

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT
SAMIAN WAY, FAVERDALE,
DARLINGTON**

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February 2016

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Samian Way,
Faverdale, Darlington**

Central National Grid Reference: NZ 28025 16971

Site Code: SWF 16

Commissioning Client

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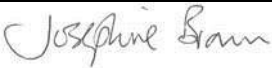

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DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**SAMIAN WAY, FAVERDALE,
DARLINGTON
EVALUATION REPORT**

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken 15–22 February 2016 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land off Samian Way, Faverdale, Darlington. It was carried out pre-determination of a planning application for a proposed commercial development and commissioned by the developer, J & RM Richardson Construction Limited.
- 1.2 The site lies within the north-western margin of Darlington in a corridor of farmland between the A1 (M) to the west and the East Coast Mainline railway to the east, at central National Grid reference NZ 28025 16971. It comprises arable and pasture land totalling c. 2.96 ha, bounded to the west and south by commercial properties, to the north by a commercial property and a pasture field and to the west by a spoil mound. The end of Samian Way, a recently constructed road, lies at the north-eastern corner of the site.
- 1.3 The main archaeological interest of the site stems from known Roman activity within the near vicinity. A phased programme of archaeological work including geophysical survey, evaluation and excavation was undertaken at the location of the Argos retail distribution, located c. 500m to the north-west of the site, where the regionally significant remains of an indigenous settlement of early Roman period were recorded, along with later Roman activity (Proctor 2012). In 2003 an archaeological evaluation incorporated the north-eastern portion of the current proposed area of development (PCA 2003). At this location parts of two evaluation trenches (Trenches 47 & 48) extended into the current site and no archaeological features or deposits of significance were recorded.
- 1.4 Prior to the archaeological evaluation a geophysical survey of the site was undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd (GSB 2016). The report concluded that no anomalies likely to be of archaeological significance were identified. In broad terms, the evaluation aimed to establish the archaeological potential of the proposed development site. The geophysical survey did not identify any anomalies of archaeological potential therefore all trenches were sited as 'judgement' trenches across the proposed development area.
- 1.5 The evaluation comprised 11 machine-excavated trenches (Trenches 1–11). Each trench measured c. 25m x 2m with the exception of Trench 7 which measured c. 4m x 2m, this partially excavated and abandoned due to the depth of modern overburden and water ingress.
- 1.6 Natural boulder clay – representing the drift geology of the area- was exposed across the base of all trenches with the exception of Trench 7. The maximum and minimum depths below existing ground level at which the boulder clay was recorded were 1.36m in Trench 8, located in the south-east of the site, and 0.40m in Trench 5,

located towards the central part of the site. The maximum and minimum heights that the natural boulder clay was encountered across the site were 64.60m OD in Trench 6, located in the north-east part of the site, and 60.71m OD in Trench 11, located towards the centre of the southern boundary of the site.

- 1.7 The substantial depth at which the boulder clay was encountered across the eastern edge of the site was due to modern dump deposits within Trenches 7, 8 and 9 associated with the spoil mound situated along the eastern margin of the site.
- 1.8 In each trench, topsoil and its developed turf line formed the existing ground surface.
- 1.9 In summary, the evaluation identified no remains of archaeological significance.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General Background

- 2.1.1 This report details the methodology and results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) 15–22 February 2016 on land off Samian Way, Faverdale, Darlington (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by J & RM Richardson Construction Limited (the Client), who propose to develop the site for commercial purposes. The evaluation was undertaken pre-determination of a planning application.
- 2.1.2 The proposed development site had particular potential for the Roman period due to its close vicinity to the Argos distribution centre at Faverdale East Business Park where significant archaeological remains were recorded (Proctor 2012).
- 2.1.3 Previous archaeological work at the site included an archaeological evaluation that extended into the north-eastern part of the site (PCA 2003) and a geophysical survey (GSB 2016).
- 2.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work was prepared by PCA (PCA 2016) and approved by Durham County Council Archaeological Services (DCCAS) prior to the commencement of the archaeological evaluation. The WSI followed the format set out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2006).
- 2.1.5 The evaluation comprised 11 machine-excavated trial trenches, located as 'judgement' trenches to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development (Figure 2; Plates 1 & 2).
- 2.1.6 The Site Archive (Site Code: SWF 16) is currently held at the Northern Office of PCA and the retained element, comprising the written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited with the Bowes Museum. The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1-244096.

