

Event No: 13937  
SMR: ✓ GIS: ✓  
Parish: cm21



# Delhi Remainder Site, Blagdon Park, Northumberland

## Archaeological Evaluation

**Proposed Delhi Remainder Site,  
Blagdon Park,  
Northumberland.**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

Compiled by:

W. Muncaster  
Archaeology Department  
Tyne and Wear Museums  
Report No. 702  
Oasis No. tyneandw3-25895

Commissioned by:  
Banks Developments

April 2007

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	5
1 Introduction	6
2 Archaeological and Historical Background	6
3 Aims and Objectives	7
4 Methodology	7
5 Results of the Evaluation	8
5.1 Trench	1
5.2 Trench	6
5.3 Trench	10
5.4 Trench	11
5.5 Trench	13
5.6 Trench	14
5.6 Trench	15
5.7 Trench	16
5.8 Trench	19
5.9 Trench	20
5.10 Trench	21
5.11 Trench	25
5.12 Trench	26
5.13 Trench	34
5.14 Summary of Ridge and Furrow Field Systems	14
6 Discussion	15
7 Recommendations for Mitigation	16
8 Bibliography	16
9 Acknowledgements	16

**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Trench Summary	17
Appendix 2: Feature List	18
Appendix 3: Finds List	21
Appendix 4: Environmental Sample List	21
Appendix 5: Project Design	22

**TABLE OF FIGURES**

- Figure 1: General location of the site
- Figure 2: Detailed site and trench location plan
- Figure 3: Plan of Trench 1
- Figure 4: Plan and section of trench 6
- Figure 5: Plan of main concentration of archaeological features
- Figure 6: Plan of trench 15
- Figure 7: Plan of trench 20
- Figure 8: Plan of trench 21
- Figure 9: Section of Pit (234), Trench 10
- Figure 10: Sections of Trench 11
- Figure 11: Sections of Trench 13
- Figure 12: Sections of Trench 14
- Figure 13: Sections of Trench 15
- Figure 14: Sections of Trench 16
- Figure 15: Sections of Trench 19
- Figure 16: Sections of Trench 20
- Figure 17: Sections of Trench 21
- Figure 18: Sections of Trench 23
- Figure 19: Sections of Trench 26
- Figure 20: Plan of proposed excavation area

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Client: Banks Limited  
 TWM Project No.: 702  
 NGR: NZ 2210 7660  
 OASIS reference: tyneandw3-25895  
 Site Code: DE 07  
 Date of Fieldwork: 12/03/07 – 28/03/07

*An evaluation was commissioned by Banks Developments and conducted by Tyne and Wear Museums in March 2007. The evaluation is in response to an application has been made to expand the Delhi Opencast site, the Delhi Remainder site lies on open parkland on the Blagdon estate.*

*Thirty three trenches were excavated to investigate the application area which identified a number of ditches and features that are likely to represent boundary ditches and associated occupation of a multi-phased prehistoric settlement. One sherd of pottery, identified as being of local Iron-Age tradition, was recovered from a shallow gully that was probably associated with occupation at the site. Archaeological remains were recorded within 13 trenches with the probable prehistoric remains concentrated within the central portion of the site. In a number of trenches boundary ditches were identified which appeared to represent at least two enclosures which may represent different phases of occupation at the site. Three trenches (15, 20 & 21) contained evidence of occupation in the form of possible wall slots of roundhouses and associated gullies. An isolated pit was recorded in trench 10 which contained burnt stones which probably represent 'pot-boilers' utilised for cooking during the prehistoric period further 'pot-boilers' were also recovered associated with the features within trench 15. The remains had been heavily truncated by ploughing with only cut features surviving. No evidence for intact floor surfaces or hearths belonging to round-houses was located, which would be expected if preservation was better on the site.*

*Following discussion with the archaeological consultants, AC Archaeology and Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (site meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> march 2007) it is recommended that prior to the development proceeding an open area excavation be conducted over an area of 2.82ha focused upon the zone identified as the main area of archaeological significance (fig.20). The remainder of the application area should be archaeologically monitored in case any outlying features associated with the putative enclosures are identified.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Project

1.1.1 The evaluation was commissioned by Banks Developments in March 2007 and conducted by Tyne and Wear Museums. The proposed works involved the expansion of the Delhi Opencast site into an area of Blagdon Park. The aim of the evaluation was to provide information of the preservation and extent of archaeological remains on the site of the proposed Delhi Remainder Site.

AC  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
?

### 1.2 Location and Land Use (Figs. 1 and 2)

1.2.1 The evaluation trenches were located within Blagdon Park, a grade II registered park which is part of the Blagdon estate. The site is centred on National Grid Reference NY 995 699 and lies on the eastern side of South Drive which leads to the estate.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Prehistoric Period

2.1.1 The earliest evidence of prehistoric activity was the findspot of a Neolithic axe head near Home Farm. A large number of settlement enclosures are known in the area from aerial photographs and excavation, suggesting that this area was intensively occupied during the late prehistoric period. An earlier archaeological excavation at the adjacent Delhi Extension (Phase II) identified a pit alignment and a multi-phased prehistoric settlement which seems to have been modified to enclose another settlement site (NAA *in prep*). The complex consisted of a series of roundhouses, some with associated enclosures. Both the settlement complex and pit alignment may extend into the application area. A second pit alignment dated to the late Bronze-Age/ early Iron-Age was also identified during excavations at Fox Covert, 2.70km south-west of the site.

### 2.2 Romano-British Period

2.2.1 There is no known evidence of features of this date within or in the immediate vicinity of the site, although evidence from elsewhere in the Tyne-Tees lowlands suggests that the type and form of late-prehistoric settlement observed in the vicinity of the site continued into the early Romano-British period.

