

**An Archaeological Excavation at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site),
Condercum Road, Benwell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear**

Central National Grid Reference: NZ 2180 6449

Site Code: TOB 09

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PART A: PROJECT SUMMARY

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological excavation was undertaken April-May 2009 by Pre-Construct Archaeology at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site), Benwell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The work was commissioned by Sir Robert McAlpine Limited and was undertaken ahead of re-development of the school as part of the Newcastle 'Building Schools for the Future' Project.
- 1.2 The excavation formed part of a programme of archaeological work required as a condition of planning permission for the re-development scheme. An archaeological desk-based assessment in 2008 highlighted the fact that the site lies on the northern valley side of the River Tyne, only c. 50m south of the line of Hadrian's Wall, with the site of Benwell (*Condercum*) Roman fort within 150m to the north-west. It was therefore suspected that the site lay within the easternmost limit of the area occupied by the civilian settlement associated with the fort.
- 1.3 A field evaluation undertaken earlier in 2009 identified the presence of archaeological remains of Roman and medieval date within the westernmost portion of the proposed building footprint in the re-development scheme. The excavation therefore targeted this area and involved the investigation of an irregularly shaped area covering c. 830m² with a central National Grid Reference of NZ 2180 6449. This area lay within a sloping pasture field, to the south of the existing school.
- 1.4 Natural clay of glacial origin, assigned to Phase 1, was exposed as the basal deposit across the excavated area.
- 1.5 Phase 2 activity represents the earliest phase of Roman activity recorded at the site. The earliest archaeological feature identified was a broad, shallow feature running downslope, this interpreted as a holloway – a sunken trackway eroded by traffic and rainwater. The northern extent of this had apparently been truncated by a substantial ditch representing the south-eastern corner of an enclosure. A metalled surface had subsequently been laid in the base of the holloway, this possibly contemporary with the enclosure ditch. Within the enclosure were a possible timber slot, a possible infant burial and a shallow pit. Dating evidence suggests that the enclosure was laid out and occupied during the 2nd century AD, although a single sherd pottery recovered from the metalled surface of the holloway indicates that usage possibly continued into the 3rd century. Three linear features recorded on a similar NNE-SSW alignment to that of the holloway were also of probable 2nd to 3rd century date.
- 1.6 Phase 3 witnessed a distinct change in layout at the site with the earlier enclosure ditch and holloway infilled. A curving boundary ditch in the north-westernmost corner of the excavation area could represent re-establishment of the enclosure, slightly further to the west, during the 2nd to 3rd century. The ditch may have been deliberately blocked with boulders as it went out of use. To the south was a ditch running roughly north-south downslope and this may have delimited a parcel of land to the south or it could have been for drainage. Within the north-easternmost corner of the site was what appeared to be the broad terminus of a ditch.

- 1.7 A developed soil up to 0.30m thick represents Phase 4 and accumulation of this material probably signals the end of the Roman period. It is likely that this area remained largely unoccupied for centuries and cartographic evidence shows the site within an agricultural landscape in the early-mid 19th century.
- 1.8 Phase 5 is represented by a single ditch running through the eastern half of the excavation area on a NNE-SSW alignment. Identified during the earlier evaluation of the site, it likely dates to the medieval period and probably represents a boundary delimiting a land parcel on the south-facing valley side.
- 1.9 Phase 6 was activity of the post-medieval period, in the form of structural remains and drainage and agricultural features. Three postholes in the south-western most corner of the site probably represent an insubstantial building or a fence line. Four linear features exposed running downslope towards the western extent of the site were likely drainage gullies, although the two narrowest of these could represent wheel ruts. In the north-easternmost part of the site two parts of a broad, shallow NNE-SSW aligned feature, probably a plough furrow, were recorded. A stone-lined culvert was recorded running south-eastwards from the northern limit of excavation, this possibly part of a wider system of drainage associated with a dwelling known to have occupied the site of the school in the 19th century.
- 1.10 Phase 7 comprises modern activity, including a service trench and a levelling deposit. Topsoil, up to c. 0.65m thick and extending across the whole of the site, was assigned to Phase 8, this material forming the existing ground surface of the pasture field in which the excavation area was sited.
- 1.11 A small assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered during the excavation, comprising coarse ware cooking pots or jars, single sherds of samian, mortarium and fine ware, and two sherds of amphora. The assemblage is probably entirely of 2nd century date, with the exception of two sherds of 3rd century material, although some of the featureless body sherds recovered could potentially fit this later dating. A small number of other finds was also recovered, the majority of these being of domestic or structural function. Bulk soil samples from ditch fills and the holloway yielded little or no faunal and palaeoenvironmental remains and thus provided no information about former diet, economy or agricultural practices.
- 1.12 This Post-Excavation Assessment Report is divided into three parts. Part A, the Project Summary, includes an introduction to the site, its location, geology and topography, planning and archaeological background, and a full description of the archaeological methodology employed during the investigation. It concludes with an illustrated summary of the archaeological remains representing each of the main phases of occupation, and an overall discussion of the archaeological findings of the project.
- 1.13 Part B, the Data Assessment and Conclusions, quantifies the written, graphic and photographic elements of the Site Archive and contains specialist assessments of the artefactual and biological evidence, with recommendations for any further work for each category, and then sets out the conclusions of the project to date and a summary of the significance of the project data in local and regional terms. Part C contains the references and acknowledgements. The report has three appendices.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General Background

- 2.1.1 This report describes the methodology and results of an archaeological excavation undertaken 14 April to 21 May 2009 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) on land at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site), Benwell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Sir Robert McAlpine Limited (SRM) and was undertaken ahead of re-development of the school, as part of the Newcastle 'Building Schools for the Future' (BSF) Project.
- 2.1.2 The school is located c. 4km west of the historic core of Newcastle, in the suburb of Benwell, and the excavation was undertaken within an irregularly shaped area with central National Grid Reference NZ 2180 6449 within the central western portion of the school grounds (Figure 1). The overall school site is bounded to the north by housing along Springhill Gardens, to the south by Conhope Lane, to the west by housing along Weidner Road and to the east by Condercum Road.
- 2.1.3 The area in which Trinity School (Oakfield College Site) lies is of particular archaeological interest for the Roman period, due to its close proximity to the Hadrian's Wall corridor and *Condercum*, the Roman fort on the line of the Wall in Benwell. The school was thought to lie within the assumed eastern limit of the civil settlement (*vicus*) associated with the fort and just beyond the Vallum – the southern defences of the Wall.
- 2.1.4 The excavation was undertaken as part of a programme of archaeological work required as a planning condition for the re-development scheme on the recommendation of the County Archaeologist. A desk-based assessment had been prepared in 2008.¹ This established a baseline consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and was followed by a field evaluation undertaken in January 2009.² This identified the presence of archaeological remains of significance relating to activity of likely Roman and medieval date in the central western portion of the school site. Accordingly, further exposure and investigation of archaeological remains threatened by the scheme was required, in the form of an open area excavation in the western half of the proposed new build footprint.
- 2.1.5 The archaeological project herein described was designed according to the guidelines set out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*.³ A Project Design⁴ for the excavation was prepared by PCA and approved by the County Archaeologist in advance of the fieldwork. This Assessment Report sets out a formal review of the data collected during the fieldwork.

¹ PCA 2008.

² PCA 2009a.

³ English Heritage 2006.

⁴ PCA 2009b.

- 2.1.6 At the time of writing, the Site Archive, comprising written, drawn, and photographic records and all artefactual and biological material recovered during the excavation, is housed at the Northern Office of PCA, Unit N19a Turisdale Business Park, Durham, DH6 5PG. When complete, the Site Archive will be deposited at Tyne and Wear Museum Archive, Arbeia, South Shields, under the site code TOB 09. The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number is: preconst1-65137.

2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 Benwell is a western suburb of Newcastle, c. 4km from the city centre, set on the northern valley side of the Tyne and very much defined to the north by West Road, which follows the line of Hadrian's Wall as it leaves the city. Benwell was an outlying village throughout the medieval period and continued to be so until coal mining proved a catalyst for growth in the 18th century. The early modern industrial era witnessed significant development and by the modern era the area was subsumed into the urban sprawl of Newcastle.
- 2.2.2 Trinity School (Oakfield College Site) lies in the north-eastern portion of Benwell, and covers an area of c. 2.70 hectares (Figure 1). The full postal address of the school is Trinity School (Oakfield College Site), Condercum Road, Benwell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE4 8XJ. It is bounded to the east by Condercum Road, to the south by Conhope Lane, and to the west and north by the gardens of housing along several streets, including Weidner Road and Springhill Gardens.
- 2.2.3 Prior to the re-development scheme, the north-eastern portion of the overall school site was occupied by school buildings, along with access routes, grassed areas and car parks (Figure 2). The school was of late 20th century date, having replaced the former Lower Condercum House (Special School), which was established in a former dwelling of late 19th century origin. A community farm - to be retained as part of the scheme - occupied the north-western portion of the overall school site, and included various animal pens, yards and outbuildings, set out on the terraced ground.
- 2.2.4 Prior to the re-development scheme, much of the southern portion of the overall school site is effectively undeveloped, the majority in use as rough pasture for animal grazing. One area on the eastern side is used as a sports pitch. Two modern buildings occupy the south-eastern portion of the overall school site, these used by 'Oakfield Solutions', a learning/employment training establishment for young school leavers, accessed through a gate in the southern perimeter. The eastern boundary of the school grounds is delineated by a high stone wall.
- 2.2.5 The archaeological excavation area was irregularly shaped, measuring up to c. 32m north-south by up to c. 35m east-west and covering c. 830 m². It was situated at the northern end of the area of rough pasture associated with the community farm (Figure 2). The central National Grid Reference of the excavation area was NZ 2180 6449.



Figure 1. Site location
Scale 1:25,000



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Figure 2. Area of investigation
Scale 1:1,250

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The solid geology of the area comprises material of the Middle Coal Measures, being predominantly alternations of sandstone, mudstone, productive coal seams and ironstones.⁵ Quaternary glacial drift deposits of variable depth, predominantly Glacial Till, are known to overlie solid geology across the Benwell area.⁶
- 2.3.2 The school lies on the northern valley side of the River Tyne, with land falling from a height of c. 120m OD along West Road, at the top of the valley, to around sea level at the river. Across the overall school site, ground level drops from c. 110.30m OD along its northern edge, to c. 96.0m OD in the south-eastern corner, broadly reflecting the topography of the valley side. In general terms, therefore, the study site has a gently sloping, south-facing aspect. However, the northern portion of the site has clearly been landscaped, probably at the time of the construction of the existing school in the late 20th century. Terracing is evident in the area of the school complex and, particularly, in the area to the west which is occupied by the community farm. The sports pitch and pasture occupying the southern portion of the site fall away gently, with relatively little evidence of terracing.

2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 The archaeological excavation herein described was commissioned by SRM in advance of the re-development of Trinity School (Oakfield College Site). The scheme was an element of Phase 2 of the Newcastle BSF Project and was funded as part of the Newcastle Schools PFI Project, which was delivered and partly funded by Aura, Newcastle City Council's private sector partner. SRM was Principal Contractor for the Newcastle BSF Project.
- 2.4.2 The Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team, part of the Historic Environment Section of Newcastle City Council, undertakes archaeological development control throughout Tyne and Wear. The County Archaeologist, part of the Specialist Conservation Team, considered that there was potential for important archaeological remains of the Roman period in particular to be disturbed by the re-development of Trinity School (Oakfield College Site).
- 2.4.3 In considering any development proposal, the Specialist Conservation Team is mindful of government guidance set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: 'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG 16),⁷ as well as existing local planning policy. Newcastle City Council has various policies within its Unitary Development Plan (UDP) concerning archaeology and cultural heritage. Of particular relevance in this instance are:

POLICY C04. DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD HARM SITES OR AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST AND THEIR SETTINGS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.

⁵ Arc Environmental 2008.

⁶ Johnson 1997.

⁷ Department of the Environment 1990. PPG16 is currently under review as part of a consultation paper (July 2009) on a new planning policy statement on the historic environment.

POLICY C04.1. THE FOLLOWING SITES AND AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST IDENTIFIED FOR THE PURPOSE OF POLICY C04 INCLUDE:

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

7. Hadrian's Wall, Vallum and associated works

Other sites and areas of archaeological interest, as defined on the Proposals Map

18. *Unscheduled areas of the known and presumed line of Hadrian's Wall, Vallum, Ditch and fortifications.*

49. *Benwell – Roman area*

POLICY C04.2. WHERE A PROPOSAL MAY AFFECT A SITE OR AREA OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST, THE DEVELOPER WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT OF ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT UPON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND WHERE NECESSARY UNDERTAKE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.

POLICY C04.3. WHERE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT A SITE OR AREA OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST, DEVELOPERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESERVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN SITU UNLESS THIS IS CLEARLY INAPPROPRIATE OR THE DESTRUCTION OF THE REMAINS IS DEMONSTRABLY UNAVOIDABLE, IN WHICH CASE A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO AND AGREED WITH THE COUNCIL BEFORE THE START OF DEVELOPMENT.

POLICY C04.4. WHERE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WOULD INVOLVE LARGE SCALE GROUND DISTURBANCE IN CURRENTLY UNDEVELOPED AREAS DEVELOPERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A PRELIMINARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT TO IDENTIFY ANY SITES OR POTENTIAL AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST.

- 2.4.4 In line with Policies C04.2 and C04.4 of the UDP, a desk-based assessment for the school site was undertaken by PCA in 2008. This concluded that the re-development scheme had potential to disturb or destroy important sub-surface archaeological remains of the Roman period in particular as the site lies within the assumed eastern extent of the *vicus* of *Condercum* fort and very close to the line of the Vallum defences that ran south of and parallel to Hadrian's Wall. The view of the English Heritage Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist was sought in this instance since that individual advises on all development proposals in the vicinity of scheduled sections of the Roman frontier. Approximately 100m to the north of the site are two scheduled sections of the Wall (SAM 28(10)), these being sub-surface remains along the West Road frontage of the City Learning Centre and the Centre for Sport.
- 2.4.5 Continuing with the advice given in Policy C04.2 of the UDP, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by PCA in January 2009. This established that remains related to likely Roman and medieval period activity would be disturbed by the re-development scheme. The new building was to occupy the central portion of the site, comprising a main east-west range with a roughly central extension to the north. The new building was to be terraced into the naturally sloping ground, so that construction groundworks would include a corridor of 'cut' to accommodate the sub-structure of a retaining wall along the north elevation of the main east-west range.
- 2.4.6 The archaeological evaluation demonstrated that construction groundworks would threaten archaeological remains of significance at the western end of the main east-west range of the new building. Accordingly, the County Archaeologist required - in line with Policy C04 of the UDP - open area archaeological excavation to be undertaken in an area of particular archaeological sensitivity in order to mitigate the impact of the development upon the archaeological resource. A Project Design for the excavation was prepared by PCA and approved by the County Archaeologist in advance of commencement of the fieldwork.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The aforementioned archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) has provided the summary below. The 'wider study area' referred to below was an area designated in the DBA as being of radius 1km around the school site. Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record (HER) numbers are included, as appropriate.

Prehistoric

- 2.5.1 There are no HER entries relating to any of the prehistoric eras for the school site and just one within the wider study area. A perforated axe-hammer of probable Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date (HER 1376) was found in the vicinity of *Condercum* Roman fort. However, a single object cannot be considered as evidence of significant prehistoric activity in the area.