2.2 Site Location and Description

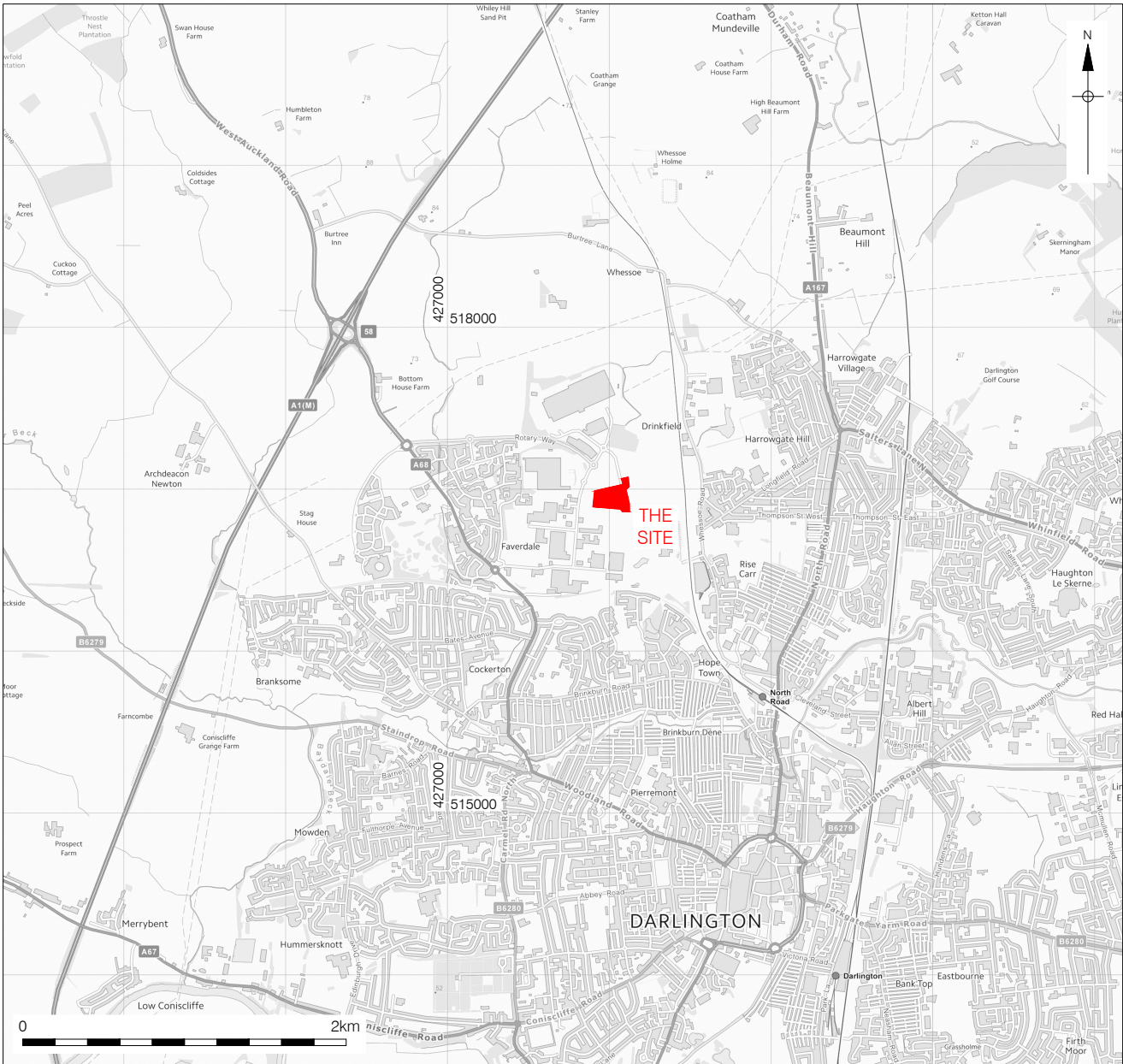
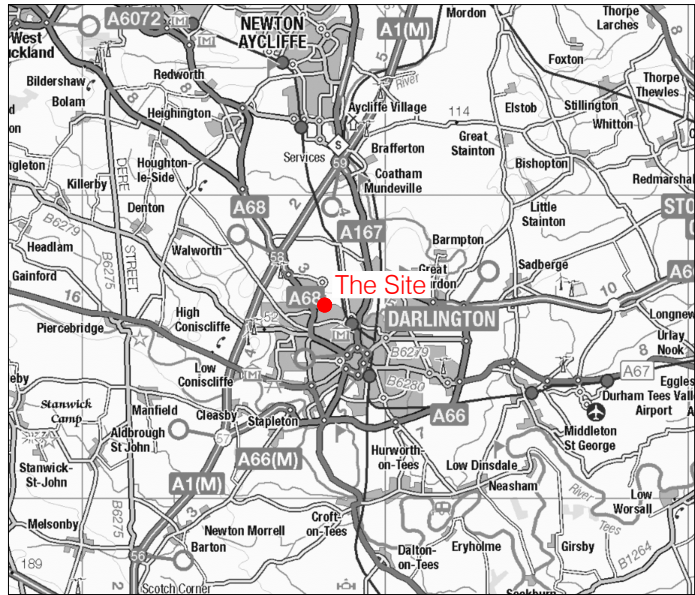
- 2.2.1 The site forms part of the greenfield area being developed as Faverdale Industrial Estate, which lies on the north-western margin of Darlington, in a corridor of farmland between the A1 (M) to the west and East Coast Mainline railway to the east (Figure 1). The proposed development occupies c. 2.96 ha of arable and pastoral land and is centred on NGR NZ 28025 16971 (Figure 1).
- 2.2.2 The development area is bounded to the south and west by commercial properties; to the north by a commercial property and pasture and by a spoil mound resulting from previous modern developments within the near vicinity of the site. At the time of the