### 2.3 Early Medieval Period

2.3.1 There is no direct archaeological evidence of features of this date within the site, although the name Blagdon is thought to derive from an Anglo-

Saxon place name. A recent excavation at Fox Covert, 2.70km south-west of the site recorded an enclosure ditch which was radio-carbon dated to the tenth century.

## **2.4 Medieval Period**

2.4.1 It has been postulated that the former medieval settlement of Blagdon, first mentioned in 1242 may have been situated to the north of the southern entrance of Blagdon Park. The ridge and furrow which survives as earthworks across the site may have been associated with an open field agricultural system associated with the medieval settlement.

2.4.3 Archaeological investigation at the Delhi site (Phase I) identified evidence of possible medieval surface coal extraction and two medieval enclosures were identified during the Delhi Extension (Phase II). A medieval grange complex occupied from the mid-thirteenth to mid-fourteenth century was excavated at Fox Covert, 2.70km south-west of the site.

## **2.5 Post-Medieval Period**

2.5.1 The displacement of the medieval village of Blagdon appears to have occurred sometime following the HearthTax in 1670. The area was incorporated as part of the eighteenth century parkland associated with Blagdon Hall.

2.5.2 Mining activity is known to have taken place at Delhi (Phase 1) from as early as the medieval period. Partially collapsed mine galleries were also identified at Delhi Phase 1 and were considered to be of nineteenth century date. Other industrial activities are suggested by the name 'Brick Kiln Field' and the possible remains of clay-pits which lie in the vicinity of the site.

## **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The aim of this evaluation was to determine whether significant archaeological deposits survived within the area of the application area. It also sought to provide information on the nature, quality, depth and degree of preservation of any such remains. This information is required to allow an informed decision upon the necessity or not of further archaeological excavation prior to the commencement of the proposed works.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 General Methodology**

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a project design approved by the Assistant County Archaeologist (Appendix 2). The programme of trial trenching was agreed between NCC Conservation Team,



and AC archaeology, the trenching requirement has been established as comprising:

- 4% evaluation of the application area is required (2870m<sup>2</sup>), comprising of a total of 34 trenches; 23 trenches 50m x 2m and 11 partial trenches (total length of 1.435km).

There was also provision for a further contingency trenching which may be required by the County Archaeological Officers based on the results of the initial phase of trenching. The contingency allowance was set at an additional 1% contingency of up to 375m of additional trenching (750m<sup>2</sup>).

4.1.2 Only 33 trenches were excavated in total with trenches 28 and 27b left unexcavated because of the proximity of a gas pipe line across the northern extent of the development area. In addition the location of trenches 18, 27, 29, 33 and 34 were altered to allow an 8m exclusion zone around the pipeline. A small number of trenches were also moved slightly to avoid furrows associated with ridge and furrow systems that survived as an earthwork throughout the site. At a number of points where concentrations of features were identified, the trenches were widened slightly to clarify the nature of deposits. The trenches were excavated using a tracked 360° machine until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural sub soil was encountered.

## 5 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

The results of 13 trenches which contained archaeological features are discussed below excluding those that solely contained the remains of ridge and furrow. The details of the ridge and furrow which was encountered within all trenches is contained within section 5.14. Further information is listed for every trench within Appendix 1 (Trench Summary) including the 20 trenches that contained no archaeological features. The dimensions of individual features are listed within Appendix 2 (Feature List).

### 5.1 Trench 1 (Fig 3)

The trench cut across an east-west boundary bank (**262**), which survived as an earthwork defining different areas of ridge and furrow that ran across the southern end of the trench. Four natural cut linear features probably representing gullies were recorded orientated east-west within the trench (**254, 257, 259, 266**).

Gully (**266**) was very shallow and situated on the northern side of the bank, probably being contemporary with the bank. It was filled by brown sandy clay (**267**) with frequent lenses of clay. Gully (**259**) was situated 0.95m south of (**266**) beneath the line of the bank and was steep-sided in profile on its southern side, with a gentler slope on its northern side and a flat base. The feature was filled by a similar fill to (**266**). Gully (**257**) was situated 1.70m

south of feature **(259)** and was both similar in profile and in fill. The bank itself was ill-defined in profile with no clear differentiation between the topsoil and the body of the bank. A slight cut in the natural subsoil at the northern side of the bank in close association with gully **(266)** may represent the northern limit of the bank, its southern limit was unclear.

Gully **(254)** lay at the southern end of the trench and was near vertical sided with a flattish base. Its fill **(253)** was similar to the features recorded at the northern end of the trench. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the gullies /linear features although they were located on the same orientation as the medieval bank and may represent successive boundary features relating to field divisions between different areas of ridge and furrow.

## 5.2 Trench 6 (fig. 4)

The trench cut across a north-south boundary bank **(261)** that was also excavated within trenches 15 and 26. The bank survived as an earthwork and defined different areas of ridge and furrow. The earliest feature encountered was a shallow gully **(220)** which may represent a precursor to the earthbank. The feature formed a shallow gully to the east of the bank. The bank was defined on its western side by a ditch **(247)** and to the east by a 0.30m deep cut leaving an up-stand of natural subsoil which measured in 3.40m in width by 0.40m in height. The bank was overlain by a layer of ploughsoil **(239)** that also extended across the eastern gully **(220)** and consisted of greyish brown sandy silt **(239)**. There was a small bank **(248)** of mixed natural clay and brown silty clay ploughsoil on the lip of the western edge of the bank. The deposit probably represents the upcast from the excavation of the ditch **(247)**. Ditch **(247)** was steep side in profile with a flattish base; along its base was a brick lined field drain **(243, 244)** which was appeared to be contemporary with the ditch. The ditch and culvert were overlain by two accumulated layers of silty clay **(243, 241)**.

