235.80
6	236.27

Fig. 7: ODM Levels (see Fig. 5 for locations)

An archaeological watching brief at Brocklehead Farm, Eccleshill, Darwen

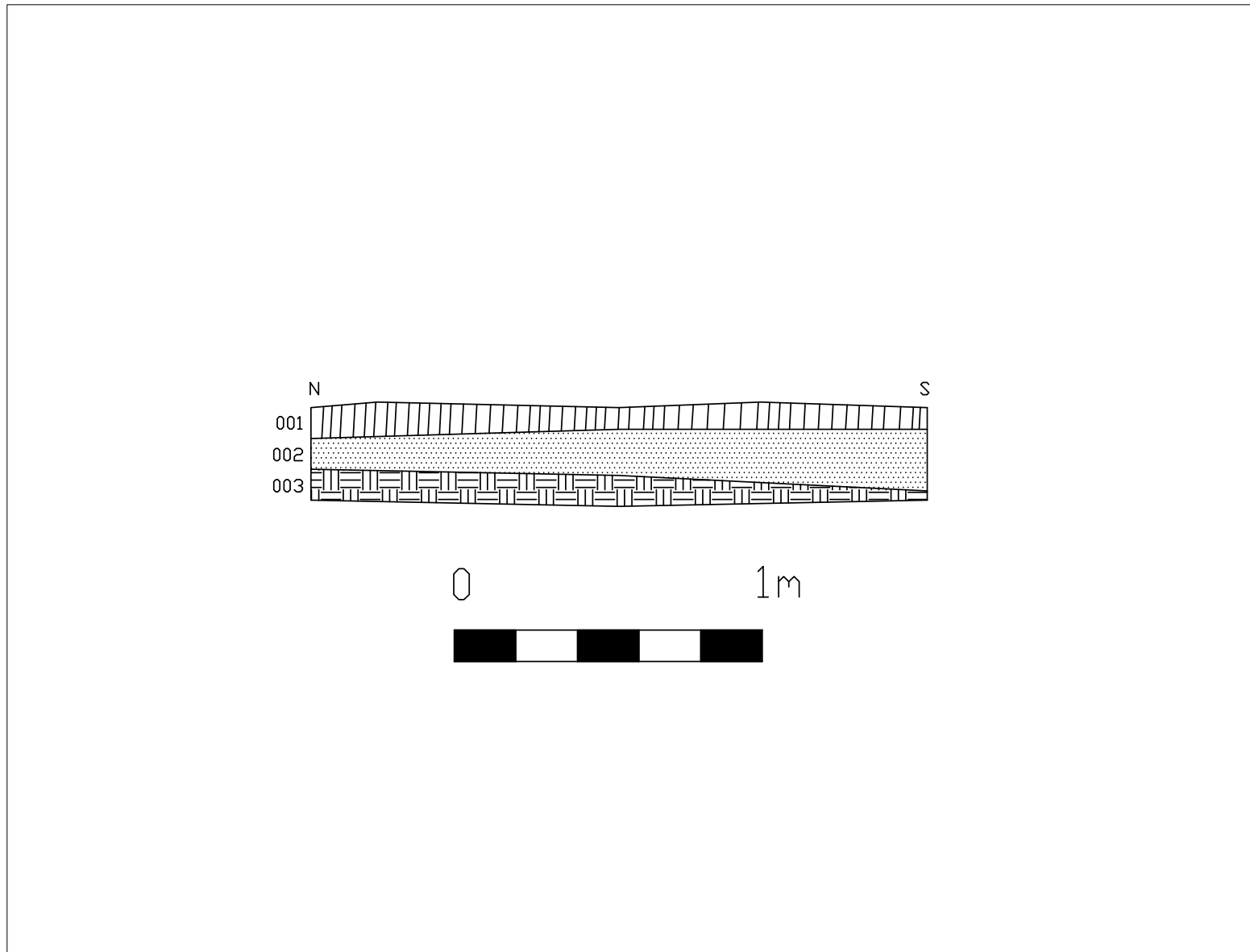


Fig. 8: Exemplary section for caravan access road

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FIG.9: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Plates In Report	Digital	Colour Slides film/frame	Description	Direction Of Shot
1	01	1/23	Working shot of initial turf stripping for toilet block	NW
2	02	1/24	Working shot of initial turf stripping for toilet block	NW
3	03	1/22	Excavation of trench 1	SW
	04	1/21	Excavation of trench 1	SW
	05		South section of trench 1	S
	06		South section of trench 1	S
	07		East end of south section of trench 1 showing possible ditch	S
7	08		East end of south section of trench 1 showing possible ditch	S
	09	1/14	Working shot of excavated trenches for toilet block	NE
Front-cover	10		Working shot of excavated trenches for toilet block	NE
4	11	1/13	Trench 2 for toilet block	S
	12	1/18	Trench 2 for toilet block	S
	13	1/15-17	Trenches 3-5 for toilet block	E
5	14		Trenches 3-5 for toilet block	E
6	15		Trench 6 for toilet block	N
	16		Trench 6 for toilet block	N
	17	1/20	Top of land drain in trench	
8	18	1/19	Top of land drain in trench	
	19		East section of east side of caravan access track	NE
10	20		East section of east side of caravan access track	NE
9	21		Caravan access track under excavation	N
	22		Caravan access track under excavation	N