Roman

- 2.5.2 The school site lies within the assumed eastern limit of the *vicus* associated with the fort of *Condercum* (HER 5262). The fort lay c. 200m to the north-west of the site, on the line of Hadrian's Wall (HER 206 & 207), with the Wall corridor running c. 100m to the north of the site. Unsurprisingly, therefore, there are numerous HER entries for the Roman period within the wider study area.
- 2.5.3 Constructed on the orders of the Roman Emperor Hadrian, from AD 122, Hadrian's Wall marked the northern frontier of the Roman Empire. The significance of the Wall corridor in archaeological terms lies both in its complexity and the degree of survival of the Roman military and civilian remains. This was recognised by UNESCO through the designation of the Hadrian's Wall Military Zone as a World Heritage Site (WHS) in 1987. Although the Wall corridor in the urban areas of Newcastle was initially excluded from the WHS, in 1997 the scheduled portions of the Wall within the city were included in the WHS. This followed the production of a management plan by English Heritage in 1996,⁸ which identified, for the first time, three distinct areas for the Wall in general: the 'archaeological core' of the Wall and Vallum (the WHS), the surrounding 'buffer zone' and the outer 'visual envelope'.
- 2.5.4 Benwell lies in a stretch of the frontier between Newcastle and the River North Tyne, where the Wall was of typical 'Broad Wall' stone construction, c. 3m wide on a broad foundation of similar width and c. 5m high. To the north, at a distance of c. 6m, ran a substantial V-shaped ditch, c. 10m wide and c. 4m deep. The line of the Wall is closely reflected in the line of West Road through Benwell. As previously described, two sub-surface sections of the Wall immediately to the east of *Condercum* are scheduled (SAM 28(10)), while five land parcels in and around the area of the fort itself comprise another Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 28(12)).
- 2.5.5 From its inception, the Wall was planned with regularly spaced fortlets ('milecastles') at intervals of about 1 mile and the original design also planned for two equally spaced towers ('turrets') between each milecastle. At some point, a fundamental change of plan occurred and more substantial forts were constructed. Sixteen such forts are now known either attached to the Wall or in close association with it. *Condercum*, meaning 'the Place with the Fine Outlook', was the fort on the line of the Wall at Benwell.

⁸ English Heritage 1996.

- 2.5.6 A further defensive element - the Vallum - was added to the Wall after the decision had been taken to construct the forts. It comprised a broad flat-bottomed ditch flanked by a pair of linear banks, formed from the upcast from the excavation of the ditch. The ditch was c. 6.5m wide, up to c. 3m deep, with banks c. 6m across by 2m high. The standard width of the Vallum – including all the above elements – is 36.60m (this distance is the equivalent of 120 feet, the Roman surveying unit known as an *actus*). The commonly accepted interpretation for the function of the Vallum is that it represented a demarcation of the militarised zone from civilian land to the south.
- 2.5.7 The Vallum was constructed at a variable distance to the south of the Wall, sometimes adjacent to it, and in some places up to 1km to its south. At many locations, including in the vicinity of the school site, the Vallum is now buried below post-medieval and modern development. The probable course of the Vallum runs only c. 50m to the north of the school site, while the site of the Vallum crossing (HER 5264) south of *Condercum*, this c. 200m north-west of the school site, has scheduled monument status, as does a section of the Vallum to the west of the fort, in the grounds of Pendower Hall, a teacher training centre, both being parts of composite scheduled monument SAM 28(12). A road known as the Military Way, built to link all elements of the Wall defence, ran from fort to fort across the corridor between the Wall and Vallum.
- 2.5.8 All the forts along the Wall eventually had civilian settlements (*vici*) associated with them; they were usually positioned to the south of the Wall, within the area directly protected by the fort, Wall and Vallum. At *Condercum*, the *vicus* probably occupied land on both sides of the Vallum and, like the majority of *vici* along the Wall, it was probably abandoned after the end of the 3rd century AD. At *Condercum*, the *vicus* probably developed initially alongside the road (HER 5273) that ran southwards from the fort. Although the precise extent of the *vicus* has not been established, the study site is located within its presumed limits; to the east it is assumed to have extended as far as Condercum Road.⁹ It has been previously suggested that two parallel ditches (HER 5270) observed running southwards from the south-eastern corner of the fort delimited the eastern extent of the *vicus*.
- 2.5.9 *Condercum* fort covered 5.64 acres and was built on a flat hill top overlooking the Tyne to the south and the valley of the Denton Burn to the west. Garrisoned during the reign of Hadrian by a cavalry regiment of 500 troops, it was occupied from the mid-late 2nd century by a 1,000 strong cavalry unit from the upper Rhineland. Known features within the fort include the Commanding Officer's house, the headquarters building, granaries, workshops, barracks and possibly stable blocks and a hospital. A reservoir was constructed over the northernmost third of the fort in 1858 and has since been enlarged, while much of the remainder is covered by West Road and, to the south, the Denhill Park housing estate.
- 2.5.10 In the area of *Condercum* fort, both the Vallum and Wall ditch were once visible as earthworks either side of a turnpike road, which has now been widened to form the modern West Road through Benwell. Various antiquarian records, including those of Horsley in 1732, Bruce in 1851 and MacLauchlan in 1852, give descriptions of the earthworks visible at the time. Excavations to the west of Condercum Road in 1928 located the Vallum and traced the line of its diversion around the southern boundary of the fort.

⁹ Tyne and Wear Museums 1991.

- 2.5.11 Recording of *Condercum* fort began as early as 1751, with a more detailed survey carried out by MacLauchlan in 1855, in advance of housing development. Excavations by Petch in 1926 aimed to clarify the size and location of the fort and also examined the defences, *vicus* and buildings within the fort. Work by Birley, Brewis and Charlton in 1933 concentrated on the Vallum crossing to the south of the fort and part of the *vicus* situated on a section of infilled Vallum. It was this work which established that the aforementioned Vallum crossing comprised a stone causeway and an arched gateway with double doors. The scheduled remains of the Vallum crossing (part of SAM 28(12)) have been consolidated and are now on display to the general public.
- 2.5.12 Recent investigations targeting the Vallum ditch or the *vicus* in Benwell have met with relatively little success. Archaeological monitoring in 2004 on Springhill Gardens and Broomridge Avenue, did, however, identify the north side of the Vallum ditch.¹⁰ Another programme of archaeological monitoring in 2005, on Weidner Road and Oakfield Gardens, found no evidence of the Vallum or the *vicus*.¹¹ A field evaluation in 2004 at Bowland Lodge, Benwell, c. 0.7km east of the site, tested the postulated line of the Vallum, but found no evidence of any Wall related features or any other Roman activity.¹²
- 2.5.13 The discovery at *Condercum* of a dedication slab (HER 5308) to the *Matres Campestres* (the *Campestres* are generally known as the 'Goddesses of the Parade Ground') has previously been interpreted as being indicative of the presence of a military parade ground (HER 5328) in the area to the east of the fort. There is, however, no strong archaeological evidence to support this theory.
- 2.5.14 The fort itself produced two altar stones (HER 5306 & 5310), one dedicated to Jupiter, while there is strong evidence that land to the south-east of the fort, towards the site, contained a zone of cemetery, and particularly, temple activity. The Temple of Antenociticus (HER 5266) lay c. 100m beyond the south-eastern defences of the fort; excavated initially in 1862, its consolidated remains (part of SAM 28(12)) are now displayed to the general public in Broomridge Avenue. A cremation burial recorded just south of the temple, suggests a combined temple and cemetery, while c. 50m south-west of the temple, a stone-lined grave containing a small lead coffin (HER 5271) was found in the 1930s, also indicating that the area to the east of the fort was set aside for cemetery activity. The discovery of pottery and coins (HER 5267, 5268 & 5272) in the area to the south-west of the fort, broadly suggests that the *vicus* was a substantial and widespread settlement.
- 2.5.15 In summary, the DBA described how the site of Trinity School (Oakfield College Site) probably lies within the eastern limit of the presumed extent of the *vicus* attached to *Condercum* fort, which may have extended as far to the east as Condercum Road. Furthermore, significant evidence of Roman occupation, including the Hadrian's Wall corridor and the fort itself, lies in relatively close proximity to the site. Finally, archaeological investigations and chance finds suggest that the *vicus* associated with the fort was of considerable size, so that associated activity, such as cemetery areas or field systems, could potentially extend into the site.

¹⁰ Tyne and Wear Museums 2004.

¹¹ Tyne and Wear Museums 2005.

¹² Pre-Construct Archaeology 2004.

- 2.5.16 The presence of archaeological features of the Roman period was established by the evaluation at the school site in January 2009. Trench 1 exposed a NE-SW aligned linear feature cutting into the natural sub-stratum on its south-eastern side. The main element of this feature was c. 4.0m wide and up to c. 0.55m deep and its single fill yielded a very small, worn sherd of Roman Samian pottery and a fragment of ceramic building material with a dark orange fabric and of possible Roman date. This feature was interpreted as a boundary ditch, which given its relatively substantial size, may have also fulfilled a defensive function. More detailed possible interpretations were that the feature could have delimited the south-eastern boundary of the *vicus* of *Condercum* fort or even that the feature represents one of the ditches of the Vallum on a diverted course. Trench 6 exposed part of a possible NNW-SSE aligned linear feature, cutting into the natural sub-stratum. It was at least 1.40m wide and 0.50m deep. Although no artefactual material was recovered from its lowermost fills, its upper fill was of very similar composition to that of the fill of the broad ditch in Trench 1. On this basis and considering its stratigraphic position, the feature was also assigned a Roman period origin. In terms of function, it was interpreted as a possible ditch.

Anglo-Saxon

- 2.5.17 No HER entries relating to Anglo-Saxon or early medieval activity are known for the school site or for the wider study area. Neither is there any documentary evidence to suggest settlement or exploitation of the land in the vicinity of the study site during this era. A square-headed bronze brooch (HER 1498) of Anglo-Saxon form was discovered to the east of *Condercum* fort in the 1950s. However, a single object like this cannot be considered as evidence for significant Anglo-Saxon activity in the area.

Medieval

- 2.5.18 There are no records in the HER for the medieval period within the limits of the school site. There are, however, five HER entries for this period within the wider study area.
- 2.5.19 Benwell was originally a small village in its own right, prior to absorption into the urban west end of Newcastle. It lay c. 0.8km west of the site (HER 140). The earliest reference to the village of 'Bynnewalle' (referring to its position on Hadrian's Wall) comes from c. 1050, the time immediately before the Norman Conquest. The settlement certainly formed part of the Barony of Bolbec in the medieval period and the village was of 'two-row' form, with the rows separated by a wide street or green running west from the manor house. While the overall street pattern survives in general form today, no medieval buildings remain.
- 2.5.20 The course of the ancient roadway (HER 3945) from Carlisle to Newcastle lies c. 100m to the north of the site, effectively following the course of Hadrian's Wall. The earliest reference to 'Westgate' is 1163-80 and by the late 13th century, following construction of the Newcastle town wall, the West Gate provided access to this main route. In 1751 a toll road - the Military Road - was constructed on the same alignment as the ancient roadway.

2.5.21 In summary, the DBA concluded that the school site was probably utilised for agricultural land throughout the medieval period and any remains from this date, if present, could include improved agricultural soils, drainage gullies or boundary ditches. The presence of archaeological features of the medieval period was established by the evaluation at the school site in January 2009. Two parts of probably the same north-south aligned ditch were recorded in Trenches 2a and 7; a sherd of pottery recovered indicated a 13th century to early 14th century date. The ditch may have been just one element of an extensive system of land boundary and/or drainage features set out on the northern valley side during the medieval period. A feature recorded in Trench 6 may also have been part of a ditch and a medieval date for this is possible.

Post medieval and Early Modern/Industrial

2.5.22 There are no HER entries for the post-medieval period upon the school site, however the wider study area has several entries for the post-medieval period, two of which actually refer to early industrial sites in the immediate vicinity of the site, including Charlotte Pit, Benwell Colliery (HER 4081), c. 50m to the south. Opened in 1766 it was worked until 1939. The site of a pit shaft (HER 4100) lies c. 0.5km to the east of the study site. This shaft, presumed to have been sunk during the 18th century, is first shown on a plan drawn by Isaac Thompson in 1743. Other shafts were probably sunk in the area and not all have detailed records.

2.5.23 In general, mapping from the late 16th century to the late 18th century is not of sufficient scale to be of any great relevance. However, a plan of the manor of Benwell dated 1637 shows the site lying in an area of defined fields, meadows and closes to the south of the Wall. A composite plan, depicting the estates of Robert Shafto in 1780 and Andrew Bowes in 1808, shows the site probably occupying a land parcel named 'Middle Close' alongside what would become Condercum Road, with what was presumably Charlotte Pit within a land parcel 'Low Close' to the south. Cartographic evidence of the early-mid 19th century is of note in that it conveys what was still - despite increasing industrialisation along the Tyne - generally an agricultural landscape south of the line of Hadrian's Wall in the Benwell area.

2.5.24 There is one HER entry for the early modern period upon the school site, this being the former dwelling of 'Lower Condercum' (HER 6352), which lay within the north-eastern portion of the site, adjacent to the northern boundary. It dates from the second half of the 19th century. Within the wider search area there are numerous HER entries for the early modern period, with the vast majority simply reflecting 19th century development of the Benwell area generally.

2.5.25 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1858 shows the school site in detail. At the time, it occupied the entirety of a single field within what was still an essentially rural landscape on the south side of the West Road. The north-westernmost portion of the site encroached into an adjacent field, while a small pond on the southern edge of land occupied by properties fronting onto West Road also lay within the northern boundary of the site. Immediately to the north of the site, fronting onto the south side of West Road, stood Condercum Villa (HER 6350). Immediately south of the site, is the isolated site of the aforementioned Charlotte Pit ('Charley Pit') of Benwell Colliery, set within a long-established field system on the valley side.

- 2.5.26 The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1898 shows the north-eastern portion of the school site occupied by the grounds of the aforementioned house, Lower Condercum. To the north, on the site of the aforementioned pond, is an associated outbuilding, which still survived at the time of the re-development scheme, although in altered form. The land within the site is depicted as being sub-divided. The road to the east of the site is named 'Charlotte Pit Lane', with the colliery complex of that name to the south showing substantial development from the 1st edition. The line of the Vallum is indicated on the 2nd edition, running parallel to West Road and skirting the northern edge of the study site. Land along both sides of West Road had been increasingly developed by this time.
- 2.5.27 The 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1919 shows the school site largely unchanged from the 2nd edition. However, the area to the east has been significantly altered. What was previously, for the most part, an area of fields delimited to the west by the previously named Charlotte Pit Lane, now Condercum Road, and to the north by West Road, had been infilled with a street grid of terraced housing, the 'North Benwell Terraces'.
- 2.5.28 By the time of the 1939 Ordnance Survey map, Lower Condercum House was annotated as a 'Special School' and the southern portion of the site was annotated 'Playing Fields', these reflecting the change of use from a dwelling to an educational establishment. The 1963 edition annotated the school as 'Lower Condercum House (Special School for Boys)'. A building had been added adjacent to the northern site boundary, to the west of the main school building; this survived at the time of the re-development scheme, serving as an administration block. This map depicts the shaft of Charlotte Pit as 'disused'.
- 2.5.29 The exact date of demolition of Lower Condercum House is not known. The existing school buildings (with the exception of the northernmost workshop/storeroom) of Trinity School (Oakfield College Site) date from the late 20th century.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aims

3.1.1 Since preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains was not a feasible option within the main new build footprint in the re-development scheme at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site), preservation by record was considered the appropriate form of mitigation. Accordingly, the broad aims of the archaeological excavation were:

- to locate, record, sample and interpret any archaeological deposits exposed within a defined area in the westernmost portion of the new build footprint, where the earlier evaluation had identified remains of significance;
- to locate, recover, identify and conserve (as appropriate) any archaeological artefacts and palaeoenvironmental remains exposed during the work;
- to prepare a report summarising the results of the work;
- to prepare and submit a suitable archive to an appropriate museum.

3.1.2 The particular aim of all excavation and recording undertaken at the site was the recovery of evidence of Roman settlement activity and military activity associated with the Hadrian Wall frontier, as well as any medieval remains.