## 5.3 Trench 10 (fig. 5, 9)

\*

The trench contained a pit **(234)** surviving as a natural cut feature toward the mid-portion of the trench. The trench was extended 1.80m by 2.00m northwards to expose the extent of the pit. The pit was sub-circular in shape with near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill **(233)** consisted of friable light grey clayey sand with lenses of yellow clay. Several burnt stones, possibly 'pot-boilers associated with occupation were recovered from the fill.

## 5.4 Trench 11 (fig. 5, 10)

The trench contained a shallow ditch **(112)** possibly associated with a parallel narrow gully **(118)** situated 2.50m to the north both surviving as natural cut features. At the northern end of the trench were the remains of a later brick

foundation (202). Ditch (112) was orientated approximately east-west and was recorded in the central area of the trench (Ditch 112 probably relates to Enclosure 1 – see Discussion). The ditch was filled with greyish brown, silty clay (117). Both sides of the narrow gully or slot (118) were irregular and were filled with silty clay (119). A spread of mixed greyish brown silty clay and yellow clay (116) overlay the fills of the ditch and slot. A layer of redeposited natural clay (115) lay over deposit (116) in the area of the buried gully.

### 5.5 Trench 13 (fig. 5, 11)

A ditch (200) was recorded toward the western end of the trench orientated north-south (Ditch 200 probably relates to Enclosure 2 – see Discussion). The ditch was steep sided in profile with the eastern side stepped in profile and a rounded base. The lower portion of the ditch was filled by mixed grey and brown silty clay (204). Deposit (204) was overlain by two thin layers of silty clay (203, 205) which were sealed by dark grey clayey silt (206).

### 5.6 Trench 14 (fig. 5, 12)

A ditch (103) was recorded in the mid-portion of the trench orientated east-west. Both sides of the ditch had a stepped profile (relates to Enclosure 2 see Discussion). The ditch was filled with a succession of silty clays that had accumulated naturally over a long period of time. The base of the ditch was filled by grey silty clay (108) overlain by a thin layer of bluish grey silty clay (107), a mixed mid-grey and orange silty clay (106) and a thin band of dark blueish grey silty clay (105). The ditch was finally sealed over with brownish grey silty clay (104) which extended beyond the edges of the ditch.

### 5.7 Trench 15 (fig. 5, 6, 15)

The trench cut across a boundary bank (261) that survived as a distinctive earthwork which divided two ridge and furrow systems. The trench contained a number of archaeological features which pre-dated the ridge and furrow system and are probably relate to earlier occupation activity at the site.

The earliest features encountered within the mid-portion of the trench were two small slots or gullies (188, 185); the possible terminal of a small ditch (169) and a wide shallow ditch (145) at the western end of the trench. The possible ditch (169) was only partially visible within the trench. A narrow gully or slot (188) lay on the western side of the ditch. It was orientated north-south and terminated near the centre of the trench. A very shallow, irregular cut (186) or area of disturbance lay adjacent to the slot (188). An iron object was recovered from the fill (187) of cut (186). A narrow possibly curvilinear gully or slot (185) lay on the eastern side of the ditch (169). Both the ditch and slots were filled with deposits of grey silty clay (168, 184, 189); the deposit extended along a hollow between the ditch and slot (188). Within the area of

the possible ditch terminal the deposit contained a number of sandstone fragments (169) which formed a distinctive edge on its western edge. There were a number of fragments of burnt stone 'pot-boilers' amongst the stone fragments.

The large ditch (145) at the western end of the trench was shallow in profile with gently sloping sides (relates to Enclosure 2 – see Discussion). The lower fills of the ditch were waterlogged and consisted of sandy clay with inclusions of sandstone (148) overlain by dark brown silt (149) with frequent organic inclusions. Deposit (149) was overlain by mixed orange and grey silty clay with reddish flecks (147). The upper layer of the feature was filled with a homogenous layer which blended with the overlying ploughsoil (199).

A shallow linear cut feature (195) lay at the eastern end of the trench underlying the later medieval boundary bank (261), which survives as an earthwork feature. The base of cut feature (195) was uneven and was filled with a layer of brown clayey silt (196). It was overlain by a layer of dark greyish brown clayey silt (198) that extended beneath the boundary bank. The boundary bank consisted of an earth bank which measured 6.20m in width by 0.60m in height. There was no differentiation between a topsoil layer and the main body of the bank (199) which consisted of brown clayey loam. A ditch (190) lay on the western side of the bank, which had been recut (192) in the nineteenth century. The eastern side of the original ditch survived and was steep sided in profile. The ditch (190) was located at the eastern end of the trench and filled by light brown clayey silt (191) mixed with lenses of redeposited natural. Material from the bank overlay the ditch fill although this may have been caused by erosion. The recut (192) of the ditch was steep sided in profile, a redeposited layer of natural clay (197) lay against the western side of the cut which was overlain by dark grey clayey silt (193) that was inturn sealed by a layer of stone and ash (194). Deposit (194) was dumped to form a soakaway that was fed by a field drain.

### 5.8 Trench 16 (fig. 5, 14)

A ditch (181) was recorded orientated north-south running along the northern portion of the trench for a distance of 19.70m (relates to Enclosure 2 – see Discussion). In profile the ditch was steep sided with a flattish base. The base was filled by a layer of grey iron stained slity clay (181) which was inturn sealed by a blue-grey silty clay (180). The ditch was sealed by a deposit of brownish grey silty clay (179).

### 5.9 Trench 19 (fig. 5, 15)

A ditch (160) was recorded orientated east-west the western end of the trench (relates to Enclosure 1 – see Discussion). The western side of the trench in this locality was extended 3.00m by 1.80m to record the full width of the feature. In profile the ditch was steep sided with a rounded base. The base was filled by a layer of grey clayey silt (166) which was inturn sealed by a

succession of fills accumulated within the ditch (**165, 164, 163, 162 and 159**). The ditch was truncated by a field drain (**171**).