evaluation, site access was via Samian Way that ends towards the north-eastern corner of the site.

- 2.2.3 The site originally comprised parts of two fields divided by a roughly north–south aligned row of mature trees of which two were still present at the time of the investigations. The tree line dividing the fields was for the most part removed in the 20th century to form a single open field and in the modern period the field was divided by a NE-SW aligned hedge row. At the time of the archaeological investigation the hedgerow had been recently removed. A small roughly triangular shaped area of the pasture field, situated beyond the north-western part of the site was not subject to archaeological evaluation.

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The solid geology of this part of County Durham is composed of Dolostone of the Ford formation overlain by deposits of Devensian tills (British Geological Survey website). The soils of the area consist of the slowly permeable fine loamy soils of the Dunkeswick series (SSEW 1983).
- 2.3.2 The site is generally set in low-lying ground at 61–65m OD within a gently undulating landscape. The topography of the site itself gradually slopes downwards from a maximum recorded height of 65.04m OD in the north in Trench 6 to a minimum height of 61.29m OD in the south in Trench 4. Although this broadly represents the natural topography of the site, substantial dump deposits were identified along the eastern margin of the site and the natural slope would have been markedly steeper at the south-eastern corner of the site and potentially along the eastern margin of the site.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000; 250,000 & 40,000 at A4