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The project had the potential to make a significant contribution to archaeological knowledge of the area. *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF)*¹³ highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. The following key priorities within the NERRF research agenda for the Roman period are of direct relevance to the project:

- **Riii. The Roman military presence**

When discussing the northern Roman forts, it is stated: *'It is also important to establish the number and extent of associated vici' and 'Forts should not be studied separately from their vici and vice versa; the populations and economies of these two site types would have been closely integrated and their development closely linked'.*

- **Riv. Native and civilian life**

When discussing the relationship between the Roman military and civilian populations, it is stated: *'There is a need to improve our knowledge of the chronology of the vici, particularly the date at which they fall out of use. Who were the vicani? What was their relationship between the vici and their forts?' and 'For populations living in villas and vici, what do artefactual and ceramic assemblages tell us? How do they relate to assemblages at military sites? This artefactual material will also help improve our chronological understanding of these sites.'*

¹³ Petts and Gerrard 2006.

- **Rv – Material culture**
- **Rvii – Religion**
- **Rviii – Burial**

3.2.2 *Frontiers of Knowledge*,¹⁴ the recently published research framework for Hadrian's Wall, underlines a general serious gap in existing understanding of extramural settlement along the Wall. The Research Agenda set out in Volume II of that document poses a series of general largely unanswered questions relating to the relationship between the Wall forts and their extramural settlements, the majority of which arise due to the restricted investigation of such settlements over the years. Since most, if not all, of these questions may be seen as relevant to the excavation at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site), they have been adapted to generate specific research objectives of the investigation herein described, thus:

- The need to add knowledge regarding the chronology of the extramural settlement at Benwell; for example it is not certain how soon after the establishment of the fort the settlement was founded, at what date it was abandoned - echoing NERRF priority RiV, above - and can any excavated evidence indicate whether or not this abandonment may have been precipitated by any specific military, economic or social factors?
- The need to clarify the layout and extent of the extramural settlement at Benwell; for example, it appears that, at its full development, the *vicus* occupied land on both sides of the Vallum (the 1933 excavation examined part of the *vicus* built over an infilled section of the Vallum), but how and why did this expansion occur and was there ever any formal layout or zoning by function or class in the settlement? There are already good indicators of an area of cemetery activity to the south and east of the fort, and the identification of further evidence of funerary and religious activity in the extramural settlement at Benwell echo NERRF priorities Rvii and Rviii, above. A closely related topic is the uncertainty regarding the range of building types within the extramural settlement, despite the previous excavations in the area, including the recording of the Temple of Antenociticus relatively close to the school site.
- The need to provide information regarding the inhabitants of the extramural settlement at Benwell, echoing NERRF priority RiV, above.

¹⁴ Symonds and Mason (eds.) 2009.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document¹⁵ of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA). PCA is an IfA-Registered Organisation.
- 4.1.2 The excavation area was irregularly shaped in plan, measuring a maximum of 32m north-south by 35m east-west, with a total area of c. 830m² (Figure 2). The excavation was designed to investigate the westernmost portion of the main new build footprint, where archaeological remains of significance had been identified in trial trenches in the earlier evaluation. Beyond this area, archaeological excavation was not required as the evaluation indicated that that significant archaeological remains would not be disturbed by construction groundworks.
- 4.1.3 The removal of overburden and subsequent ground reduction was undertaken by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator of c. 13-tonnes size, employing a 1.80m wide toothless bucket. This work took place under direct archaeological supervision. All undifferentiated topsoil or archaeologically insignificant material was stripped down, in spits of approximately 100mm thickness, to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or to the level of the natural sub-stratum, whichever came first.
- 4.1.4 Archaeological excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with recognised archaeological practice and following the methodology set out in both PCA's '*Field Recording Manual*'.¹⁶ Following machine clearance, the sections and base of the excavation area were cleaned using hand tools. A site grid was established within the excavation area and tied in to the Ordnance Survey grid using a Total Station EDM. Archaeological deposits and features were recorded using the 'single context recording' method on the PCA *pro forma* 'Context Recording Sheet'. Excavated features and stratigraphic deposits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10.
- 4.1.5 All archaeological features were cleaned with hand tools by the archaeological team to enable identification and recording. All discrete features such as pits and postholes were initially 50% excavated and recorded in section before being fully excavated in order to aid artefact and dateable material recovery. A minimum sample of 25% of each linear feature was excavated.
- 4.1.6 A detailed photographic record of the investigations was compiled using SLR cameras. This comprised black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating the principal features and finds in detail and in general context. All photographs of this nature included a clearly visible graduated metric scale. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological investigations. The photographic record was supplemented with digital photography.
- 4.1.7 Two Temporary Bench Marks (TBMs) were established on the site from existing survey data, these had a values of 102.96m OD and 99.92m OD.

¹⁵ IFA 2001.

¹⁶ PCA 2008.

4.2 Post-excavation

- 4.2.1 Not everything recovered from a site has the same significance and thus the same potential for further study, thus the process of 'assessment' identifies those elements of the site data that require further analysis. In accordance with MoRPHE guidelines, the site data has been assessed for its potential for further analysis in relation to the research objectives of the project and any additional questions that have come to light as a result of the fieldwork. This Assessment Report enumerates the different kinds of evidence (stratigraphic, artefactual and palaeoenvironmental) from the site and sets out a formal assessment of the potential of each element of the collected data for further analysis.
- 4.2.2 The stratigraphic data from the site is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts, enhancing matrices, consulting with external specialists and phasing the stratigraphic data. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described below in Section 5. The contents of the written, graphic and photographic archive are quantified in Section 6.
- 4.2.3 All processing of artefacts and ecofacts was undertaken away from the site. Assemblages of ceramic material and faunal remains were recovered along with a variety of 'small finds' comprising iron, glass and stone objects. All artefacts recovered were treated in an appropriate manner and were cleaned, marked, conserved, bagged, packaged, boxed and stored, as appropriate and in accordance with recognised guidelines.¹⁷
- 4.2.4 All materials that required stabilisation were transferred to a specialist conservation facility as soon as possible. The conservation of vulnerable materials commenced with an assessment of all recovered artefacts. Quality of preservation was assessed and the long-term conservation and storage needs of all excavated material identified.
- 4.2.5 Assessment of artefactual and ecofactual material has been undertaken by suitably qualified personnel. For each category of artefact and ecofact an assessment report has been produced including a basic quantification of the material and a statement of its potential for further analysis and recommendations for such work (Sections 7-11).
- 4.2.6 The palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy was to recover bulk samples from suitable, well-dated archaeological deposits. To this end, five bulk samples, from an overall total of ten collected during the fieldwork, were sent for an initial assessment of potential for survival of biological remains (Section 11).

¹⁷ UKIC 1983; Watkinson and Neal 2001.

4.2.7 Survival of all materials recovered during or generated by archaeological projects depends upon suitable storage. The complete Site Archive, comprising written, drawn and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) and all recovered materials 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 document¹⁸ will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document¹⁹ and a forthcoming IfA publication.²⁰ The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, and internally consistent. The depositional requirements of the receiving body, in this case Tyne and Wear Museum Archive, Arbeia, South Shields.

¹⁸ Brown 2007.

¹⁹ Walker 1990.

²⁰ IfA forthcoming.

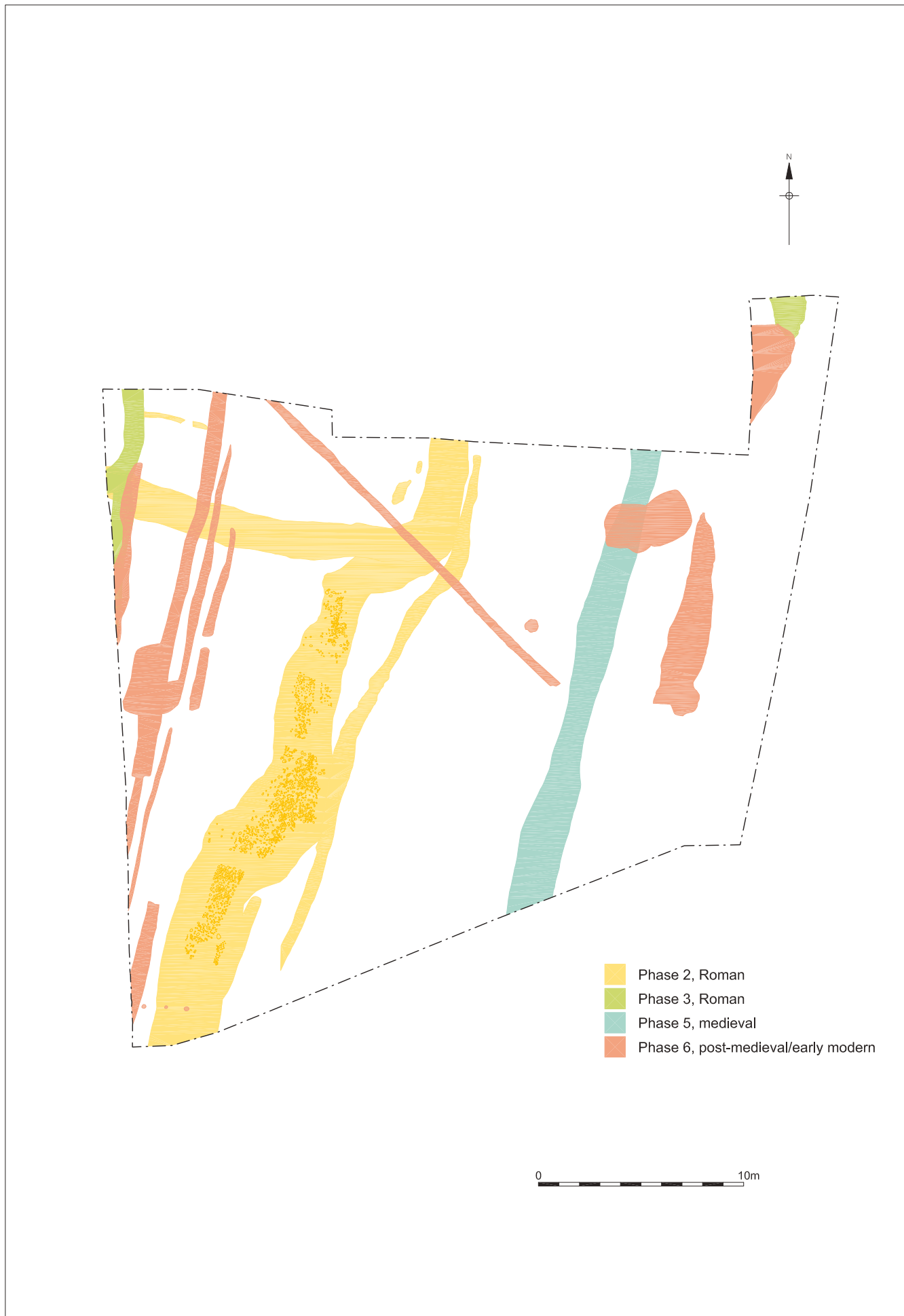


Figure 3. All features, all phases
Scale 1:250

5. PHASED SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Phase 1: Natural Sub-stratum

- 5.1.1 Natural sub-stratum, [12], exposed as the basal deposit across the excavation area, was of variable composition. In general, to the west it comprised light brownish yellow clayey silt and to the east comprised light yellowish brown silty clay. The variable nature of the natural sub-stratum as recorded is typical of glacial till (Boulder Clay) deposits throughout the Tyne valley.
- 5.1.2 The highest and lowest level at which the natural sub-stratum was encountered across the excavation area was 101.53m OD in the north sloping down to 99.14m OD in the south. This generally reflects the natural topography of the site, located on the northern valley side of the River Tyne.

5.2 Phase 2: Roman, 2nd – 3rd Century AD (Figures 3, 7-9)

5.2.1 *Holloway [81], gullies [67], [78] and [121] and enclosure boundary ditch [32]*

- 5.2.1.1 A substantial, rather sinuous, feature, [81], was recorded extending from the south-western corner of the excavation area on a roughly NNE alignment. It was traced for a distance of c. 26m, probably having been truncated to the north by a boundary ditch [32], as discussed further below. The feature was up to c. 4.50m wide and c. 0.44m deep and generally had a shallow U-shaped profile with moderately shallow sloping sides and a very shallow concave to irregular base (Sections 6-9, Figures 8 and 9; Plate 5). It is interpreted as a holloway, which likely formed through a combination of erosion from human and or animal traffic and water flow downslope, with possibly some definition by human intervention. It is assumed that the earliest version of the feature predated boundary ditch [32]. A perceptible change in direction is evident within the northernmost surviving portion of the holloway, and since no trace of the feature was recorded to the east of the boundary ditch, it is assumed that the ditch closely followed the course of the holloway towards the northern limit of excavation.
- 5.2.1.2 A metalled surface, [119], was recorded along the base of the holloway (Plate 6). This was recorded for a distance of 19.50m, continuing beyond the southern limit of excavation, and was up to 50mm thick and 2.50m wide, generally occupying the central part of the feature (Sections 6-9, Figures 8 and 9; Plate 5). The surface was constructed with well-sorted, small round and sub-round cobbles ranging from 30-120mm in diameter set within a silty clay matrix. The surface may have been a later addition to the holloway, possibly being added to consolidate the ground within the feature to facilitate traffic flow after boundary ditch [32] had been excavated and was in use. A single sherd of pottery, from a Nene Valley ware beaker of 3rd century date, was recovered from the metalled surface.
- 5.2.1.3 A NE-SW aligned linear feature, [67], extended across the central portion of the holloway, This measured c. 6.50m NE-SW, with rounded terminals at each end, by up to 0.65m wide and 0.28m deep (Section 8, Figure 9). Its single fill, [66], consisted of sterile silty clay, probably derived from natural silting. This feature, which cut through the metalled surface, is interpreted as a drainage gully. No dateable artefactual material was recovered from the material infilling the gully.

- 5.2.1.4 An extensive, relatively sterile, silty clay deposit, [82], overlay the fill of gully [67] and the metallised surface [119] of the holloway, in fact completely infilling this feature. This was recorded over an area measuring at least c. 26m NNE-SSW, continuing beyond the southern limit of excavation, by c. 4.50m wide and up to 0.40m thick. A small assemblage of seven pottery sherds was recovered from this deposit comprising two amphora sherds, four sherds of 2nd century coarse ware and one sherd of pottery of probable late 3rd century date. Small fragments of Roman tile were also recovered from this deposit along with a sherd of Roman glass and an iron nail. This deposit was very similar in composition to the silting deposits recorded within boundary ditch [32], as described below, and it considered probable that it was derived from the very same depositional process, suggesting that the metallised surface of the holloway and the boundary ditch fell into disuse contemporaneously. A bulk sample from deposit [82] produced only small quantities of charcoal, clinker and coal, with no plant macrofossils present.
- 5.2.1.5 Two other likely drainage features were recorded in association with the holloway. The first was a short length of a NNE-SSW aligned gully, [121], recorded within the south-western corner of the site along the eastern edge of the holloway. This was traced for a distance of at least 5.28m, continuing beyond the southern limit of excavation and with a rounded terminal to the NNE, and measured 0.60m wide and up to 0.30m deep (Section 9, Figure 9). Its single sterile clayey silt fill, [120], was indistinguishable from the silting deposit infilling the holloway and the two features are thus considered likely to have been infilled contemporaneously. The feature was presumably a drainage gully running alongside the holloway.
- 5.2.1.6 The second feature was a sinuous but roughly NNE-SSW aligned feature, assigned group number, [78], recorded running immediately to the east of the holloway. This feature, recorded in four excavated portions as [35], [60], [83] and [113], was traced for a distance of c. 27m. It was truncated by modern activity at its southern extent and had a shallow rounded terminal to the north. It measured up to 0.48m wide and 0.40m deep and generally had a broad shallow U-shaped profile (Section 8, Figure 9) except in the central section where it survived to a greater depth and had steeper sides (Section 7, Figure 8). Its single fill, recorded as [36], [61], [84] and [112], comprised sterile clayey silt indicative of natural silting. A single sherd of 2nd century coarse ware pottery was recovered from the deposit. The form of the gully suggests that it had a drainage function and its location indicates that it was in use at the same time as the holloway. In its northernmost portion the feature ran very close to and parallel with the eastern edge of boundary ditch [32], although no stratigraphic relationship between the two could be determined. It may be that a slight variation in alignment in this northernmost portion reflected a similar change in the alignment of the earliest version of the holloway, as described above.
- 5.2.1.7 The aforementioned ditch, [32], was recorded within the north-westernmost portion of the excavation area and this was probably the south-eastern corner of an enclosure boundary (Plate 1). Its WNW-ESE aligned element was recorded for a distance of c. 16.50m, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the west, and it was of substantial dimensions, up to 1.96m wide and up to 1.20m deep. This portion turned sharply at its eastern extent to form a right-angled corner (Plate 2).