#### 5.10 Trench 20 (fig. 5, 7, 16)

The northern end of the trench contained a continuation of the ditch (**160**) recorded in trench 19 (Enclosure 1 – see Discussion). In addition to the ditch (**141**) there was a concentration of features probably associated with Iron-Age occupation recorded at the south end of the trench which was extended on its western side by 3.30m by 2.80m.

The ditch (**160**) was considerably shallower than the segment recorded within trench 19. In profile the northern side of the ditch was steep sided and the opposing side gently sloped. The base was filled by a layer of light grey clay (**146**) which was sealed by a deposit of brown and grey silty clay (**140**).

At the southern end of the trench there was a very shallow, flat-bottomed linear feature (**132**) orientated northwest-southeast with a terminal at its northern end. The feature was filled by light brownish grey, silty clay (**131**) from which one sherd of pottery was recovered of the local Iron-Age tradition. The northern end of the feature was cut by a shallow gully (**135**) orientated northeast-southwest. In profile the gully was steep side on its southern side and more uneven and gently sloped on the opposing side with a flat bottom. The fill (**142**) consisted of greyish brown silty clay mottled with iron staining. The gully terminated immediately east of a curvilinear slot (**158**). The curvilinear slot was segmented into two almost straight lengths which when projected beyond the trench would form a diameter of 6.75m. The sides of the slot were irregular and where excavated were near vertical in profile with a flattish base. It was filled with grey silty clay (**157**) that contained small lenses of orange clay. The southern end of the trench contained a waterlogged grey clayey silt (**263**) overlying the natural subsoil which may represent the outer edge of a ditch lying beyond the southern limits of the trench.

#### 5.11 Trench 21 (fig. 5, 8, 17)

The trench contained the remains of two ditches which together appeared to be converging to form the corner of an enclosure to the north of the trench (Enclosure 2 – see Discussion). Inside the area defined by the ditches there were two curvilinear slots and a gully are likely to be associated with roundhouses from Iron-Age occupation.

The western ditch (**134**) is likely to represent a continuation of ditch (**200**) recorded in trench 13 and was orientated approximately north-south. In profile ditch (**134**) had a gradual break of slope that sharply steepened with a sharp break of slope and flat base. The base of the ditch was filled by bluish grey clayey silt (**133**) that was sealed by silty clay (**154**). Deposit (**154**) was overlain by a distinctive band of dark grey silty clay with black lenses at the interface with fill (**156**) above and (**154**) below. These lenses may represent temporary

\* turf horizons. The uppermost fill (156), consisted of mixed grey and brown silty clay. Ditch (120) to the east was similar in size and character to the ditch (134). The lower two fills (125, 126) of the ditch were waterlogged and contained organic material. Overlying deposit (125) on the western side of the trench was a layer of grey clay (127) which was similar to the natural subsoil. A thin layer of waterborne clean silt (124) overlay deposit (125). The edges of both side of the ditch contained deposits of clay (143, 144) similar to the natural subsoil. The remainder of the ditch was filled by a succession of silty sand (123, 122) and then silty clay (121). \*\*

A small gully (129) ran parallel with the western side of the eastern ditch (120). In profile its western side was near vertical and to the east was gradual merging with the concave base which was filled by clayey silt (128). The two curvilinear slots (137, 138) lay adjacent to the gully and appeared to form two concentric arcs 0.80m apart within the trench. The outer slot (137) was narrow and measured as little as 0.18m in width although it measured a maximum depth of 0.37m. The inner slot was shallower and measured only 0.11m in depth. The projected diameter of the outer slot measured 9.60m and the inner, 6.00m.

### 5.12 Trench 23 (fig. 5, 18)

The trench contained a continuation of the ditch (Enclosure 1 – see Discussion) recorded in trenches 19 and 20. The ditch (179) was recorded orientated east-west in the southern end of the trench. In profile the ditch was steep sided with a concave base. The ditch was infilled by a succession of accumulated fills (176, 175, 161).

### 5.13 Trench 26 (fig. 19)

The trench cut across the medieval north-south boundary bank (261) that was also excavated within trenches 6 and 15. The remains of two ditches and a shallow linear feature were encountered in the vicinity of the bank and probably represent successive boundary features between fields in the medieval/early post medieval periods.

The earliest feature encountered was a shallow linear cut feature (228) which lay at the eastern end of the trench underlying the later boundary bank (261). The base of the feature was uneven and was filled with grey silty clay (227). It was overlain by a layer of greyish brown clayey silt (264) that extended beneath the boundary bank. The boundary bank itself was less distinctive than elsewhere and measured 6.80m by 0.40m in height. There was no differentiation between the topsoil layer (223) and the main body of the bank which consisted of brown clayey loam. A ditch (226) lay on the western side of the bank; in profile the eastern side of the ditch was steeper than the western side. The base of the ditch and the area immediately to the east was uneven, probably due to root disturbance. The main body of the ditch was filled by

mixed grey and brown silty clay (225), overlain by dark grey loam (224). Sherds of nineteenth/ twentieth century white china were recovered from deposit (225). A small ditch (265) was recorded immediately east of the boundary bank. Only the western side of the cut was visible within the trench. In profile the side was stepped in profile with a concave upper step which dropped sharply towards the base which had subsequently been truncated by a field drain (231). The ditch cut was filled by a clay deposit (230) similar to the natural subsoil. The upper surface of the deposit was truncated by a later scoop shaped cut (229) which may represent a later furrow or shallow ditch.