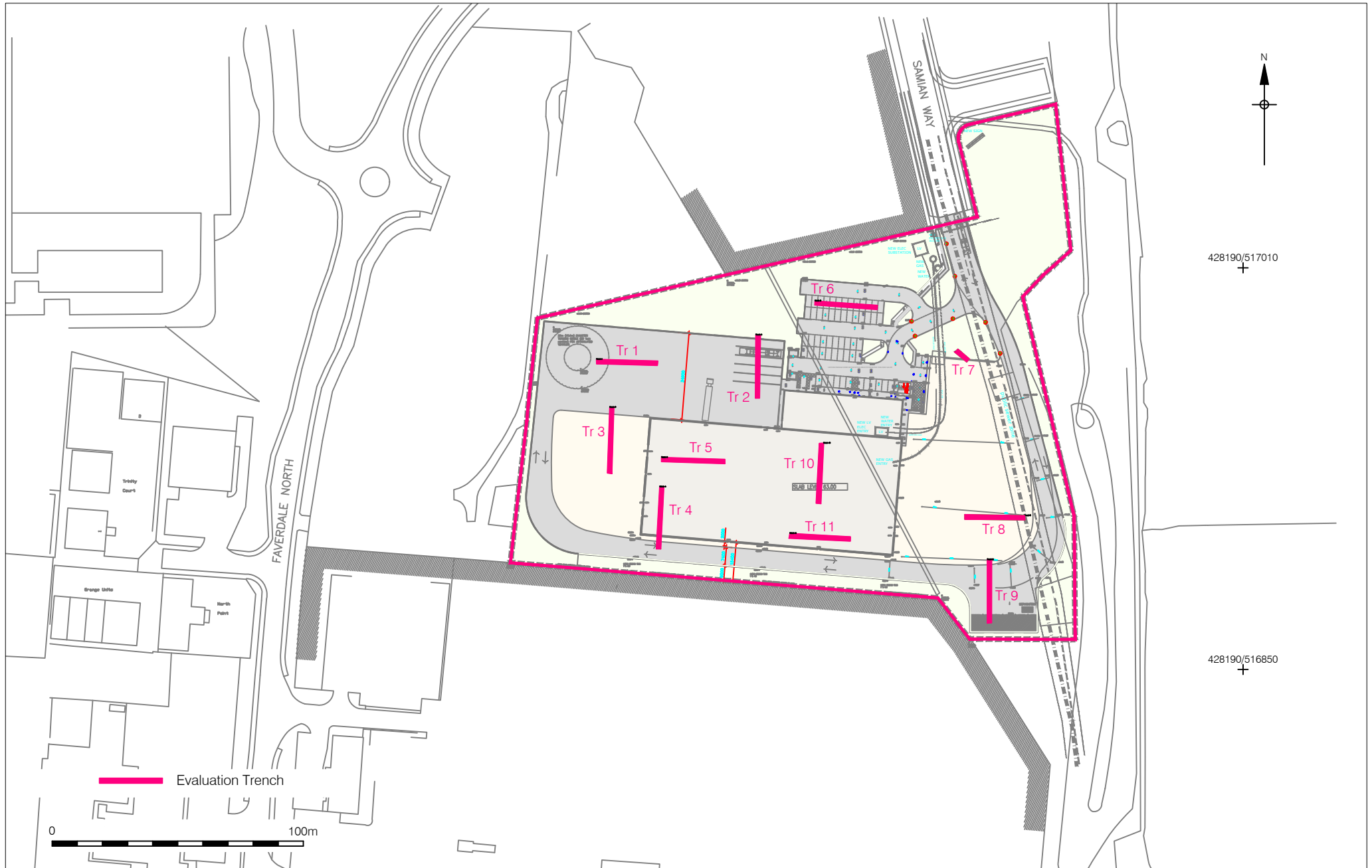


Figure 2
 Trench Location overlain onto Proposed Development
 1:2,000 at A4

2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out pre-determination of a planning application for a proposed development of commercial properties at the site.
- 2.4.2 The archaeological evaluation was required, as part of the planning process, to inform the Local Planning Authority (LPA), DCCAS and the Client, of the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site. The aim was to provide results which should inform a decision regarding further archaeological mitigation measures.
- 2.4.3 The requirement to undertake the archaeological investigation is in line with planning policy at a national level, as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The NPPF came into effect in 2012, replacing *Planning Policy Statement 5: 'Planning for the Historic Environment'* (PPS5) (DCLG 2010), to provide updated guidance for LPAs, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of the historic environment. Heritage assets - those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest - remain a key concept of the NPPF, retained from PPS5. Despite the deletion of PPS5, the *PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment - Practice Guide* (English Heritage, DCMS and DCLG (revised) 2012), remains a valid, UK Government-endorsed, document.
- 2.4.4 Chapter 12 of the NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' describes, in paragraph 126, how LPAs should '*...set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment' and details, in paragraph 128, that 'In determining applications, LPAs should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the relevant [Historic Environment Record] HER should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, LPAs should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and where necessary [the results of] a field evaluation'.*

- 2.4.5 The relevant Local Development Framework within Darlington Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2011) is Policy CS14: Local Character and Distinctiveness- Section 4:

Policy CS14: Local Character and Distinctiveness

The distinctive qualities of the Borough's built and natural townscapes and landscapes will be protected and, where appropriate, enhanced to positively contribute to the character of the Borough to promote a strong sense of place.

4) Protecting and enhancing designated national built environments and areas of environmental value:

c) Archaeological Sites

- 2.4.6 DCCAS provides archaeological development control for the Borough of Darlington and throughout County Durham.

- 2.4.7 No specification for the work was produced by the Local Planning authority. Accordingly a Written Scheme of Investigation was compiled by PCA (PCA 2016) that set out the requirements for the archaeological evaluation and was approved by DCCAS prior to the commencement of the archaeological evaluation.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.5.1 There is evidence to indicate that what is now the urban area of Darlington was subject to sporadic exploitation during early prehistory. Worked flints dating to the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods were found during an archaeological evaluation in Darlington Market Place in 1994 and close by were a number of stakeholes possibly from a temporary structure. Pollen evidence from Neasham Fen, c. 10km south-east of Faverdale, has demonstrated that woodland clearance occurred at the beginning of the Neolithic period and again, episodically, during both the second and first millennia BC. The general picture provided by such palaeoenvironmental evidence is of large tracts of land being cleared for cereal cultivation, suggesting permanent human settlement in the area by the Middle to Late Bronze Age (Cookson 2003).
- 2.5.2 No archaeological features of proven Mesolithic or Neolithic date were recorded at the Argos site, although six worked flints of Mesolithic date were recovered as residual artefacts in Roman features. This suggests limited early prehistoric activity in the vicinity; Mesolithic flint scatters are found widely across the region testifying to the widespread and transitory exploitation of the landscape during this period (Petts and Gerrard 2006, 36).
- 2.5.3 No features or artefacts of early prehistoric date were encountered during the 2003 archaeological evaluation (PCA 2003) which included trenches within the study site.