- 5.2.1.8 The NNE-SSW aligned element of the ditch was recorded for a distance of c. 6m, continuing beyond the northern limit of excavation. This element of the ditch had a distinct V-shaped profile with a generally narrow and concave base (Sections 1 and 2, Figure 7; Plate 3). Towards its eastern extent, the WNW-ESE aligned element of the ditch had a steep-sided profile, stepping down to a narrow base (Section 3, Figure 7), becoming more U-shaped in profile with a generally wide, concave base (Sections 4 and 5, Figures 7 and 8; Plate 4). The southern edge of this element of the feature was stepped.
- 5.2.1.9 The primary fill of ditch [32], recorded as [34], [77], [94] and [100], generally consisted of silty clay up to c. 0.43m thick. These deposits were generally relatively sterile, indicating accumulation by natural silting. A total of nine sherds of pottery were recovered from the primary fills, including one sherd of locally produced mortarium dated AD 120-160 and eight sherds of 2nd century coarse ware pottery. A bulk sample from fill [94] produced small quantities of charcoal, clinker and coal. Low numbers of charred and uncharred plant weed seeds were also present, including charred sedges and uncharred sedges and a seed of elder. The charred remains are likely to derive in areas of wasteland, while the uncharred remains possibly derive from semi-waterlogged conditions within the ditch.
- 5.2.1.10 The primary fills of ditch [32] were overlain by fills [33], [76] and [93], which generally comprised clayey silt, up to c. 0.33m thick. Two sherds of 2nd century pottery were recovered from these fills, one sherd each of coarse ware and oxidised ware. The relatively sterile compositions of these deposits and the scant artefactual material within them suggest that they also derived from natural silting. It was observed that these fills were thickest towards the corner of the ditch, indicating that water puddled at this location. Indeed, within the corner of the ditch, the infill was solely natural silt, with a maximum combined thickness of 0.88m (Section 2). A bulk sample from fill [93] produced small quantities of charcoal, clinker and coal. Only one charred seed of the wildflower pink, likely to have derived from an area of wasteland, and one uncharred seed of common nettle were recovered.
- 5.2.1.11 The natural silting fills of the ditch were overlain by fills [40], [75], [92], [98], [99] and [101], comprising various compositions of clay and silt. An assemblage of five sherds of pottery was recovered from these fills, comprising four sherds of coarse ware and one sherd of Central Gaulish samian, all of 2nd century date. A few scraps of ceramic building material were also recovered. The more mixed composition of these fills suggests that they probably accumulated as a result of deliberate backfilling, rather than by natural silting. No such backfill deposits were present within the corner of the ditch where natural silting appeared to have completely infilled the feature, a previously described. West of the corner, the thickness of the backfill deposits increased as the natural silts decreased in thickness, suggesting that the partially silted ditch had been deliberately backfilled as it ran to the WNW. These backfill deposits increased from a thickness of c. 0.40m in the east, fill [40], (Section 3) to c. 0.60m, fill [75], (Section 4). Adjacent to the western limit of excavation, three backfills deposits were recorded, [101], [99] and [98], with a combined thickness of c. 1m (Section 5). North of the corner, the backfill, [92], was c. 0.20m thick adjacent to the northern limit of excavation (Section 1). A bulk sample taken from deposit [92] produced only small quantities of charcoal, clinker and coal with no plant macrofossils recovered.

5.2.1.12 This ditch represents a substantial boundary feature that delimited the south-eastern corner of a plot of land or an enclosure set out on the valley side to the south of the Vallum, the southern defensive element of the Roman frontier. It may in fact have formed part of the boundary delimiting the extent of the *vicus* attached to the Roman fort at Benwell. Pottery of 2nd century date was recovered from both the primary silting material within the ditch and backfill deposits, suggesting that it was in use during the 2nd century. However, 3rd century pottery was recovered from the silting deposits overlying the adjacent holloway [82] and, in fact, many of the featureless body sherds recovered from the ditch could also be attributed to the 3rd century. On balance, therefore, it is considered likely that the boundary ditch continued in use into the 3rd century.

5.2.2 Features within enclosure [32]: linear feature [111] and discrete features [95] and [105]

5.2.2.1 Three features were recorded within the area defined by ditch [32] towards the north-western corner of the excavation area. The first was a WNW-ESE aligned linear feature, [111]. This measured 3m in length, truncated by a Phase 3 feature to the west and with a rounded terminal to the east, and was 0.30m wide and up to 70mm deep. Although no dateable artefactual material was recovered from its single clayey silt fill, [110], the similarity of alignment to boundary ditch [32] perhaps indicates contemporaneity, further supported by the fact that it was truncated by a feature assigned to Phase 3. It is tentatively interpreted as a beam slot for a horizontal timber, possibly representing part a larger structure situated within the enclosure.

5.2.2.2 An irregularly shaped, but roughly oval feature, [105], was situated within the south-eastern corner of the enclosure delimited by ditch [32]. This measured 1.40m by 0.54m and 90mm deep and no dateable artefactual material was recovered from its single sandy clay fill, [106]. The function of this feature is unclear and is tentatively interpreted as a shallow pit. It has been assigned to this phase of activity due to its location within the corner of the enclosure.

5.2.2.3 An oval feature, [95], measuring 0.88m by 0.22m and 0.18m deep, was recorded a short distance to the north of pit [105] (Section 10, Figure 9). Again no dateable artefactual material was recovered from its single clayey sandy silt fill, [96], but, as it was situated within the south-eastern corner of the enclosure, it could be contemporary. The function of the feature is uncertain, however, based on its regular vertical sides and a flat base, it could conceivably represent an infant burial. Although no human remains were recovered from it, it is likely that any human remains, especially those of an infant, would have degraded due to the acidic nature of the burial environment.

5.3 Phase 3: Roman, 2nd – 3rd Century AD (Figures 4, 9 and 10)

5.3.1 Ditches [50], [102], [9]

5.3.1.1 Two linear features, [50] and [102], truncated the western extent of enclosure ditch [32] (Plate 7) within the north-western corner of the excavation area. Feature [50] truncated the northern edge of the enclosure ditch and the western extent of slot [111] (Section 5, Figure 8). Ditch [50] was recorded for a distance of c. 3m north-south, continuing beyond the northern limit of excavation, and turned gradually at its southern extent to run on a WSW-ENE alignment – as far as could be ascertained given the limited degree to which it was possible to expose this portion of the feature up to the western limit of excavation.

- 5.3.1.2 The north-south element of the ditch had steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Section 11, Figure 9; Plate 9), to the west becoming stepped with a generally broad concave base (Section 5, Figure 8). It measured up to c. 1m wide and c. 0.70m deep. The primary fill, [104], comprised a silty clay up to 0.30m thick. The sterile nature of the deposit indicates that it was derived from natural silting.
- 5.3.1.3 Located at the base of ditch [50], within the southern extent of fill [104], were a group of nine large sub-round boulders, [39] (Plate 8). It is considered that these were probably deliberately placed to block the ditch and it was observed that deposit [104] did not extent southwards beyond the boulders.
- 5.3.1.4 The primary fill of ditch [50] was overlain by another fill, [51], which comprised silty clay up to c. 0.60m thick. A single sherd of 2nd century pottery was recovered from this deposit. A substantial, roughly-dressed flagstone (SF 3), measuring c. 0.49m by 0.46m and 90mm thick, was recovered from this deposit (Plate 13). This was presumably derived from a substantial stone structure in the vicinity, either a building or external surface, having been dumped into the ditch at the time of disuse of the feature, and presumably following some degree of demolition of the originating structure.
- 5.3.1.5 Interpretation of the ditch cannot be certain as such a small portion was exposed within the confines of the excavation area. However, it may represent a boundary ditch that re-established the south-eastern corner of the enclosure c. 16m further to the west than boundary ditch, [32], which it post-dated.
- 5.3.1.6 A NNE-SSW aligned linear feature, ditch [102], truncated the southern edge of boundary ditch [32]. Measuring at least c. 5.80m in length, continuing beyond the western limit of excavation, this feature conjoined with ditch [50] to the north. It may have been that the boulders within that feature, as described above, were deliberately placed to prevent water from running into ditch [102]. Ditch [102] was up to 1.50m wide and 0.50m deep and had steeply sloping sides and concave base, very similar in profile and dimensions to ditch [50] (Section 12, Figure 10; Plate 10). The primary fill, [107], comprised sterile silty clay indicative of natural silting. It was overlain by another clayey fill, [103], up to 0.40m thick. No dateable artefactual material was recovered from either fill, but the feature is considered to be contemporary with boundary ditch [50]. It is therefore interpreted as a drainage ditch, possibly also functioning as a boundary ditch delimiting the eastern side of a parcel of land to the south of the re-established enclosure. A bulk sample from fill [107] produced small quantities of charcoal, clinker and coal. Only one charred seed of grass was recovered from this sample, likely to have derived from an area of wasteland in the vicinity.
- 5.3.1.7 The southern terminal of a presumed linear north-south aligned feature, [9], was recorded at the north-eastern extent of the excavation area. This feature measured at least 2.10m by 1.72m wide and up to 0.50m deep. No dateable artefactual material was recovered from its single sandy clay fill, [10]. Any interpretation cannot be certain, as only a small part of the feature was exposed, but it possibly most likely represents the terminal of a drainage ditch.

5.4 Phase 4: Late or Post-Roman?

- 5.4.1 The upper fill of boundary ditch [32] was overlain by an extensive silty clay deposit, [3], up to 0.30m thick and observed extending across the central and northern parts of the excavation area during machine clearance of overburden. It certainly sealed Phase 3 features [32], [35], and [95] and possibly extended across the whole of the excavation area prior to modern landscaping activity. A small assemblage of thirteen sherds of early to mid 2nd century pottery was recovered from this deposit, which has been interpreted as colluvium, or hillwash material, that likely began to accumulate when Roman occupation in the area ceased.

5.5 Phase 5: Medieval, 13 – 14th Century (Figures 5 and 10)

5.5.1 Ditch [23]

- 5.5.1.1 A NNE-SSW aligned linear feature, [23], extended across the eastern portion of the excavation area for a distance of at least c. 23.50m, continuing beyond the limits of excavation to the north and south. It was up to 1.65m wide and 0.42m deep and had a broad U-shaped profile (Section 13, Figure 10; Plate 11). Although no dateable artefactual material was recovered during the excavation from either of its generally clayey silt fills, [25] and [24], the ditch had been examined previously during the evaluation phase of work, at which time a single sherd of 13th to early 14th century pottery was recovered. This feature is interpreted as a boundary ditch, probably also serving the dual purpose of drainage, delimiting a parcel of land which would have extended southwards down the valley side from the line of the Newcastle to Carlisle road to the north of the site.

5.6 Phase 6: Post-medieval – Early Modern (Figures 6 and 10)

5.6.1 Linear features, [7], [21], [48], [52], [54] and [56] and postholes [26], [28] and [30]

- 5.6.1.1 A NNE-SSW aligned linear feature, [21], was located in the eastern part of the excavation area. This measured c. 10m in length, evidently truncated at either end by modern landscaping, and was 2.20m wide and 0.30m deep. An iron nail of undiagnostic date (SF 1) was recovered from its single silty sandy clay fill, [22]. No other artefactual material was recovered from its fill and, based on its form, the feature is interpreted as a plough furrow of probable post-medieval date.
- 5.6.1.2 Part of a presumed NNE-SSW aligned feature, [7], measuring c. 4.80m by at least 2.50m wide, continuing beyond the limits of excavation, and up to 0.34m deep was recorded c. 5m to the north of furrow [21]. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery and an iron nail (SF 7) were recovered from its single sandy silty clay fill, [8]. Although this feature was only partially exposed, the similarity in form and composition to furrow [21] indicates that it was likely a continuation of the same feature.
- 5.6.1.3 A group of four parallel, NNE-SSW aligned, shallow linear features, [48], [52], [54] and [56], was recorded adjacent to the western limit of excavation. All four features may have been associated with drainage activity on the valley side during the post-medieval period and early modern era. The fills of all four contained varying quantities of crushed and fragmented coal, presumably derived from the colliery workings known in the near vicinity of the excavation area in the post-medieval period and early modern era.

- 5.6.1.4 The most westerly of the four features was gully [52], which measured at least 9m in length, continuing beyond the western limit of excavation, by 0.48m wide and 90mm deep. No dateable artefactual material was recovered from its single silty clay fill, [53], which was notable, as mentioned, for the inclusions of colliery waste throughout.
- 5.6.1.5 Located c. 3.50m to the east of feature [52] was a parallel discontinuous linear feature, [56], which measured at least 23m, continuing beyond the western limit of excavation, by 0.80m wide and 70mm deep. No dateable artefactual material was recovered from its single clay silt fill [57], which was notable, as mentioned, for the inclusions of colliery waste throughout.
- 5.6.1.6 Parallel to and truncating the eastern edge of [56] was another linear feature, [54], which measured at least c. 23m, continuing beyond the northern and western limits of excavation, and was 1.08m wide and 80mm deep. Its clayey sand primary fill, [74], was c. 0.10m thick and contained frequent colliery waste throughout as well as yielding two sherds of Roman pottery, these residual in context. The upper fill, [55], comprised clayey silt up to 0.20m thick, from which no artefactual material was recovered.
- 5.6.1.7 Located c. 0.50m to the east of wheel rut [56] was a similar parallel and discontinuous linear feature, [48], which extended for a total distance of 24.60m, continuing beyond the western limit of excavation. It was up to 0.75m wide at its south-western extent, narrowing to the north-east, and was up to 70mm deep. No artefactual material was recovered from its single clay silt fill, [49].
- 5.6.1.8 A group of three circular features, [26], [28] and [30], was located towards the south-western corner of the excavation area, on a roughly east-west alignment. Each measured up to c. 0.22m in diameter and up to 0.30m deep and collectively formed a line c. 2m in length. All the fills, [27], [29] and [31], respectively, comprised sandy silt, with frequent inclusions of colliery waste. This group of features is interpreted as a line of postholes, possibly representing part of a larger structure or, alternatively, part of a fenceline. Although no dateable artefactual material was recovered from any of the fills, the colliery waste indicates a post-medieval or early modern date.
- 5.6.1.9 A sub-circular feature, [108], measuring c. 0.66m by 0.50m and 0.25m deep, was recorded in the central part of the excavation area. No dateable artefactual material was recovered from its single sandy clay fill, [109]. The function of this feature is unclear and it has been tentatively interpreted as a pit; it has been placed within this phase of activity due to the similarity in composition of its fill with those of other Phase 6 features.
- 5.6.1.10 Two inter-cutting substantial sub-circular features, [20] and [4], were recorded in the eastern portion of the excavation area. Truncating medieval boundary ditch [23] was feature [20], which measured c. 3.20m by 2.60m and 1.20m deep (Section 14, Figure 10). Its primary fill, [19], comprising clayey silt up to 0.40m thick, was a relatively sterile deposit, indicative of re-deposited natural. This was overlain by a sequence of fills, [18], [17], [16] and [15], these comprising varying quantities of colliery waste (Plate 12). Of particular note was fill [16], which consisted entirely of crushed and fragmented coal, and the uppermost fill, [15], which contained frequent fragments of shale. This feature is interpreted as a refuse pit and although no dateable material was recovered from any of its fills, the frequent inclusion of coal and shale are considered indicative of a post-medieval or early modern date.