#### 5.14 SUMMARY OF RIDGE AND FURROW FIELD SYSTEMS

Three ridge and furrow systems occurred throughout the site and were visible as an earthwork and was recorded during an earlier earthwork survey undertaken on the site (Dehli Remainder ES 2006). The two main systems within the application area were divided by an earth bank and ditch (261) and orientated northwest-southeast. The southern limit of these two systems was defined by another earth bank (262) on the south side of which was another system orientated northwest-southeast. Three trenches (6, 15, 26) were excavated through boundary bank (261) and trench 1 cut through boundary bank (262). There was evidence for two successive field systems occupying the eastern field system with earlier broad rigg (8.00m wavelength) incorporated into a narrow rigg system (wavelength of 5.00m). The two superimposed systems were evident within trenches 10 and 19. The western system consisted of broad rigg with a wavelength of approximately 8 - 10m. The southern system consisted of narrow rigg system with a wavelength of 5.00m. There was little differentiation between the fill of the furrows and the overlying topsoil which indicated the long stability of the soil structure after the area was adopted as parkland in the eighteenth century.

The table below contains a summary of the ridge and furrow field systems encountered within trenches cut east-west across their main axis:

- Wavelength refers to the average distance between the mid-points of two associated furrows.
- Depth records depth of furrow below the subsoil along the ridges.

Trench	Quantity	Wavelength	depth	Orientation
3	1	-	0.20m	NW. – SE.
5	6	10.00m	0.19m	NW. – SE.
6	5	8.00m	0.20m	NW. – SE.
8	5	8.00m	0.20m	NW. – SE.
10	7	6.00m	0.20m	NW. – SE.
12	4	10.00m	0.10m	NW. – SE.
13	3	8.00m	0.20m	NW. – SE.
15	2	8.00m	0.22m	NW. – SE.
	1	-	0.16m	NW. – SE.
17	4	8.00m	0.25m	NW. – SE.
19	6	9.00m	0.12m	NW. – SE.
21	5	8.00m	0.25m	NW. – SE.
23	1	-	0.15m	NW. – SE.

24	6	10.00m	0.15m	NW. – SE.
26	4	9.50m	0.20m	NW. – SE.
30	4	8.00m	0.15m	NW. – SE.
33	4	8.00m	0.15m	NW. – SE.

## 6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The evaluation has identified a number of ditches and features that are likely to represent boundary ditches and associated occupation of a multi-phase prehistoric settlement. One sherd of pottery was recovered from a feature which was identified as being of the local Iron-Age tradition. The archaeological remains were concentrated within the central portion of the site where a network of boundary ditches appeared to represent at least two enclosures that may not have been contemporary. An outer ditch (Enclosure 1) could be traced within trenches 23, 20 and 19 orientated east-west with an apparent return orientated north-south visible within trench 16 forming an eastern boundary. The ditch within trench 11 may also have been associated with Enclosure 1. Enclosure 2 represented by ditches within trenches 13, 14, 15, and 21 may represent a separate phase of occupation. In general the ditch was larger than the Enclosure 1 ditches and measured an average width of 3m compared to the 2m for ditches belonging to Enclosure 1. Enclosure 1 appeared to form a sub-rectilinear enclosure with its western ditch extending south beyond the projected limit of the enclosure.

6.2 There was evidence associated with possible roundhouses at three distinct localities. Two curvilinear wall slots (**137, 138**) were recorded in trench 21, situated at the northwest corner of the Enclosure 2. The close proximity of the slots to the ditches suggests that the roundhouses associated with the wall slots may have predated Enclosure 2.

6.3 A possible wall slot (**158**) and two intercutting gullies (**132, 135**) were recorded within trench 20 in the zone between the two enclosures. The Iron-Age pottery sherd was recovered from the earlier of two intercutting gullies (**132**). A third concentration of activity was recorded within trench 15 also in the area between the two enclosures. Two small gullies or slots (**185, 188**) were recorded together with the possible terminal of a ditch (**169**); these features had been in part backfilled with a spread of stone fragments overlying the ditch and curvilinear gully. There were fragments of burnt stone probably used as 'pot-boilers' during cooking, indicating evidence of occupation in the vicinity. Both of these areas suggest that there was activity at the site over a period of time which comprised of more than one phase of activity. An outlying feature was recorded within trench 10 where a pit was recorded from which more fragments of burnt stone were recovered. The remains at these three locations had been heavily truncated by ploughing with only cut features surviving. No evidence for intact floor surfaces or hearths belonging to roundhouses was located, which would be expected if preservation was better on the site.

†

Roundhouse?

Roundhouse

Roundhouse

OUTLYING  
FEATURE



6.4 The absence of archaeological evidence from trench 14 within the central interior of Enclosure 2 suggests, either a very heavy degree of truncation, or that the enclosure does not follow the pattern encountered at a number of Iron-Age settlements of a large central roundhouse within an enclosure such as at two settlements excavated recently at Newcastle Great Park (TWM forthcoming). The settlement pattern indicated by the available evidence is that of discrete groupings of roundhouses within a network of ditched enclosures similar to that encountered at the adjacent Delhi phase 2 excavations immediately to the south of the present site (NAA 2005). Excavations at Pegswood (PCA 2002) and Newcastle Great Park have also demonstrated that unenclosed settlement often preceded an enclosed phase and it may be the case that at least some of the occupation encountered is related to such a period. The features recorded in trench 1 may represent an extension of boundaries excavated during the phase 2 Delhi excavations.

6.5 No datable evidence was recovered from the ridge and furrow field systems or associated boundaries that extended across the area. The north-south boundary bank (261) owes at least part of its form to a later probably 19<sup>th</sup> century recutting of the ditch on its western side which has served to further emphasise the earthwork. The shallow linear feature recorded underlying the bank represented an earlier, probably medieval, land division prior to the bank. It is also noteworthy that the eastern field system was probably remodelled in the post-medieval period from broad rigg to narrow cultivation. The evaluation has demonstrated that the archaeological features have survived truncation caused by the extensive ridge and furrow.