- 2.5.4 The study site is located within a wider area that appears to have been densely settled by the Late Iron Age period. The characteristic settlement form of the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods across the Northumberland and Durham Coastal Plain is the rectilinear ditched enclosure (Petts and Gerrard 2006). Many such enclosures are known from aerial photography and they range considerably in size from 0.1 to 0.8 hectares, generally containing one or two circular structures (Higham 1986). Several of these enclosures have been identified by geophysical survey in the near vicinity of the site.
- 2.5.5 A sub-rectangular enclosure has been detected by geophysical survey c. 200m to the southeast of the 2013 study site (PCA 2013). Measuring c. 40m by 35m, this contains at least one circular structure and appears to lie within the north-east corner of a much larger ditch defined enclosure (PCG 2007). Another enclosure has been identified by geophysical survey near to High Faverdale Farm, in the field to the west of the Argos site (ASDU 2010).
- 2.5.6 The HER records a rectilinear enclosure of Iron Age or Roman date in the area now developed as West Park, to the south-west of the study site. Geophysical survey in 2000 detected a possible rectilinear enclosure, along with possible pits and other archaeological features, c. 0.7km to the south-west. Trial trenching in 2001 exposed the feature and although no artefactual remains were recovered, it was interpreted as being of Iron Age date. The enclosure was further evaluated by trial trenching in 2003 and this exposed a badly eroded linear feature, with again no artefacts recovered.
- 2.5.7 To the south, the extensive area now occupied by Faverdale Industrial Estate encompasses the former lands of Faverdale Hall where the HER lists an aerial photograph evidently showing another enclosure cropmark of unknown date.
- 2.5.8 Archaeological work in 2004 at the nearby Argos site on the Faverdale East Industrial Estate recorded an unknown, regionally significant indigenous settlement of early Roman date (Proctor 2012). The earliest evidence for settlement at the site comprised the fragmentary remains of features interpreted as forming part of an unenclosed polyfocal farmstead; at least three habitation areas were identified, with an economy based on arable and pastoral agriculture. Traces of several roundhouses were recorded along with fragments of enclosures probably used for stock-keeping. The quantity of 1st-century AD South Gaulish samian recovered from this phase of activity indicates that Faverdale was a settlement of some standing even before the establishment of the Hadrianic frontier.
- 2.5.9 A substantial rectilinear ditched enclosure was constructed on a high spur of land in the north-western corner of the Argos site in the 2nd century AD, this located c. 500m north-west of the study site. No dwellings survived within the enclosure, but artefactual material recovered from the perimeter ditch is indicative of a habitation enclosure, an interpretation supported by the form of the enclosure. All traces of

domestic buildings had been truncated, presumably by ploughing; however a small stone two-room building, furnished with a hypocaust system and decorated with painted wall plaster, was located within the enclosure adjacent to its southern ditch. The large quantity of imported and Romano-British material found at the site indicated that the inhabitants were engaged in some level of trade with the Roman military or markets within the civilian settlements attached to the Roman forts in the region. Associated with this habitation enclosure was a network of interconnected enclosures, set out to the south on slightly sloping ground, used for a variety of purposes including habitation, manufacturing and processing activities and for stockholding. As with the earlier settlement, there was a mixed economy, with an extensive area of land exploited.

- 2.5.10 The ditches surrounding the main habitation enclosure at the Argos site were deliberately infilled and the heated structure demolished around the late 2nd or early 3rd century, and a lengthy period of abandonment seemingly ensued. Later Roman activity was generally restricted to a few field boundaries and enclosures, but a substantial stone structure of 4th-century date along with an east–west road, indicated that that site was still utilised as the Roman period drew to a close.
- 2.5.11 No evidence for Late Iron Age or Roman period occupation was encountered during the 2003 archaeological evaluation which included trenches within the study site, as previously described. It appeared, therefore, that the field system associated with the settlement at the Argos site did not extend as far as the study site.
- 2.5.12 There are no known Anglo-Saxon sites upon or within the immediate vicinity of the study site although a small Anglo-Saxon cemetery was identified at Greengate, some 2km to the SSE of the development site, during drain-digging in 1876 (Miket 1976).
- 2.5.13 The suspected site of the medieval village of Whessoe occupies the area of Whessoe Grange Farm, located c. 1km to the north-west of the study site. The remains of a possible medieval building have previously been suspected amongst the core elements of Whessoe Grange Farm and the settlement area extended southwards taking in an area interpreted in the modern era as the site of Whessoe Deserted Medieval Village (DMV). The building at Whessoe Grange Farm has previously been described as a ‘chapel’ originating in the later 12th century and subsequently converted into a manor house. It is now considered more likely to be an early post-medieval domestic building with medieval origins attributed in antiquity.
- 2.5.14 The earthworks of the site interpreted as Whessoe DMV were first mapped in detail on the 1915 Ordnance Survey map, within the north-western corner of ‘Village Field’. The earthworks had been ploughed prior to 1952, when the whole area is recorded as having been bulldozed. The field is annotated ‘Village Field’ and depicted as containing earthworks representing a ‘Moated Site’ on the 1915 Ordnance Survey map. In 2004 the field was subject to targeted resistivity survey as well as an overall

geomagnetic survey (PCA 2004). The resistivity survey results did not provide any firm evidence of building remains, although one linear anomaly was provisionally interpreted as possibly representing an earthwork associated with the postulated DMV.