- 5.6.1.11 Truncating the western edge of refuse pit [20] was another sub-circular feature, [4], which measured 2.40m by 2.30m and 0.52m deep (Section 14, Figure 10). Its single fill, [13], comprised frequent medium to large boulders within a loose clayey silt matrix. This feature is interpreted as a refuse pit and the boulders may represent field clearance during the post-medieval or early modern period.
- 5.6.1.12 A NW-SE aligned stone-lined culvert, [69], was recorded extending from the northern limit of excavation across the central portion of the excavation area. The structure was a set within a vertical-sided construction cut, [70], measuring up to 0.44m wide and up to 0.40m deep. The walls of the culvert, [69], were built with roughly hewn sandstone slabs measuring up to 400mm x 280mm x 80mm. The base of the culvert was not stone-lined but it was capped using similar slabs as formed its walls. The culvert was recorded for a distance of at least 19.40m, continuing beyond the northern limit of excavation and truncated at its south-eastern extent by recent levelling activity. It is possible that the culvert formed part of a wider drainage system associated with the grounds of the former dwelling of Lower Condercum, which dates to the second half of the 19th century.

5.7 Phase 7: Modern

- 5.7.1 A roughly north-south aligned trench, [43], was recorded extending across the central portion of the excavation area. Its single silty clay fill, [41], contained an iron pipe, [42], and the feature was thus a service trench of modern origin.
- 5.7.2 An extensive clayey silt deposit, [2], up to 0.90m thick, was observed during machine clearance of overburden across the northern part of the excavation area. The deposit was recorded in section directly overlying features of post-medieval and Roman date and has been interpreted as being derived from levelling activity during the formation of the current fields and buildings of Trinity School.

5.8 Phase 8: Modern

- 5.8.1 Prior to the excavation, the entire excavation area was covered with a dark grey clayey silt topsoil, [1], up to 0.66m thick, with a developed turf surface. The maximum recorded height of the topsoil was c. 104m OD, this at the north-eastern corner of the excavation area, while the minimum was 99.14m OD, this at the south-western extent of the excavation area.

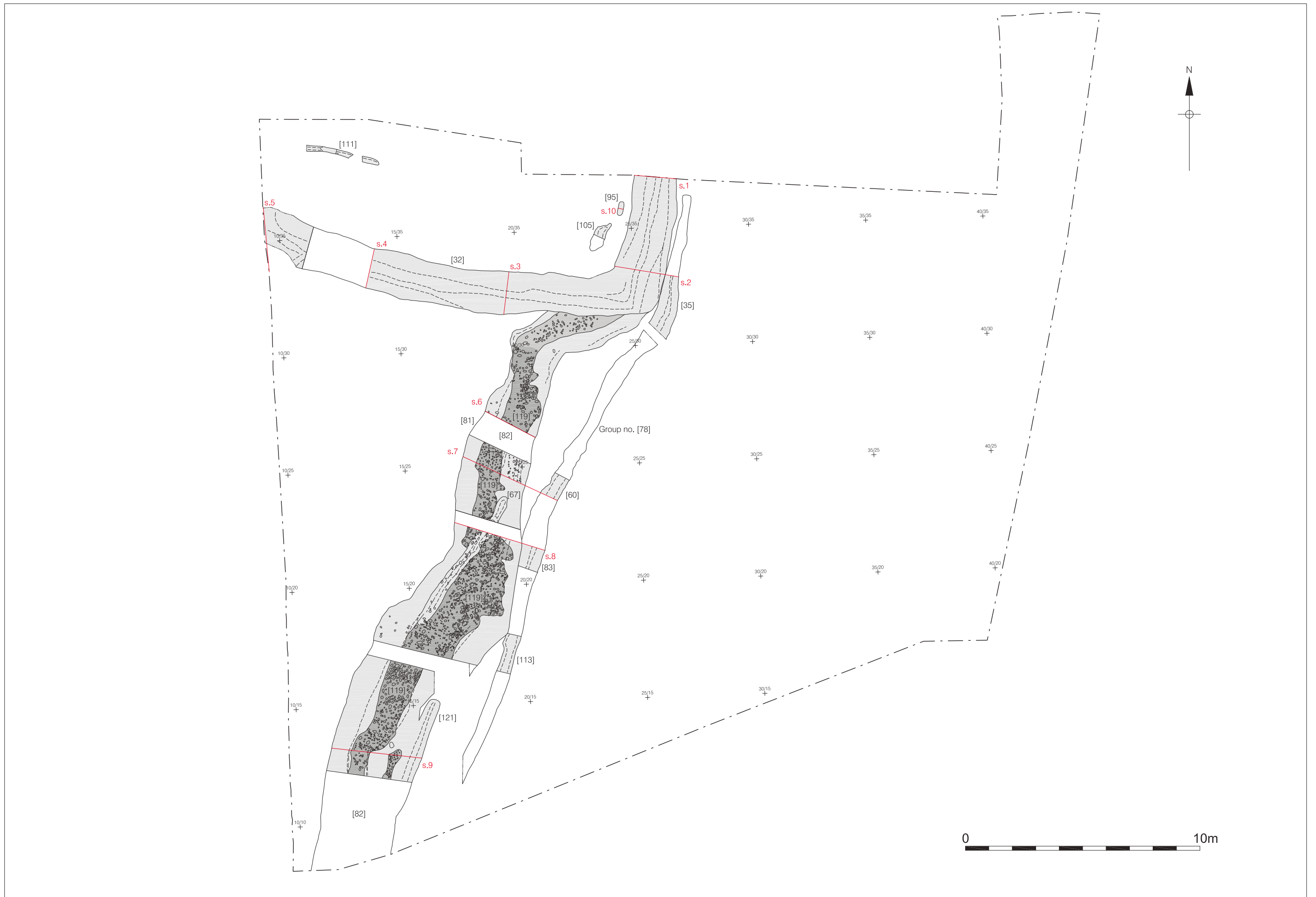


Figure 4. Phase 2, plan
Scale 1:150



Figure 5. Phase 3, plan
Scale 1:150

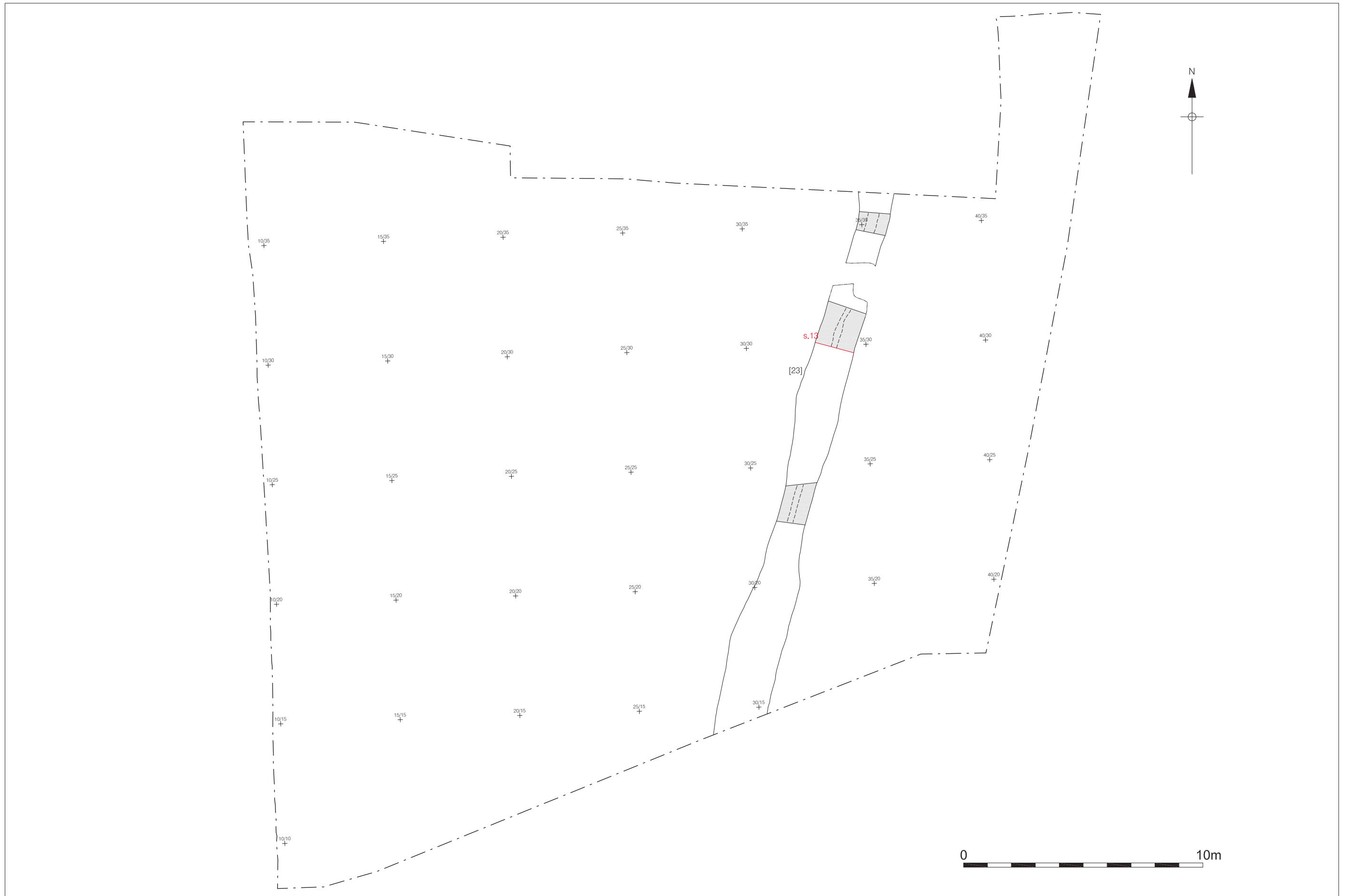


Figure 6. Phase 5, plan
Scale 1:150

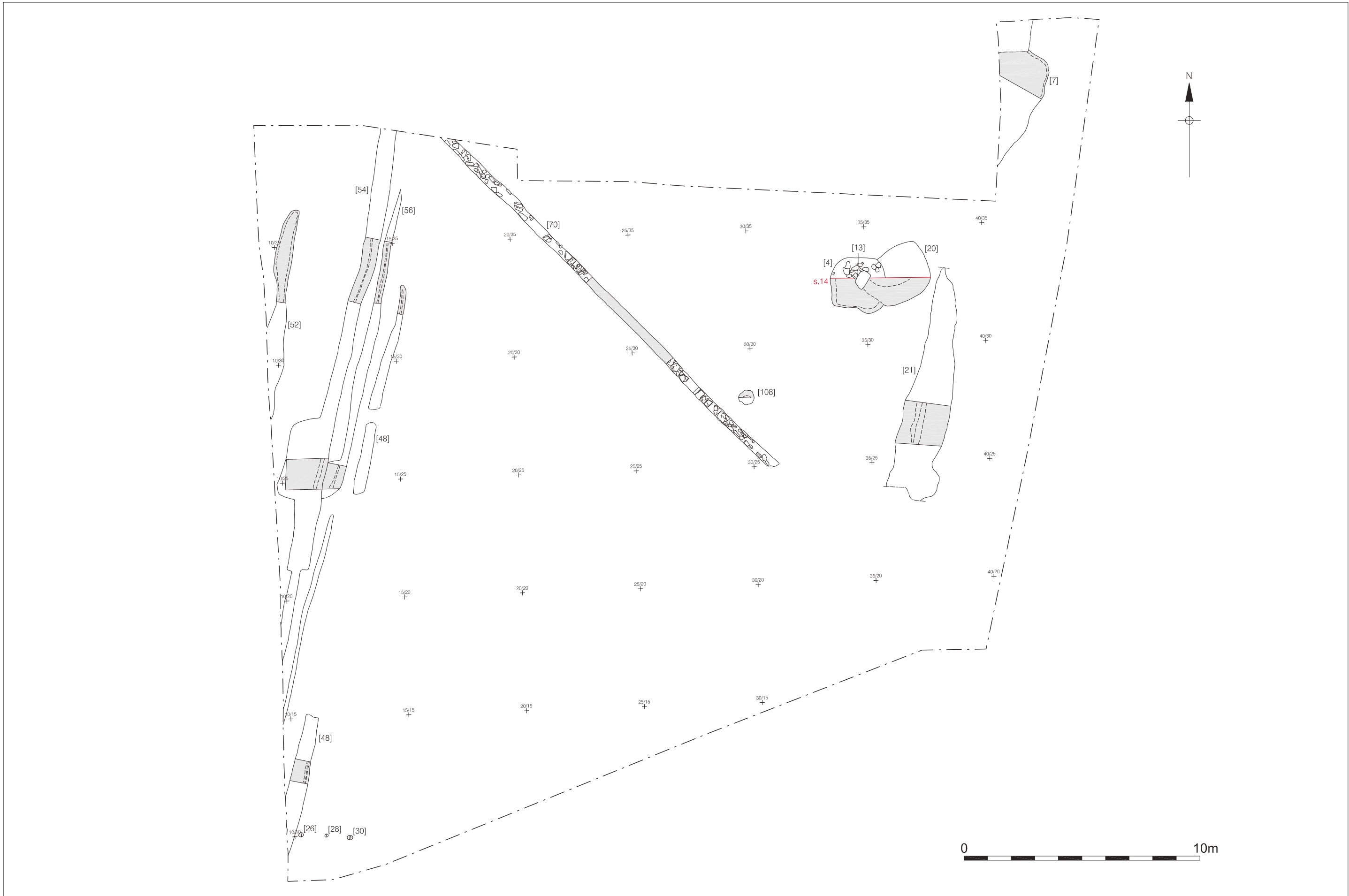
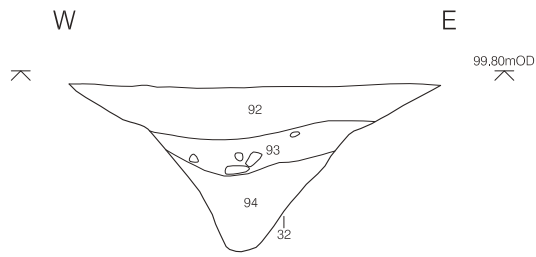
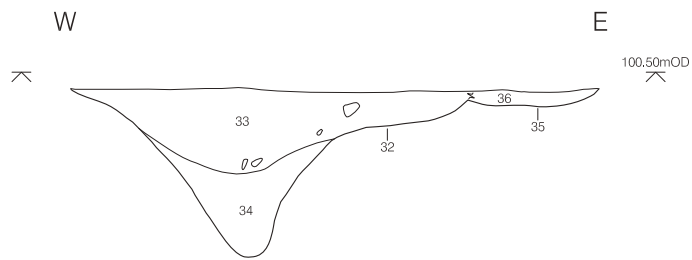


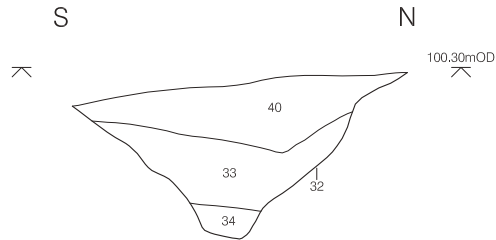
Figure 7. Phase 6, plan
Scale 1:150



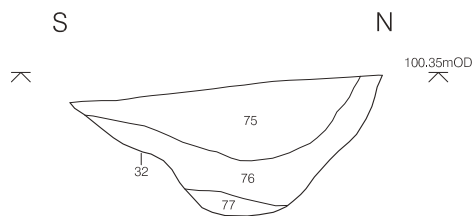
Section 1. South facing section across enclosure ditch [32], Phase 2.