6.6 The purpose of the brick work at the northern end of trench 11 was unclear although the absence of mortar suggests it was insubstantial in nature and may even have served as a field drain.

## 7 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MITIGATION

Archaeological features were identified within the proposed application area, and although only one sherd of probable Iron-Age pottery has been recovered the type, morphology and layout of the features identified are indicative of the presence of an Iron-Age settlement. The evaluation has demonstrated that the main focus of the remains is restricted to the mid-portion of the application area. Following discussion with the archaeological consultants, AC Archaeology and Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (site meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> march 2007) it is recommended that prior to the development proceeding an open area excavation be conducted over an area of 2.82ha focused upon the zone identified as the main area of archaeological significance (Fig. 20). This area has been extended up to the limit of the site to the west in order to investigate the possible route of a pit alignment located in works to the south (NAA 2005). The zone beyond this area should be archaeologically monitored to locate any outlying features.

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Dehli Remainder Environmental Statement 2006

NAA , 2005 and forthcoming– Archaeological Excavation at Dehli Extension site.

PCA, 2002, An Archaeological Excavation at Pegswood Moor Farm, Morpeth, Northumberland Post-Excavation assessment report (unpublished report for Banks Ltd.)

TWM –forthcoming Iron-Age Sites at Newcastle Great Park

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The help of the following is gratefully acknowledged; Peter Cox of AC Archaeology Ltd, Carl Dury of Banks Developments, Nick Best, Assistant County Archaeologist; J. McKelvey of Tyne and Wear Museums.

## APPENDIX 1: Trench Summary

Trench	Description
1	Ridge and furrow 4 Gullies / Slots (254, 257, 259, 266)
2	Ridge and furrow
3	Blank
4	Ridge and furrow
5	Ridge and furrow
6	Gully (220) Boundary Bank (248), (F261) Ridge and furrow Ditch (247),
7	Ridge and furrow
8	Ridge and furrow
9	Ridge and furrow
10	Pit (234) Ridge and furrow
11	Ditch (112) Gully (118) Ridge and furrow Brick feature (202)
12	Ridge and furrow
13	Ditch (200) Ridge and furrow
14	Ditch (103) Ridge and furrow
15	Gully / Slots (188, 185) Ditch (145, 169) Spread/ Infill (169) Linear feature (195) Boundary bank (F261) Ridge and furrow Ditch (190, recut 192 ),
16	Ditch (181) Ridge and furrow
17	Ridge and furrow
18	Ridge and furrow
19	Ditch (160) Ridge and furrow
20	Wall Slot (158) Slot? (151) Ditch (141) Gully (132, 135) Ridge and furrow
21	Slots (137, 139) Ditches (120, 134) Gully (129) Ridge and furrow
22	Ridge and furrow
23	Ditch (179) Ridge and furrow
24	Ridge and furrow
25	Ridge and furrow
26	Gully (228) Boundary Bank (F261) Ridge and furrow Ditches (226, 265, 229)
27	Ridge and furrow
28	Ridge and furrow
29	Ridge and furrow
30	Ridge and furrow
31	Ridge and furrow

32	Ridge and furrow
33	Ridge and furrow

## APPENDIX 2: Feature List

-Excludes furrows (see table, section 5.6)

-All dimensions are given in metres

Context	Type	Filled by	Length	Width	Depth	Tr.	Date
103	Ditch	108, 107, 105, 104	1.80m	3.60m	0.35m	14	Iron-Age?
109	Topsoil	-	1.80m	-	0.22m	14	Modern
110	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	14	-
111	Ploughsoil	-	1.80m	-	0.15m	14	Post-med.
112	Ditch	117, 116	1.80m	4.50m	0.34m	11	Iron-Age?
113	Topsoil	-	1.80m	-	0.22m	11	Modern
114	Ploughsoil	-	1.80m	-	0.15m	11	Post-med.
115	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	11	-
116	Layer	-	1.80m	3.50m	0.11m	11	Post-med.?
118	Gully/ Slot	119, 116, 115	1.80m	0.55m	0.22m	14	Iron-Age?
120	Ditch	126, 125, 127, 124, 144, 143, 123, 122, 121	1.80m	3.30m	1.06m	21	Iron-Age?
129	Gully	128	2.78m	0.73m	0.20m	21	Iron-Age?
130	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	21	-
132	Gully?	131	4.10m	0.92m	0.08m	20	Iron-Age?
134	Ditch	133, 154, 155, 156,	2.00m	3.80m	0.94m	21	Iron-Age?
135	Gully	142	2.60m	0.72m	0.20m	20	Iron-Age?
137	Wall slot	136	-	0.32m	0.40m	21	Iron-Age?
139	Wall slot	138	-	0.18m	0.11m	21	Iron-Age?
141	Ditch	146, 140	1.80m	2.40m	0.33m	20	Iron-Age?
145	Ditch	147, 149, 148	2.00m	4.00m	0.55m	15	Iron-Age?
151	Gully	150	1.80m	0.31m	0.05m	20	Iron-Age?
152	Ploughsoil	-	1.80m	50m	0.20m	21	Post-med.
153	Topsoil	-	-	-	0.22m	21	Modern
158	Wall Slot	157	2.00m	0.44m	0.12m	20	Iron-Age?
160	Ditch	166, 165, 164, 163, 162, 159, drain 171	4.00m	2.08m	0.69m	19	Iron-Age?
167	Stone Spread	-	2.00m	3.40m	0.37m	15	Iron-Age?
169	Ditch	168	3.00m	0.40m	0.41m	15	Iron-Age?
171	Field Drain	170	-	-	-	19	Modern
172	Ploughsoil	-	4.00m	-	0.20m	19	Post-med.
173	Topsoil	-	4.00m	50m	0.22m	21	Modern
174	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	19	-
177	Ditch	161, 175, 176	1.80m	1.70m	0.79m	23	Iron-Age?
178	Ditch	181, 180, 179	10m	1.60m	0.52m	16	Iron-Age?
182	Topsoil	-	1.80m	50m	0.32m	23	Modern
183	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	23	-
185	gully	-	2.00m	0.54m	0.30m	15	Iron-Age?
186	Shallow cut	187	1.10m	1.30 m	0.05m	15	Iron-Age?
188	Gully / Slot	189	1.37m	0.42m	0.20m	15	Post-med.
190	Ditch	191	2.00m	1.30m	0.47m	15	Medieval?