- 2.5.15 The study site lies within the ancient township of Cockerton, which is first referred to in the Boldon Book of 1183 as having 47 bovates, four leaseholders and six cottagers. The dwellings and farmlands were owned by the Bishop of Durham and a survey by Bishop Hatfield in c. 1380 refers to 'messuages' and dwellings.
- 2.5.16 During the medieval period, the wider area of the study site was essentially rural. Cockerton Grange Farm, which was located c. 150m to the south-west, is believed to have medieval origins, although the buildings which were demolished in the late 20th century were of 19th century origin.
- 2.5.17 The wider area continued to be used as agricultural land during the post-medieval period. A post-medieval farm complex, Huntershaw, was located c. 300m to the north-east of the study site, though this was recently demolished. The farmhouse was of early to mid 18th-century date and there was an associated granary and barn.
- 2.5.18 Faverdale Hall, located c. 300m to the south-west, may also date to the 18th century, and Middle Faverdale Farm, c. 0.7m to the west, may be of 17th-century origin.
- 2.5.19 Prior to the archaeological evaluation in 2003, post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks were evident throughout the fields north of the study site, with the associated furrows appearing as archaeological features in evaluation trenches sited within that field. Within or adjacent to the study site, Trenches 41, 42, 44 and 46 all recorded evidence of post-medieval ridge and furrow agriculture. A boundary ditch that had been maintained through re-cutting was recorded in Trenches 41-43, this having appeared as a wide anomaly on the geophysical survey running across the northern part of the study site. Map regression demonstrates that this represents a former field boundary depicted on the Tithe Map of 1847 and the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1856, but no longer present on the 2nd edition of 1897.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aims

3.1.1 The project is 'threat-led' with potential to disturb or destroy important sub-surface archaeological remains, if present. Therefore, the broad aim of the project was to inform the LPA, DCCAS, and the Client regarding the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site. The results will be used to inform decisions regarding further archaeological mitigation measures that may be required.

3.1.2 Additional aims of the project were:

- to compile a Site Archive consisting of all site and project documentary and photographic records, as well as all artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material recovered;
- to compile a report that contains an assessment of the nature and significance of all data categories, stratigraphic, artefactual, etc.

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 Although the results of the geophysical survey did not identify any anomalies of potential archaeological significance, there was potential for archaeological remains for the Roman period to be present at the site due to the close vicinity to the Faverdale East Business Park, c. 500m to the north-west. Following consultation with DCAS, it was decided that trial trenching was the most appropriate investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the proposed development site.

3.2.2 Archaeological work at Samian Way provides potential opportunities to address key research objectives as set out in *Shared Visions: The North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF)* (Petts & Gerrard 2006). The NERRF highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past so that all elements of commercial archaeological work can be related to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment.

3.2.3 The site is considered to have potential to provide a contribution to several 'Key research Themes' in the NERRF 'Research Agenda and Strategy' for the Iron Age and Early Roman period:

- Ri. The Iron Age to Roman transition;
- Rii. Roads & Communication;
- Riii. The Roman military presence;
- Riv. Native and civilian life;

- Rv. Material culture;
- Rvi. Trade and industry;
- Rvii. Landscape and environment.