Section 2. South facing section across enclosure ditch [32] and gully [35], Phase 2.



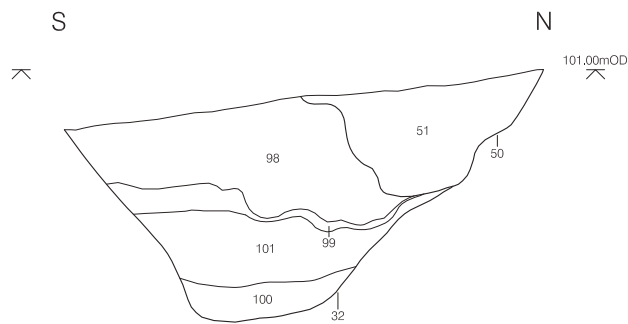
Section 3. East facing section across enclosure ditch [32], Phase 2.



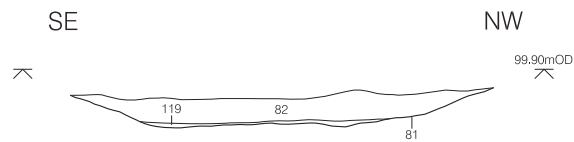
Section 4. East facing section across enclosure ditch [32], Phase 2.



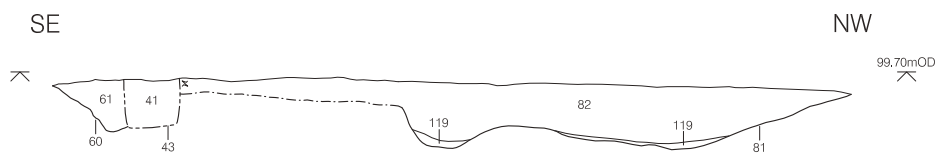
Figure 8. Sections 1 - 4
Scale 1:40



Section 5. East facing section across enclosure ditch [32], Phase 2 and ditch [50], Phase 3.



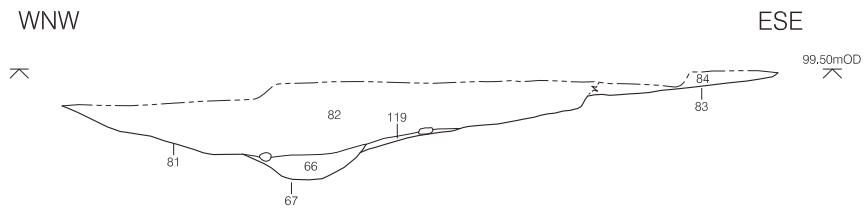
Section 6. North-east facing section across linear [81] and surface [119], Phase 2.



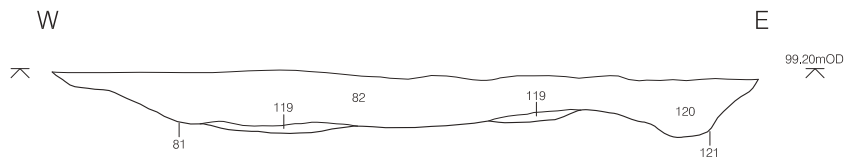
Section 7. North-east facing section across linear [81] and gully [60], Phase 2.



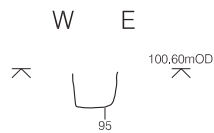
Figure 9. Sections 5 - 7
Scale 1:40



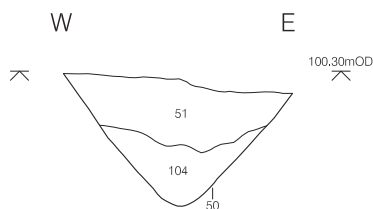
Section 8. SSW facing section across linear [81], surface [119] and gullies [67] and [83], Phase 2.



Section 9. South facing section across linear [81], surface [119] and gully [121], Phase 2.



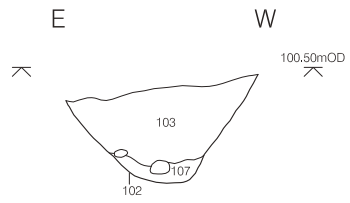
Section 10. West - east profile of possible grave [95], Phase 2.



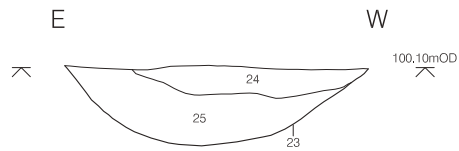
Section 11. South facing section across ditch [50], Phase 3.



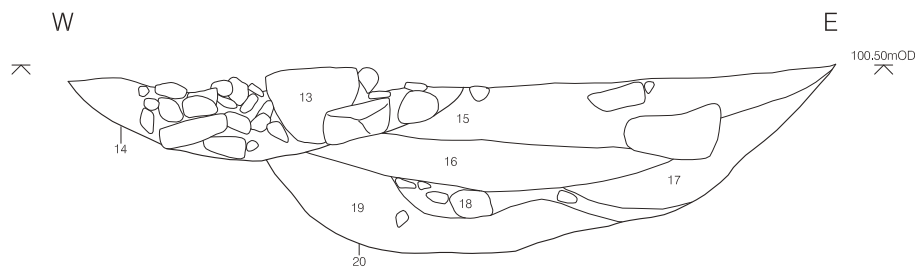
Figure 10. Sections 8 - 11
Scale 1:40



Section 12. North facing section across ditch [102], Phase 3.



Section 13. North facing section across ditch [23], Phase 5.



Section 14. South facing section across pits [14] and [20], Phase 6.



Figure 11. Sections 12 - 14
Scale 1:40

PART B: DATA ASSESSMENT

6. STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

6.1 Paper Records

6.1.1 The paper element of the Site Archive is as follows:

<i>Item</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Sheets</i>
Context register	1	3
Context sheets	88	88
Section register	1	1
Section drawings	24	17
Plans	31	113
Environmental sample register	1	1
Environmental sample sheets	10	10
Small finds register	1	1

Table 6.1: Contents of the paper archive

6.2 Photographic Records

6.2.1 The photographic element of the Site Archive is as follows:

<i>Item</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Sheets</i>
Colour slide register	3	5
Colour slides	81	5
Monochrome print registers	3	4
Monochrome prints	51	8
Monochrome negatives	51	4

Table 6.2: Contents of the photographic archive

6.3 Site Archive

6.3.1 The complete Site Archive, including the paper and photographic records, is currently housed at the Northern Office of Pre-Construct Archaeology.

6.3.2 The Site Archive will eventually be deposited with Tyne and Wear Museum Archive, Arbeia, South Shields for permanent storage and the detailed requirements of the repository will be met prior to deposition.

7. ROMAN POTTERY

By: A. Croom

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The excavation at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site) produced a total of 28 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 0.355kg. This figure includes the samian, as well as all of the other fine wares, coarse wares, amphoras and the mortaria. The assemblage was recovered from just eleven contexts.

7.2 Summary of the Pottery Records in the Site Archive

7.2.1 The following tasks have been completed:

1. Spot-dating: a context by context paper record of all pottery recovered, listing fabrics (as quantified in Table 7.1) and forms present and giving the date-range of each context.
2. Comments on the condition of the pottery such as worn and abraded sherds are also identified.
3. General comments on how dating was arrived at and a note of the presence of any post-Roman material.
4. The identification of pottery of intrinsic interest or complete vessels that may be worth illustrating.
5. Quantification by sherd count and weight in grams and sorting of fabrics: an attempt to obtain a clearer indication of the quality of the dating evidence.
6. Transfer of spot-dating information onto a spreadsheet to allow manipulation of the data in the advent of any future research programme.

7.3 The Pottery

7.3.1 Samian

7.3.1.1 A single sherd of Central Gaulish samian was recovered.

7.3.2 Fine and coarse wares

7.3.2.1 A single sherd of a Nene Valley ware colour coated indented scale beaker, of 3rd century date, was recovered.

7.3.2.2 The coarse wares consist of BB1, a possible sherd of BB2, sherds of locally produced grey wares and oxidised wares of the 2nd century, and flagons. There is the rim of a Crambeck reduced ware jar and a small body sherd of calcite-gritted ware with an oxidised exterior.

7.3.3 Amphorae

7.3.3.1 Sherds from two oil-carrying Dressel 20s, the most common type of amphora found on Romano-British sites, were recovered.

7.3.4 *Mortaria*

- 7.3.4.1 A single sherd of a locally produced mortarium by the potter Anaus, dated AD 120-60, was recovered.

7.4 Summary

- 7.4.1 The assemblage consists mainly of sherds from coarse ware cooking pots or jars, with a single sherd each of samian, mortarium and fine ware, and two amphora sherds.
- 7.4.2 Many of the featureless body sherds could be either 2nd or 3rd century in date. There is one sherd from context [74] dating to the late 3rd century or later, and a second sherd from context [82] probably of the same date.

7.5 Discussion

- 7.5.1 The assemblage is made up of material typical for the region. The majority of the material comes from Phase 2, all of which could be 2nd century in date. The one sherd from this phase that is certainly of 3rd century date came from the metalled surface, [119], of the holloway. The majority of the pottery from Phase 3 could also be 2nd century in date, although there was a single sherd of calcite-gritted ware, which is typically late 3rd century or later in this area. The sherd of late 3rd century or later Crambeck reduced ware came from post-medieval material [74]. The presence of this late material is of interest since the site is situated on the outskirts of the settlement.

7.6 Recommendations for Further Work

- 7.6.1 Although the assemblage from Trinity School (Oakfield College Site) is small, a short note is recommended in any proposed publication report due to the presence of the late Roman sherds. Two vessels are worth illustrating.
- 7.6.2 The pottery is in a stable condition and no further conservation is required.
- 7.6.3 It is recommended that all the Roman pottery should be retained as part of the Site Archive.

Context	Fabric	Vessel	Part	Sherds	Wt (kg)	EVE (%)	Comments
08	mod			2			
34	Anaus	mort	rim	1	0.141	12	grey core, distal groove
34	SEDBB1	c-p	bsh	1	0.008		
51	BB2	c-p	bsh	1	0.011	10	
61	OW		scrap	1	0.001		
74	CramRe	c-p	rim	1	0.008	4	
74	OW		scrap	1	0.001		
75	SEDBB1	c-p	bsh	1	0.003		
75	OW		scrap	1	0.002		
76	SEDBB1	c-p	bsh	1	0.006		
76	OW		bsh	1	0.004		
82	dr 20	amph	bsh	2	0.087		
82	GW	lid	knob	1	0.015		fine white incl, red core
82	GW	c-p	bsh	1	0.003		
82	cal grit	c-p	bsh	1	0.005		oxidised exterior
82	OW	flag	bsh	1	0.001		grey interior surface
82	OW	flag	bsh	1	0.003		cream fabric
92	Samian	Dr 18-31	rim	1	0.002	4	
92	RW	c-p	bsh	1	0.008		sooted ext, buff fabric
92	OW		scrap	1	0.001		
94	SEDBB1	c-p	base	7	0.039		
119	NVCC	beak	bsh	1	0.006		indented scale

Table 7.1. General summary of all Roman pottery fabrics present

Key

amph amphora
beak beaker
bsh body sherd
cal grit calcite-gritted ware
c-p cooking pot
CramRe Crambeck reduced ware
dr 20 Dressel 20
EVE estimated vessel equivalent
flag flagon
incl inclusions
NVCC Nene Valley colour-coated ware
OW oxidised ware
RW reduced ware
SEDBB1 South-east Dorset black burnished ware

8. CERAMIC AND STONE BUILDING MATERIAL

By: *A. Croom and J. Proctor*

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The excavation at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site) produced 37 fragments of ceramic building material, of which 24 were unidentifiable scraps. The pieces in general were very small and in poor condition and have been quantified in Table 8.1.

8.2 Roman Tile

8.4.1 The majority of the Roman tile came from Context [82] and consisted of fragments from at least three *imbrices* and a probable *tegula*. They were accompanied by a large number of fragments, and were all in poor condition.

8.3 Medieval or Post-medieval Tile

8.3.1 Fragments of possible flat tiles of medieval or post-medieval date were recovered, but the pieces were too small for certain identification. There was also a fragment of post-medieval pantile.

<i>Context</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Comments</i>
08	1	scrap	undiagnostic	purple	softly fired, no surviving faces
22	1	pantile	Post-medieval	red	
34	1	tegula?	Roman	red	over-fired
34	1	scrap	undiagnostic	red	
34	1	scrap	unknown	orange	
55	1	flat tile	Post-medieval	red	
55	1	scrap	undiagnostic	orange	soft
57	1	scrap	undiagnostic	orange	
74	2	flat tile	Post-medieval	red	one over-fired; fabric could be Roman, but thickness suggests later flat tile
75	1	scrap	undiagnostic	red	
82	4	imbrex	Roman	red	3 different tiles; 2 shh join
82	4	tegula?	Roman	red	possible flange
82	14	scrap	Roman	red	
98	3	scrap	undiagnostic	red	
112	3	scrap	undiagnostic	red	

Table 8.1: Roman, Medieval or Post-medieval fabrics

8.4 Roman Stone

8.4.1 A roughly dressed sandstone flagstone was recovered from Phase 3 ditch [50]. This measured 490mm x 460mm x 90mm thick (Plate 13).

8.5 Distribution and Discussion

8.5.1 The majority of the assemblage, consisting of 22 fragments, was derived from a silting deposit, [82], overlying the metalled surface of the holloway, but given the size and poor condition of this assemblage the material is likely to be residual in context. The largest feature assemblage of seven sherds was recovered from the combined fills of the enclosure ditch, [32], and was also small in size and in poor condition. The remainder of the assemblage was recovered from post-medieval or early modern deposits. The bulk of the assemblage, aside from broadly dating individual features, largely provides background evidence for the presence and character of Roman structures within the wider vicinity.

8.5.2 The presence of Roman tile and the flagstone indicates the existence of masonry structures in the vicinity but the small size and re-deposited nature of the assemblage prevents any further characterisation. It is likely that the tile material and flagstone is derived from Roman masonry structures associated with the *vicus* attached to the fort of *Condercum*.

8.6 Recommendations

8.6.1 Most of the fragments of ceramic building material from Trinity School (Oakfield College Site) are too small for positive identification, and the remaining assemblage is too small, abraded and probably largely re-deposited for meaningful analysis. There is no potential for further work. The tile and flagstone assemblage does, however, provide background information about the type of structures represented nearby and would be worth summarising at publication level for any future distributional studies undertaken on broader Roman Benwell.

8.6.2 All fragments listed as 'scrap' has little value and could be discarded. The flagstone will be retained until it is established whether it is to be deposited with Tyne and Wear Museums.

9. METAL FINDS

By: *Märit Gaimster*

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 The excavation at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site) yielded four metal objects; one complete iron nail (SF 1), and three iron fragments likely to all represent incomplete nails (SF 2, SF 6 and SF 7). The finds are listed in Table 9.1 below. Two incomplete nails were retrieved from Roman features, SF 2 from a drainage gully, [66], and SF 6 from a silting deposit, [82], overlying the metallated surface of the holloway. The other two nails (SF 1 and SF 7) came from plough furrows of post-medieval or later date.

Context	SF	Description	Date
8	7	incomplete iron nail; L 30mm	
22	1	iron nail, complete with flat irregular head; L 60mm	
66	2	incomplete iron nail; L 55mm	
82	6	incomplete iron nail; L 22mm	2nd to 3rd century

Table 9.1: Metal finds

9.4 Recommendations

9.4.1 Metal and small finds form an integral component of the material recovered during excavation and should, where relevant, be included in any further publication of the site. The four iron nails from Benwell require no further work. There is no need for a 'formal' small finds report.