An archaeological watching brief at Brocklehead Farm, Eccleshill, Darwen

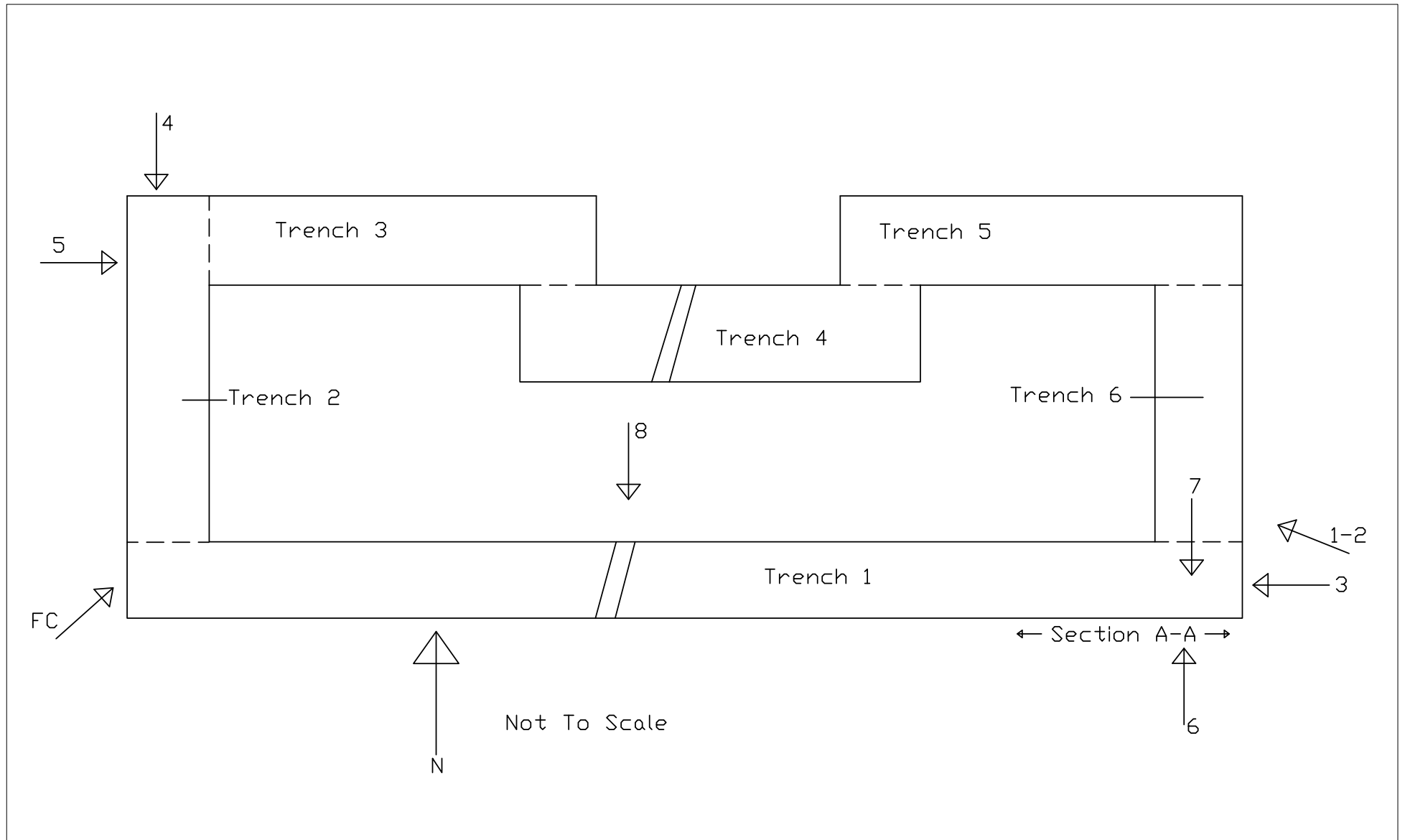


Fig. 10: Photo Location Plan A

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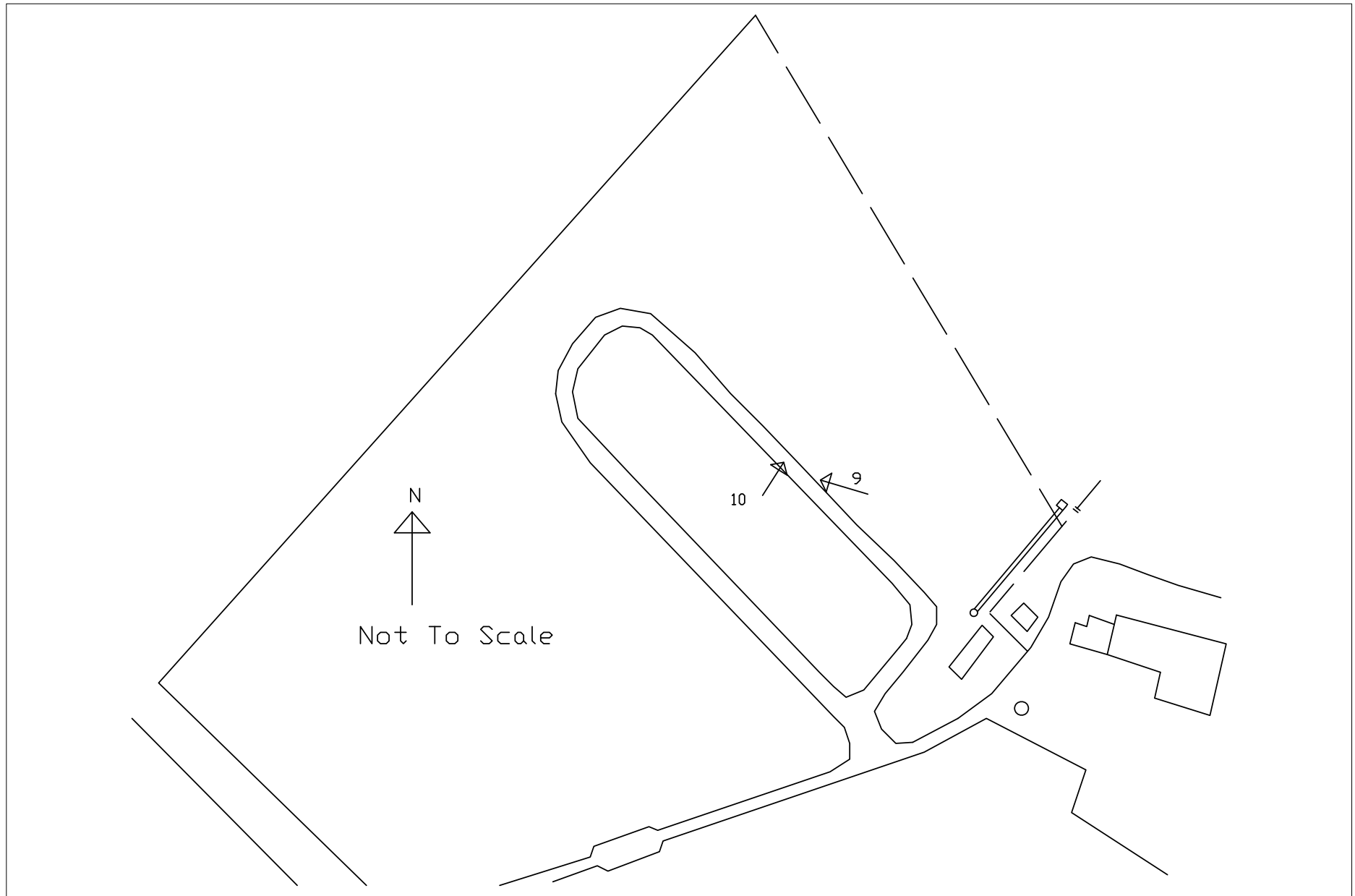


Fig. 11: Photo Location Plan B

J.M.Trippier Archaeological and Surveying Consultancy: September 2007

APPENDIX 4: PLATES

- Plate 1:** Working shot of initial turf stripping for toilet block
- Plate 2:** Working shot of initial turf stripping for toilet block
- Plate 3:** Excavation of trench 1
- Plate 4:** Trench 2 for toilet block
- Plate 5:** Trenches 3 – 5 for toilet block
- Plate 6:** Trench 6 for toilet block
- Plate 7:** East end of south section of trench 1 showing possible ditch
- Plate 8:** Top of land drain in trench
- Plate 9:** Caravan access track under excavation
- Plate 10:** East section of east side of caravan access track



Plate 1: Working shot of initial turf stripping for toilet block



Plate 2: Working shot of initial turf stripping for toilet block



Plate 3: Excavation of trench 1



Plate 4: Trench 2 for toilet block



Plate 5: Trenches 3 – 5 for toilet block



Plate 6: Trench 6 for toilet block



Plate 7: East end of south section of trench 1 showing possible ditch



Plate 8: Top of land drain in trench



Plate 9: Caravan access track under excavation



Plate 10: East section of east side of caravan access track