3.2.4 In sum, the proposed archaeological work had the following site-specific objectives:

- to establish the presence or absence of prehistoric and/or Roman activity and, where such remains are identified, to more clearly define the date and nature of the activity;
- to inform the scope and design of other mitigation measures, should they be deemed to be required.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The evaluation fieldwork was undertaken 15–22 February 2016. All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (CIfA 2014a). PCA is a CIfA-Registered Organisation. The evaluation was undertaken according to the aforementioned WSI which should be consulted for full details of methodologies employed regarding archaeological excavation, recording and sampling.
- 4.1.2 Archaeological trial trenching was considered as the most appropriate investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the site. Eleven trenches (Trenches 1–11) were located across the site on variable alignments as ‘judgement’ trenches. All trenches measured 25m x 2m with the exception of Trench 7 (c. 4m x 2m) which was abandoned due to depth constraints and water ingress.
- 4.1.3 All trenches were set-out by PCA using a Leica Viva Smart Rover Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), with pre-programmed co-ordinate data determined by an office-based CAD Technician. The Smart Rover GNSS provides correct Ordnance Survey co-ordinates in real time, to an accuracy of 1cm.
- 4.1.4 All trenches were mechanically-excavated by a back-acting ‘JCB’ with toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, or the clearly defined top of the natural sub-stratum, whichever was reached first.
- 4.1.5 Hand cleaning was undertaken in trenches where archaeological features were identified. All potential features were subject to partial or complete excavation within the trenches with photography and archaeological recording taking place at appropriate stages in the process. A selection of digital photographs is included as Appendix 3 to this report. All trenches were recorded, irrespective of whether or not they contained archaeological features.
- 4.1.6 Temporary Bench Marks were established across the site using the Smart Rover GNSS instrument. The height of all principal strata and features were calculated relative to Ordnance Datum and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

4.2 Post-excavation

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic data generated by the project is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 33 archaeological contexts were defined in the 11 trenches (Appendix 2). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data (Appendix 1). A written

summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described below in Section 5.

- 4.2.2 All artefactual material recovered during the archaeological evaluation was to be treated in the appropriated manor in accordance in accordance with the guidelines set out in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 2001), *Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites* (UKIC 1983) and *Standard and guidance: for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014c). To this end no artefactual material was recovered from the archaeological excavation.
- 4.2.3 The palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy of the project was to recover bulk samples where appropriate, from well-dated stratified deposits covering the main periods or phases of occupation and the range of feature types represented, with specific reference to the objectives of the evaluation. As no appropriate deposits were encountered no samples were taken. No other biological material was recovered.
- 4.2.4 The complete Site Archive will be packaged for long term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2007) will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document Walker, (UKIC 1990) and the relevant ClfA publication (ClfA 2014b). The depositional requirements of the body to which the Site Archive will be ultimately transferred will be met in full.

5. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

During the evaluation, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual 'context' numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example Trench 1 [100], Trench 2 [200]. The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. An attempt has been made to add interpretation to the data, and correlate these phases with recognised historical and geological periods.

5.1 Phase 1: Natural Sub-stratum

5.1.1 Phase 1 represents natural geological material exposed within the base of 10 evaluation trenches (Trenches 1–6 & 8–11; Plates 1 & 2). This generally comprised firm to friable mid greyish brown sandy clay and silty clay ([102] Trench 1; [202] Trench 2; [302] Trench 3; [402] Trench 4; [502] Trench 5; [602] Trench 6; [802] Trench 8; [903] Trench 9; [1002] Trench 10; [1100] Trench 11).

5.1.2 The maximum and minimum heights of the upper interface of natural sub-stratum was 64.60m OD, in Trench 6 within the northern part of the site, and 60.71m OD, in Trench 11 within the central-southern part of the site, respectively. These values reflect the natural topography of the site, with a gradual slope down from north to south.

5.1.3 The depth at which natural clay was encountered below existing ground level varied across the site, ranging from a minimum of 0.40m in Trench 5, to a maximum of 1.36m in Trench 8 in the south-east part of the site. The relatively substantial depth at which the natural substratum was encountered in Trenches 8 & 9 are due to modern dump deposits present across the eastern margin of the site associated with a spoil mound within the immediate vicinity. In Trench 7 the natural substratum was not exposed due to the thickness of these dumped deposits.

5.2 Phase 2: Sub-soil

5.2.1 Sub-soil was recorded in Trenches 1-6 and 9-10 and where encountered directly overlay the natural sub-stratum ([101] Trench 1; [201] Trench 2; [301] Trench 3; [401] Trench 4; [501] Trench 5; [601] Trench 6; [902] Trench 9; [1001] Trench 10; [1101] Trench 11). The sub-soil generally comprised friable mid to light greyish brown silty clay with a maximum recorded thickness of 0.32m, this in Trench 2, and a minimum thickness of 0.12m, recorded in Trench 5.

5.2.2 No subsoil was present in Trenches 7 and 8 or within the central and northern areas of Trench 9, this probably the result of levelling activity undertaken during the modern period.

5.3 Phase 3: Modern

5.3.1 Phase 3 represents modern activity. Deposits recorded in Trenches 7, 8 & 9 have been interpreted as dump deposits probably associated with the spoil mound that

bounds the site to the east with this material derived from the recently developed plot of land to the south of the site. In all three trenches the dump deposits comprised a similar firm mid reddish brown or brownish red clay ([701] Trench 7; [801] Trench 8; [901] Trench 9). The dump deposits were recorded in section with maximum and minimum thickness of up to 1.06m thick at the eastern end of Trench 8 and 0.27m in Trench 9, respectively. The thickness of the dump deposit in Trench 7 was not established due to depth constraints and water ingress and was only exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.90m.