10. GLASS

By: A. Croom

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 A single sherd of Roman glass was recovered from the excavation at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site).

10.2. Description

10.2.1 The sherd of Roman glass (SF 4) was recovered from a silting deposit, [82], overlying the metallated surface of the holloway. The glass fabric is the ubiquitous blue-green glass commonly found between the 1st and 3rd centuries, but also present in smaller quantities in the 4th century. This sherd has very meagre sanding on one surface.

10.2.2 The sherd of glass is flat, which suggests that it is window glass.

10.3 Recommendations

10.3.1 No further work is recommended on the single glass sherd. A short description of the material should be included in any publication report.

11. BIOLOGICAL REMAINS

By: Bryan Atkinson and Lorne Elliott

11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 Plant macrofossil assessment was carried out on five bulk samples from the excavation at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site); these were collected from four ditch fills and from a silting deposit overlying a metallated surface.

11.1.2 The objective was to assess plant macrofossil evidence within the samples, in order to establish their potential to provide information about the diet and agricultural practices of former inhabitants, and the palaeoenvironment of the site.

11.2 Method

11.1.1 The bulk samples were manually floated and sieved through a 500 μ m mesh. The residues were described and scanned using a magnet for ferrous fragments. The flots were dried slowly and examined at up to $\times 60$ magnifications using a Leica MZ7.5 stereomicroscope. Identification of the plant remains was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University. Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

11.3 Results

11.1.1 The samples comprised small fragments of charcoal, clinker, and coal. Pre-Quaternary fossils/spores from the local geology were recorded in three of the five samples. All five samples produced flots of very small volume, no greater than 3ml, with low numbers of charred and uncharred weed seeds in contexts [93], [94] and [107]. These comprised a few charred seeds of sedges, grass and pink family and an uncharred seed each of elder, common nettle and sedge. Four of the five samples contain fragments of charcoal suitable for radiocarbon dating. The results are presented in Table 11.1.

11.4 Discussion

11.4.1 The absence or low numbers of charred plant macrofossils provide no information about the diet, economy or agricultural practices at the site. The few charred seeds from sedges, pinks and grass are likely to derive from weeds growing on nearby areas of disturbed or damp ground, for example in or beside the ditches. The presence of uncharred seeds may reflect semi-waterlogged conditions in the ditches, but are probably more likely to be modern contaminants, introduced through bioturbation.

11.5 Recommendations for Further Work

11.5.1 No further plant macrofossil work is required due to the low numbers of charred plant remains, and absence of economic plants.

11.5.2 If material for radiocarbon dating is required, then processing of larger sub-samples from contexts [92], [93], [94] and [107] would be desirable to recover additional charred plant remains.

11.6 Retention and Disposal

- 11.6.1 Unless required for the recovery of additional material for radiocarbon dating or purposes other than the study of biological remains, all of the remaining unprocessed sediment may be discarded. The plant remains recovered from the processed sub-samples, together with the small amount of hand-collected bone, should be retained as part of the physical element of the Site Archive for the present.

Context	82	92	93	94	107
Sample	4	1	2	3	7
Feature	Trackway [81]	Ditch [32]	Ditch [32]	Ditch [32]	Ditch [102]
<i>Material available for radiocarbon dating</i>	-	□	□	□	□
<i>Volume processed (l)</i>	8	10	10	10	10
<i>Volume of flot assessed (ml)</i>	2	3	2	2	< 1
<i>Residue contents (relative abundance)</i>					
Charcoal	1	-	-	1	1
Clinker	1	1	1	1	1
Coal	1	1	-	1	1
Pre-Quaternary fossil	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Flot matrix (relative abundance)</i>					
Charcoal	-	1	1	1	1
Clinker	-	1	-	-	-
Coal	1	1	1	1	1
Insect	-	-	-	1	-
Pre-Quaternary spores	-	-	-	1	1
Roots (modern)	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Charred remains (relative abundance)</i>					
(w) <i>Carex</i> spp (Sedges) biconvex nutlet	-	-	-	1	-
(w) <i>Carex</i> spp (Sedges) trigonous nutlet	-	-	-	1	-
(x) Poaceae undifferentiated <2mm (Grass family) caryopsis	-	-	-	-	1
(x) Caryophyllaceae (Pink family) seed	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Uncharred remains (relative abundance)</i>					
(r) <i>Urtica dioica</i> (Common Nettle) achene	-	-	1	-	-
(t) <i>Sambucus nigra</i> (Elder) fruitstone	-	-	-	1	-
(w) <i>Carex</i> spp (Sedges) trigonous nutlet	-	-	-	2	-

[r-ruderal; t-tree; w-wetland; x-wide niche]. Relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)

Table 11.1 Data from plant macrofossil assessment

12. SUMMARY DISCUSSION

12.1 Phase 1: Natural

12.1.1 The natural sub-stratum exposed across the excavation area was typical of the Boulder Clay drift geology throughout this part of the Tyne valley. Across the excavation area this material sloped down from north to south, from 101.53m OD to 99.14m OD, reflecting the natural topography of the site, located on the northern valley side.

12.2 Phase 2: Roman, 2nd – 3rd Century AD

12.2.1 The sinuous, roughly NNE-SSW aligned, holloway recorded in the western part of the excavation area was likely formed by a combination of erosion from human and/or animal traffic and natural water flow, with possibly some definition by human intervention. To the north, the earliest version of the feature was probably truncated by an enclosure ditch, which seemingly followed the route as it ran northwards, effectively removing all trace of the holloway. To the south, the surviving portion of the holloway had a metallated surface along its base and this was presumably required to facilitate the passage of traffic using the feature, down the valley side. A single sherd of 3rd century pottery was recovered from the metallated surface, although the possibility must be acknowledged that this was introduced intrusively into the feature.

12.2.2 Three roughly NNE-SSW aligned gullies were closely associated with the holloway. Two bounded its eastern side, these probably to aid drainage, while the other cut through the metallated surface. Collectively these features yielded just a single sherd of pottery of broadly 2nd to 3rd century date. The gullies had silted naturally, with material of similar composition to that overlying the holloway and part-filling the adjacent enclosure ditch, as described below.

12.2.3 The ditch recorded in the north-western corner of the excavation area likely represents the south-eastern corner of a substantial enclosure. As the excavation area is presumed to lie within the eastern limit of the *vicus* associated with *Condercum* fort, the discovery of this enclosure is a significant finding, whether it either simply defined an area set aside for a specific function within the overall settlement or it actually delimited the south-eastern extent of the extramural settlement itself.

12.2.4 The ditch produced a relatively small assemblage of pottery, so precise dating is not possible. Broadly, however, the material indicates a 2nd century date for disuse of the feature, although it is noted that many of the body sherds from the feature could possibly be of 3rd century date. The ditch silted naturally to a varying degree, with the remainder evidently backfilled, probably indicating a need to reinstate the area, possibly ahead of the enclosure being re-established. Natural silting within the ditch seems to have occurred contemporaneously with the silting-up of the holloway, suggesting that the metallated surface of the latter feature was in use while the enclosure ditch was open. Of course, such an arrangement would effectively preclude an upcast bank external to the ditch and the question arises regarding the usefulness of a trackway running to the corner of the enclosure, rather than an entrance.

- 12.2.5 If the enclosure delimited an area of specific function, the limited degree to which it was possible to expose the internal area very much limits the interpretation of function. Structural evidence from the interior area comprised a single probable beam slot, possibly part of a clay and timber structure, thought to be contemporary with the enclosure due to its parallel alignment to the boundary ditch. A feature tentatively interpreted as an infant grave due to its form and profile was located within the south-eastern corner of the enclosure. Although no human remains were recovered from this feature, the acidic nature of the burial environment would make survival of bone, particularly fragile infant bone, unlikely. Although Roman burial laws dictated that graves should not be located within settlements, this did not apply to infant burials, so that babies and small children were often buried within settlements, some even within dwellings. Close by was a shallow discrete feature of uncertain function, possibly the remnants of a refuse pit, which did not yield any artefactual material.
- 12.2.6 While, the absence of dateable artefactual material from these possible internal features hinders a definite interpretation of their period of origin, the preferred interpretation is that at least the beam slot was contemporary with the enclosure, while the two discrete features are perhaps more likely to have been contemporary with the earliest version of the holloway. If the discrete features were contemporary with the enclosure, this would effectively preclude an upcast bank internal to the ditch. While there no solid evidence was recorded to indicate whether the bank associated with the enclosure was internal or external, the latter seems unlikely if the metalled surface of the holloway was in use while the enclosure ditch was open, as suggested above.
- 12.2.7 Previous excavations within *Condercum* fort and *vicus* were undertaken primarily in the 19th and first half of the 20th century. While these excavations broadly defined the size and location of the fort and its defences, and certain areas of the *vicus* were also examined in some detail, scant information regarding internal buildings or construction phases of the fort was recovered and there is also relatively little available information regarding the dating, overall layout and extent of the extramural settlement.²¹
- 12.2.8 Existing evidence suggests that the *vicus* probably developed initially alongside the road that ran southwards from the fort and, initially at least, was located within the area defined by the Vallum and fort walls. Excavations south of the fort in the 1930s revealed a group of civilian buildings that had been initially constructed in timber, but later rebuilt in stone.²² This work indicated that, as the *vicus* expanded in size, buildings were constructed over the infilled Vallum, with that feature becoming redundant. Isolated finds suggest that the *vicus* was at some stage of considerable size and it has long been presumed that it extended as far to the east as Condercum Road, some 0.3km east of the fort.²³ The absence of Roman period features in the eastern part of the excavation area – with the exception of a Period 3 feature discussed in due course - along with the presence of substantial features in the form of the holloway and enclosure ditch in the western part, perhaps suggest that the eastern limit of the *vicus* lay further to the west of Condercum Road than previously thought. The southern limit of the *vicus* is similarly uncertain from previous work, although pottery evidence indicates that it extended at least 450m from the southern fort defences.

²¹ Petch 1928.

²² Symonds and Mason 2009, Vol. I, 73.

²³ Tyne and Wear Museums 1991.

12.3 Phase 3: Roman, 2nd – 3rd Century AD

- 12.3.1 Dating evidence from this phase of activity was very limited; in fact only a single sherd of 2nd century pottery was recovered from any of the features assigned to it. However, stratigraphic evidence indicates that the majority of the features thus assigned should also be attributed a broad 2nd to 3rd century date.
- 12.3.2 The south-easternmost portion of the corner of a likely redefinition of the Phase 2 enclosure boundary was recorded in the north-western corner of the excavation area. Whether this reflects simply a reduction in size of this particular functional feature or a more widespread contraction of the overall extramural settlement is uncertain; according to current knowledge it seems that most of the extramural settlements along the Wall had fallen into disuse by the end of the 3rd century.²⁴ No features internal to this postulated redefined enclosure were observed, although only a very small part of the interior area could be exposed. A ditch conjoining the south side of this enclosure was apparently in use contemporaneously and large boulders may have been deliberately placed in the corner of the enclosure ditch to prevent water from running into this associated feature, which ran NNE-SSW downslope. This ditch may have delimited a parcel of land to the south of the enclosure, perhaps a field or stock enclosure. It yielded a roughly dressed flagstone, most likely derived from a substantial stone structure within the *vicus*; as discussed above, it is known that *vicus* buildings south of *Condercum* fort were constructed in stone.
- 12.3.3 Part of a possible drainage and/or boundary ditch recorded towards the north-eastern corner of the excavation area would be the easternmost Roman period feature encountered during the work if this period of origin was confirmed, although it this has been phased on the basis of form and stratigraphic position rather than dating evidence.

12.4 Phase 4: Late or Post-Roman?

- 12.4.1 A substantial developed soil, up to 0.30m thick, sealed all known or suspected Roman period features, and this material was evidently derived from colluvium. Whether it began to accumulate immediately after the abandonment of Roman settlement some time during the 3rd century or during the post-Roman period is not known. The deposit was observed during machine clearance of overburden as extending across the northern and central portion of the excavation area, although it may have originally extended across the entire slope to the south of the school prior to modern levelling activity.

12.5 Phase 5: Medieval

- 12.5.1 Medieval activity was represented by a single ditch, running downslope on a NNW-SSE alignment through the eastern part of the excavation area. This feature is likely to have been a land boundary ditch, probably also serving as a drainage feature, delimiting a land parcel that extended southwards down the valley side from the line of the Newcastle to Carlisle roadway. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature during the excavation, although when investigated during the earlier evaluation the feature yielded a small quantity of pottery to indicate a 13th to 14th century date.

²⁴ Symonds and Mason 2009, Vol. II, 15.

12.6 Phase 6: Post-medieval and Early Modern

- 12.6.1 Map evidence from the 19th century is the earliest to show the site in any great detail, and at this time it lay within what was essentially still a rural landscape on the northern valley side of the Tyne. Nevertheless, evidence of the industrialisation of Tyneside is apparent and immediately to the south of the site was Charlotte Pit of Benwell Colliery, sunk sometime during the 18th century and worked until 1939. Recent geotechnical work has identified the presence of shafts likely derived from coal extraction within the southernmost portion of the school grounds.
- 12.6.2 Features assigned to Phase 6 were largely noteworthy for the high content of coal waste within their fills, including four parallel NNE-SSW aligned gullies towards the western limit of excavation, an arrangement of three postholes close by and two substantial inter-cutting refuse pits further east. The earlier of the two pits contained substantial quantities of coal waste, while the later feature was mostly filled with boulders, with only small quantities of coal waste present. The boulders could represent debris from field clearance, possibly associated with the creation of the grounds of the former dwelling of Lower Condercum during the 19th century. A NW-SE aligned stone-lined culvert was recorded extending across the northern and central portion of the site and it is considered likely that this formed part of a wider drainage system within the grounds of Lower Condercum.
- 12.6.3 Two parts of what was probably the same plough furrow were recorded in the eastern portion of the excavation area; it was possibly of 18th century date.

13. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

13.1 Introduction

- 13.1.1 The Roman period activity – assigned to Phases 2 and 3 - recorded at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site) is of significance at a local and regional level. This assessment of the archaeological data-set from the site has demonstrated that the stratigraphic and artefactual evidence from these phases warrant further research and full publication of the results.
- 13.1.2 At a local level, the Site Archive can contribute information concerning the chronology, development and layout of the extramural settlement at Condercum. At a regional level, the Site Archive may reflect the history of Roman civilian occupation of Northern Britain.
- 13.1.3 As described in Section 3, the NERRF, the now well-established regional research framework, highlighted the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. As outlined in that section, several key priorities within the NERRF Research Agenda for the Roman period were of direct relevance to the project herein described. In addition, the Research Agenda of *Frontiers of Knowledge*, the recently published research framework for Hadrian's Wall, has highlighted a gap in existing understanding of extramural settlement along the Wall and posed a series of outstanding questions relating to the relationship between the Wall forts and their extramural settlements, all of which are of relevance to the project herein described.
- 13.1.4 The excavation at Trinity School (Oakfield College Site) has provided important archaeological evidence regarding the south-eastern extent of the *vicus* at *Condercum*. It may even have been the case that the feature responsible for delimiting the outermost boundary of the settlement area at some point during the 2nd century was recorded, in the form of the south-easternmost corner of an enclosure ditch. This likely post-dated a sinuous holloway, running downslope, although a final version of that feature, complete with metalled surface, may have remained in use while the ditch was in place. If the enclosure ditch did not actually delineate the overall settlement boundary, then at the least a significant feature used to enclose an area of specific function, largely unproven by the recorded remains, within the south-eastern part of the *vicus* has been identified. After partially silting up and then being backfilled, the enclosure ditch was redefined a short distance to the west.
- 13.1.5 While a very limited quantity of artefactual material was recovered in the excavation, this should not be a surprise given the distance between the site and the fort/core of the extramural settlement. Nevertheless, the material that was recovered suggests that both establishment and disuse of the two phases of the enclosure boundary ditch occurred during the 2nd to 3rd century. The large worked stone recovered from the reinstated boundary ditch attests to the presence of a substantial stone building in the near vicinity of the excavation area. A key priority in the NERRF Research Agenda for the Roman period highlights 'a need to improve our knowledge of the chronology of the *vici*, particularly the date at which they fall out of use'. Although the pottery assemblage from the site is small, it contributes important data to the understanding of the chronology of the *Condercum vicus* and certainly does not go against the existing overall picture that the Wall *vici* were largely abandoned by the end of the 3rd century.