192	Ditch Recut	197, 193, 194	2.00m	1.40m	0.48m	15	Post-med.
195	Linear feature	196	2.00m	0.75m	0.17m	15	Medieval?
198	Layer	-	2.00m	4.10m	0.13m	15	Medieval?
199	Topsoil	-	2.00m	50m	0.32m	15	Modern
200	Ditch	204, 203, 205, 201	2.00m	2.78m	0.80m	13	Iron-Age?
202	Brickwork	-	0.50m	1.60m	0.47m	11	Post-med.?
206	Topsoil	-	2.00m	50m	0.29m	13	Modern
207	Ploughsoil	-	2.00m	50m	0.24m	13	Post-med.
208	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	13	-
209	Foundation?	-	0.64m	0.52m	0.04m	11	Post-med.
212	Robber trench	212, 213	1.80m	1.40m	0.20m	11	Post-med.
214	Construction cut	-	1.80m	1.02m	0.11m	11	Post-med.
215	Ploughsoil	-	1.80m	50m	0.24m	11	Post-med.
216	Topsoil	-	1.80m	50m	0.17m	11	Modern
217	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	11	-
220	Linear feature	219	1.80m	1.19m	0.16m	6	Modern
221	Topsoil	-	2.00m	50m	0.42m	15	Medieval?
222	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	15	-
223	Topsoil	-	2.00m	50m	0.30m	26	Modern
226	Ditch	225, 224	2.00m	1.90m	0.44m	26	Post-med.
228	Linear Feature	227	2.00m	1.00m	0.12m	26	Medieval?
231	Field Drain	229, 230	2.00m	0.30m	-	26	Modern
232	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	26	-
234	Pit	233	0.80m	0.74m	0.18m	10	Iron-Age?
235	Topsoil	-	1.80m	50m	0.15m	10	Modern
236	Ploughsoil	-	1.80m	50m	0.26m	10	Post-med.
237	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	10	-
238	Topsoil	-	1.80m	50m	0.34m	6	Modern
239	Ploughsoil	-	1.80m	50m	0.39m	6	Post-med.
240	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	6	-
247	Ditch	(246, 260, 244, 244, 245) drain, 242, 241	1.80m	2.40m	0.60m	6	Post-med.
248	Bank	-	1.80m	0.46m	0.18m	6	Post-med.
249	Bank	-	1.80m	3.40m	-	6	Medieval?
251	Topsoil	-	1.80m	50m	0.14m	1	Modern
252	Ploughsoil	-	1.80m	50m	0.34m	1	Post-med.
254	Gully / slot	253	1.80m	0.47m	0.22m	1	Medieval/ Iron-Age?
255	Nat. subsoil	-	-	-	-	1	-
257	Gully / slot	256	1.80m	0.35m	0.08m	1	Medieval/ Iron-Age?
259	Gully / slot	253	1.80m	0.31m	0.10m	1	Medieval/ Iron-Age?
261	N-S Boundary Bank		269m	6.20m	0.60m	6, 15, 26	Medieval?
262	E-W Boundary Bank		50m in site	8.00m	0.60m	1	Medieval?
263	Layer		1.80m	2.50m	0.20m	20	Iron-Age?

264	Layer		2.00m	4.85m	0.12m	26	Medieval?
265	Ditch	230	2.00m	1.30m	0.60m	26	Medieval?
266	Gully / slot	267	1.80m	0.55m	0.15m	1	Medieval/ Iron-Age?

### APPENDIX 3: List of Finds

Context	Trench	Type of find	Description	Quantity	Date
131	20	Pottery	Sherd	1	Iron-Age
187	15	Fe object	Unknown	1	?
225	26	Pottery	Sherd	8	modern

### APPENDIX 4: Environmental Sample List

Sample	Type	Context	Trench	Description
1	bulk	121	21	Fill of ditch [120]
2	bulk	122	21	Fill of ditch [120]
3	bulk	123	21	Fill of ditch [120]
4	bulk	124	21	Fill of ditch [120]
5	bulk	125	21	Fill of ditch [120]
6	bulk	126	21	Fill of ditch [120]
7	bulk	127	21	Fill of ditch [120]
8	bulk	128	21	Fill of ditch [120]
9	Column	126	21	Fill of ditch [120]
10	bulk	117	11	Fill of ditch [112]
11	bulk	104	14	Fill of ditch [103]
12	bulk	105	14	Fill of ditch [103]
13	bulk	107	14	Fill of ditch [103]
14	bulk	108	14	Fill of ditch [103]
15	bulk	131	20	Fill of gully [132]
16	bulk	133	21	Fill of ditch [134]
17	bulk	140	20	Fill of ditch [141]
18	bulk	117	20	Fill of gully [135]
19	bulk	136	21	Fill of wall slot [137]
20	bulk	138	21	Fill of wall slot [137]
21	bulk	156	21	Fill of ditch [134]
24	bulk	161	23	Fill of ditch [177]
25	bulk	167	15	Spread
26	bulk	176	23	Fill of ditch [177]
27	bulk	204	13	Fill of ditch [200]
28	bulk	219	6	Fill of gully [220]
29	bulk	233	10	Fill of pit [234]
30	bulk	256	1	Fill of gully [257]
31	bulk	181	16	Fill of ditch [178]
32	bulk	148	15	Fill of ditch [145]

## **APPENDIX 5: Project Design**

### **PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT DEHLI REMAINDER SITE, BLAGDON PARK, NORTHUMBERLAND**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This project design represents a methods statement for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed extension of an existing opencast mining site at Dehli, Blagdon Park, Northumberland.