5.4 Phase 4: Topsoil

5.4.1 Topsoil forming the existing ground surface across the site was recorded in all 11 trenches ([100] Trench 1; [200] Trench 2; [300] Trench 3; [400] Trench 4; [500] Trench 5; [600] Trench 6; [700] Trench 7; [800] Trench 8; [900] Trench 9; [1000] Trench 10; [1100] Trench 11). It generally comprised friable, dark brownish grey silty clay and the maximum thickness recorded for the topsoil was 0.36m, in Trench 10, and the minimum was 0.24m, in Trench 1. The maximum and minimum heights recorded were 65.04m OD, in Trench 6, and 61.29m OD, in Trench 9, respectively. All topsoil had a developed turf line, this forming the existing ground surface of the rough pasture which comprised the entirety of the area investigated within the development site.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

6.1.1 Geological deposits and archaeological deposits encountered during the evaluation have been assigned to four phases of activity:

- Phase 1. Natural sub-stratum was the basal deposit encountered within 10 trenches (Trenches 1–6 & 8–11). The natural topography of the site which slopes gently down from north to south was broadly reflected in the level at which the natural sub-stratum was recorded; a maximum height of 64.60m OD in the north and a minimum height of 60.71m to the southern part of the site.
- Phase 2. A sub-soil up to 0.32m thick was recorded across the majority of the site within Trenches 1–6 & 9–11. Along the eastern margin of the site, sub-soil was not present in Trench 8 and was only recorded sub in the southern extent of Trench 9. The absence of sub-soil within these areas is likely to be the result of modern levelling activity associated with the development of plots of land to the south of the site.
- Phase 3. Clay dump deposits up to 1.36m thick were recorded across the eastern margin of the site within Trenches 7, 8 & 9. Although no datable material was recovered from these deposits, they are likely to be modern in origin, associated with the spoil mound that bounds the site to the east.
- Phase 4. Topsoil along with its developed turf line was recorded in all 11 trenches and formed the existing ground surface of the rough pasture fields in which the work was conducted.

6.1.2 No remains of archaeological significance were encountered within any of the trenches investigated.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation indicate that the proposed development will not affect any archaeological remains of significance and it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is required.

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8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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PCA Credits

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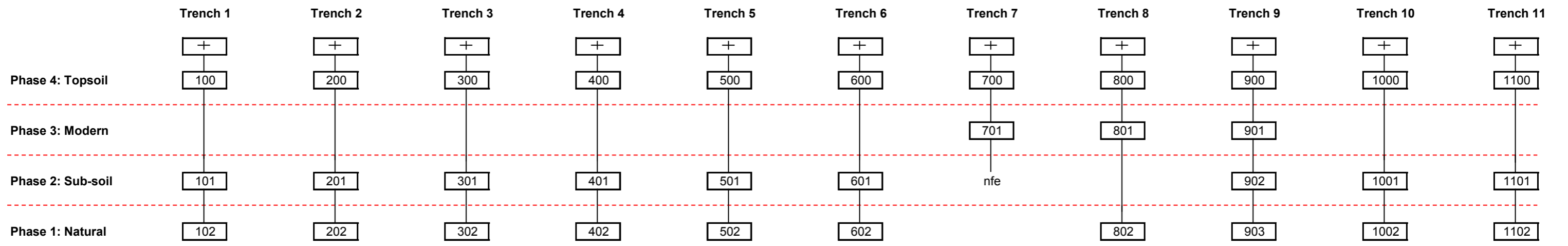
Fieldwork: Aaron Goode (Site Supervisor and Survey), Scott Vance

Report: Aaron Goode

Illustrations: Charlotte Faiers

**APPENDIX 1
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES**

SWF 16: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES



**APPENDIX 2
CONTEXT INDEX**

SWF 16: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Trench	Phase	Type 1	Type 2	Interpretation
100	1	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
101	1	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
102	1	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
200	2	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
201	2	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
202	2	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
300	3	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
301	3	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
302	3	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
400	4	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
401	4	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
402	4	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
500	5	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
501	5	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
502	5	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
600	6	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
601	6	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
602	6	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
700	7	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
701	7	3	Deposit	Layer	Dump deposit
800	8	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
801	8	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
802	8	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
900	9	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
901	9	3	Deposit	Layer	Dump deposit
902	9	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
903	9	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
1000	10	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
1001	10	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
1002	10	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
1100	11	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
1101	11	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
1102	11	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural

APPENDIX 3
PLATES



Plate 1. Trench 4, general view, looking south (scale 2m)



Plate 2. Trench 10, general view, looking south (scale 2m)

PCA

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