13.2 Summary of the Potential for Further Work

13.2.1 Roman Pottery (Including Samian Wares)

- 13.2.1.1 Given the absence of large groups from the site there is little need for further quantification of the pottery from the site.
- 13.2.1.2 The pottery assemblage recovered from the earlier evaluation phase of work should be fully integrated with the material recovered from the excavation.
- 13.2.1.3 A final publication report should comprise an introduction outlining the methodology used and the condition of the assemblage. This should be backed up by a small number of illustrations and a synthesis of pottery supply and use.
- 13.2.1.4 Only one sherd of samian was recovered from the site. A description and discussion detailing the samian should be included in a final publication report.

13.2.2 Small Finds and Glass

- 13.2.2.1 The potential of the assemblage for further work is extremely limited. No further work on the finds need be undertaken and they can be written up in a published report from the information contained within this Assessment Report. There is no need for a 'formal' small finds report.
- 13.2.2.2 No further work is recommended on the glass. A short description of the material should be included in a final publication report.
- 13.2.2.3 The flagstone from the Roman ditch should be examined by a specialist and a full description included in a final publication report.

13.2.3 Tile

- 13.2.3.1 No further analysis is recommended on either the post-medieval or Roman tile. However, the material does provide information about the type of structures represented nearby and would be worth summarising at publication level for any future distributional studies undertaken on broader Roman Benwell.

13.2.4 Post-medieval Pottery

- 13.2.4.1 No further work is recommended on the post-medieval ceramic assemblage.

13.2.5 Biological Remains

- 13.2.5.1 The samples produced only small quantities of plant macrofossils with low numbers of charred and uncharred weed seeds. Therefore, no further work on the plant macrofossils is required and there is no justification for additional samples from the excavation to be assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential
- 13.2.5.2 Material suitable for radiocarbon dating is present in contexts [92], [93], [94] and [107].

13.2.6 Stratigraphic Evidence

- 13.2.6.1 Further examination of the stratigraphic evidence in relation to the results of the further work recommended for the artefactual evidence is required.

13.3 Publication Proposal

13.3.1 It is considered that the archaeological data-set merits publication in the form of a detailed synthesised report published in a suitable regional archaeological journal, such as *Archaeologia Aeliana*.

13.3.2 A full assessment of the data-set has been undertaken and a summary of the potential of each element for further research/analysis is set out in the preceding section. A publication of the site should, as a minimum, contain the following:

ABSTRACT: This introductory paragraph will summarise the site publication including its location, period, finds and significance.

INTRODUCTION: The introduction will describe the setting of the site, detail the background to the investigations and outline the methodology employed.

GEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND: This section will detail the geology and topography of the site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND: This section will set the results in context, with a particular focus on extramural Roman settlement in the north.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE: This will detail the results of the investigations and will include a synthesised description of the evidence from the evaluation and excavation.

DISCUSSION OF THE EVIDENCE: This will propose an interpretation of the archaeological remains based on the excavated features and the artefactual evidence.

ILLUSTRATIONS: These will include: site location plan; location plan of the excavated area; plans and section drawings along with interpretative plans.

PART C: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REFERENCES

14. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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PCA Credits

Fieldwork: Aaron Goode (Site Supervisor), Andrew Bartlett, Adrian Bailey, Mick Coates, Bryan Murray, Scott Vance

Report: Aaron Goode, Jenny Proctor and Robin Taylor-Wilson

Project Management: Robin Taylor-Wilson

Post-Excavation Management: Jenny Proctor

CAD: Adrian Bailey

Metal Objects: Marit Gaimster

Other Credits

Biological Remains: Bryan Atkinson and Lorne Elliot (ASDU)

Roman Finds: Alex Croom (Tyne and Wear Museums)

Survey: Jim Wright

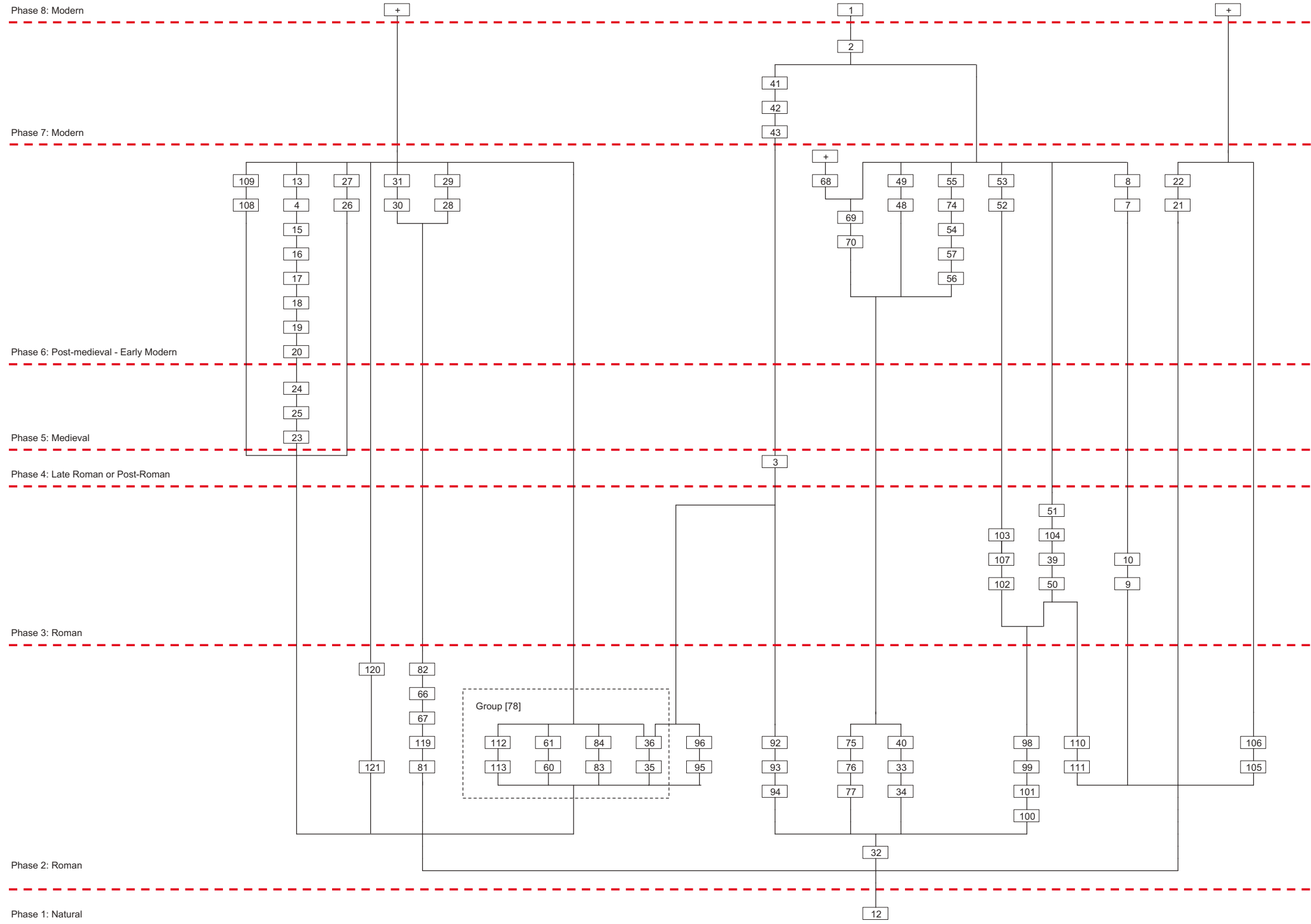
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APPENDIX 1
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX

TOB 09: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



APPENDIX 2
CONTEXT INDEX

TOB 09: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Phase	Type 1	Type 2	Interpretation
1	8	deposit	layer	topsoil
2	7	deposit	layer	levelling
3	4	deposit	layer	colluvium
4	6	cut	discrete	refuse pit filled by [13]
7	6	cut	linear	furrow filled by [8]
8	6	deposit	fill	fill of furrow [7]
9	3	cut	linear	ditch filled by [10]
10	3	deposit	fill	fill of ditch [9]
12	1	deposit	layer	natural sub-stratum
13	6	deposit	fill	fill of refuse pit [4]
15	6	deposit	fill	fill of refuse pit [20]
16	6	deposit	fill	fill of refuse pit [20]
17	6	deposit	fill	fill of refuse pit [20]
18	6	deposit	fill	fill of refuse pit [20]
19	6	deposit	fill	fill of refuse pit [20]
20	6	cut	discrete	refuse pit filled by [15], [16], [17], [18], [19]
21	6	cut	linear	furrow filled by [22]
22	6	deposit	fill	fill of furrow [21]
23	5	cut	linear	ditch filled by [24], [25]
24	5	deposit	fill	fill of ditch [23]
25	5	deposit	fill	fill of ditch [23]
26	6	cut	discrete	posthole filled by [27]
27	6	deposit	fill	fill of posthole [26]
28	6	cut	discrete	posthole filled by [29]
29	6	deposit	fill	fill of posthole [28]
30	6	cut	discrete	posthole filled by [31]
31	6	deposit	fill	fill of posthole [30]
32	2	cut	linear	enclosure ditch filled by [33], [34], [40], [75], [76], [77], [92], [93], [94]
33	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
34	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
35	2	cut	linear	gully filled by [36], part of group [78]
36	2	deposit	fill	fill of gully [35], part of group [78]
39	3	deposit	fill	fill of ditch [50], boulders
40	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
41	7	deposit	fill	fill of service [43]
42	7	deposit	fill	iron pipe within service [43]
43	7	cut	linear	service filled by [41], [42]
48	6	cut	linear	gully filled by [49]
49	6	deposit	fill	fill of gully [48]
50	3	cut	linear	ditch filled by [39], [51], [104]
51	3	deposit	fill	fill of ditch [50]
52	6	cut	linear	gully filled by [53]
53	6	deposit	fill	fill of gully [52]
54	6	cut	linear	gully filled by [55], [74]
55	6	deposit	fill	fill of gully [54]
56	6	cut	linear	gully filled by [57]
57	6	deposit	fill	fill of gull rut [56]
60	2	cut	linear	gully filled by [61], part of group [78]
61	2	deposit	fill	fill of gully [60], part of group [78]
66	2	deposit	fill	fill of ditch [67]
67	2	cut	linear	ditch filled by [66]
68	6	deposit	fill	fill of culvert [70]
69	6	masonry	culvert	stone-lining for culvert [70]
70	6	cut	linear	culvert filled by [69]

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Context	Phase	Type 1	Type 2	Interpretation
74	6	deposit	fill	fill of gully [54]
75	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
76	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
77	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
78	2	group number	linear	group number for gully, comprising [35], [36], [60], [61], [83], [84], [113], [112]
81	2	cut	linear	holloway filled by [82], [119]
82	2	deposit	fill	silting-up of holloway [81]
83	2	cut	linear	gully filled by [84], part of group [78]
84	2	deposit	fill	fill of gully [83], part of group [78]
92	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
93	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
94	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
95	2	cut	discrete	possible grave filled by [96]
96	2	deposit	fill	fill of possible grave [95]
97	2	cut	linear	enclosure ditch, same as [32], filled by [98], [99], [100], [101]
98	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
99	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
100	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
101	2	deposit	fill	fill of enclosure ditch [32]
102	3	cut	linear	ditch filled by [103], [107]
103	3	deposit	fill	fill of ditch [102]
104	3	deposit	fill	fill of ditch [50]
105	2	cut	discrete	pit filled by [106]
106	2	deposit	fill	fill of pit [105]
107	3	deposit	fill	fill of ditch [102]
108	6	cut	discrete	pit filled by [109]
109	6	deposit	fill	fill of pit [108]
110	2	deposit	fill	fill of slot [111]
111	2	cut	discrete	slot filled by [110]
112	2	deposit	fill	fill of gully [113], part of group [78]
113	2	cut	linear	gully filled by [112], part of group [78]
119	2	structure	surface	metalled surface of holloway [81]
120	2	deposit	fill	fill of ditch [121]
121	2	cut	linear	ditch filled by [120]

APPENDIX 3
PLATES



Plate 1. Overview of enclosure ditch [32], looking north-west (*2 x 2m scale*).



Plate 2. Enclosure ditch [32] return, looking south-east (*1m scale*).

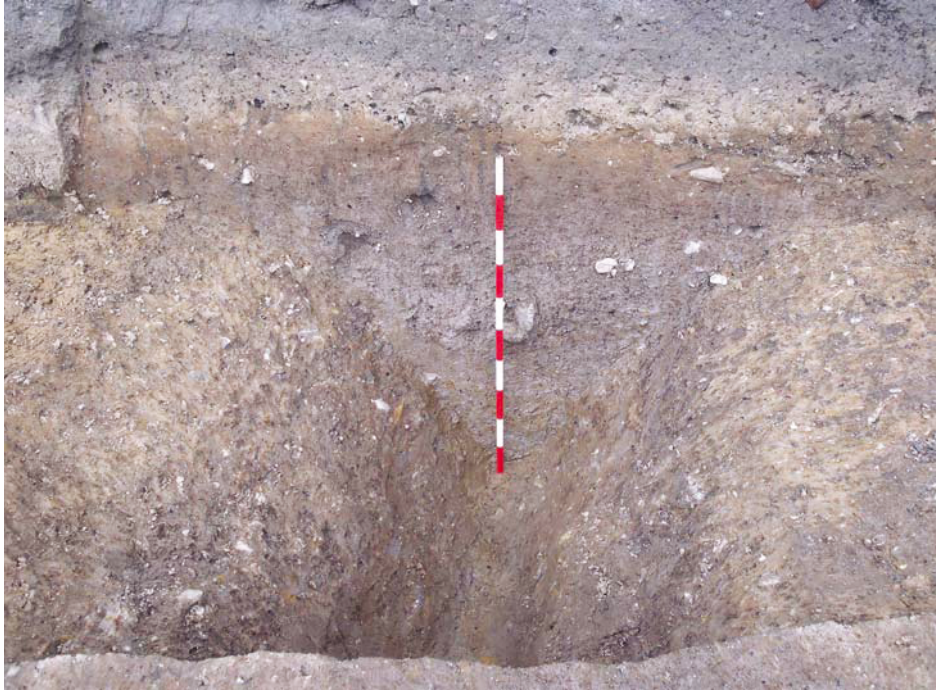


Plate 3. Enclosure ditch [32], south facing section (*1m scale*).



Plate 4. Enclosure ditch [32], west facing section (*1m scale*).



Plate 5. Overview of halloway [81] and surface [119], looking north-east (*1m scale*).



Plate 6. Detail of surface [119], looking ESE (*1m scale*).



Plate 7. Overview of ditches [32], [50] and [102], looking WNW (2m scale).



Plate 8. Boulders [39] within ditch [50], looking NNE (1m scale).



Plate 9. Ditch [50], south facing section (*1m scale*).



Plate 10. Ditch [102], NNE facing section (*1m scale*).



Plate 11. Ditch [23], NNE facing section (*1m scale*).



Plate 12. Refuse pits [4] and [20], looking north-east (*1m scale*).



Plate 13. Phase 3, flagstone (0.5m scale).