1.2 The proposed opencast site (Dehli Remainder) would represent an extension to the existing Dehli Extension site, representing a third phase of opencast activities in Blagdon Park. The two existing opencast areas, Dehli and Dehli Extension (Phases I and II) have previously been subject to detailed archaeological site investigations. Significant archaeological features including the remains of prehistoric settlements have recently been found adjacent to the proposed extension area at Dehli Extension 2005. The presence of earlier mining activities, some of which appear to pre-date the ridge and furrow was also identified at the main Dehli site during 2002-2004. A detailed summary of the potential of the site is provided in a recent Environmental Statement (Banks 2006). This document contains a desk-top assessment incorporating an earthwork survey (Corney & Morris 2006) which recorded earthwork remains of ridge and furrow.

1.4 Northumberland County Council (NCC) Conservation Team has advised their County Development Control Team that the archaeological potential of the site will be further investigated prior to the determination of this planning application. It has been agreed that a programme of trial trenching will be undertaken to evaluate the site.

#### **2. Site Location**

2.1 The site lies immediately adjacent to the existing Delhi Extension extraction site in Blagdon Park near Shotton, Northumberland and is centred on NGR NZ 221 760. The site lies within a previously undisturbed area of park land associated with Blagdon Park, to the north of the former southern access drive to the park. The application area consists of semi-improved pasture, with extensive earthwork remains of former field boundaries and ridge and furrow.

#### **3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

##### **3.1 Prehistoric Period**

3.1.1 The earliest evidence of prehistoric activity was the findspot of a Neolithic axe head near Home Farm. A large number of settlement

enclosures are known in the area from aerial photographs and excavation, suggesting that this area was intensively occupied during the late prehistoric period. An earlier archaeological excavation at the adjacent Delhi Extension (Phase II) identified a pit alignment and a multi-phased prehistoric settlement which seems to have been modified to enclose another settlement site (NAA *in prep*). The complex consisted of a series of roundhouses, some with associated enclosures. Both the settlement complex and pit alignment may extend into the application area. A second pit alignment dated to the late Bronze-Age/ early Iron-Age was also identified during excavations at Fox Covert, 2.70km south-west of the site.

## 3.2 Romano-British Period

3.2.1 There is no known evidence of features of this date within or in the immediate vicinity of the site, although evidence from elsewhere in the Tyne-Tees lowlands suggests that the type and form of late-prehistoric settlement observed in the vicinity of the site continued into the early Romano-British period.

## 3.3 Early Medieval Period

3.3.1 There is no direct archaeological evidence of features of this date within the site, although the name Blagdon is thought to derive from an Anglo-Saxon place name. A recent excavation at Fox Covert, 2.70km south-west of the site recorded an enclosure ditch which was radio-carbon dated to the tenth century.

## 3.4 Medieval Period

3.4.1 It has been postulated that the former medieval settlement of Blagdon, first mentioned in 1242 may have been situated to the north of the southern entrance of Blagdon Park. The ridge and furrow which survives as earthworks across the site may have been associated with an open field agricultural system associated with the medieval settlement.

3.4.3 Archaeological investigation at the Delhi site (Phase I) identified evidence of possible medieval surface coal extraction and two medieval enclosures were identified during the Delhi Extension (Phase II). A medieval grange complex occupied from the mid-thirteenth to mid-fourteenth century was excavated at Fox Covert, 2.70km south-west of the site.

## 3.5 Post-Medieval Period

3.5.1 The displacement of the medieval village of Blagdon appears to have occurred sometime following the Hearth Tax in 1670. The area was incorporated as part of the eighteenth century parkland associated with Blagdon Hall.



3.5.2 Mining activity is known to have taken place at Delhi (Phase 1) from as early as the medieval period. Partially collapsed mine galleries were also identified at Delhi Phase 1 and were considered to be of nineteenth century date. Other industrial activities are suggested by the name 'Brick Kiln Field' and the possible remains of clay-pits lie in the vicinity of the site.

#### 4. Recommended Course of Action

4.1 The evaluation work proposed here is intended to ascertain whether there are any archaeological constraints that may affect the planned development. The purpose of trial excavation is to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their nature, quality, depth and preservation.

4.2 The earthworks survey has identified the presence of six blocks of ridge and furrow of later medieval and early post-medieval date. The subsequent conversion to parkland has resulted in the fossilisation of part of this agrarian landscape. A comparison with Fryer's sketch plan of the Blagdon Estate in 1805 has identified a number of the features from the earthwork survey.

4.3 There is potential that further archaeological remains will be present on the site. Previous archaeological investigations at the Delhi extraction site (Phases I and II) have provided evidence of substantial archaeological remains including prehistoric settlements and field systems found adjacent to the proposed application area. The presence of early mining, possibly medieval in origin was also identified.

4.4 This project design covers the programme of trial trenching. Following discussions between NCC Conservation Team, and AC archaeology, the trenching requirement has been established as comprising:

- 4% evaluation of the application area is required (2870m<sup>2</sup>), comprising of a total of 34 trenches; 23 trenches 50m x 2m and 11 partial trenches (total length of 1.435km).

Note: there is provision within this Project Design for a further trenching which may be required by the County Archaeological Officers based on the results of the initial phase of trenching. This contingency is detailed at Section 8 below.

4.5 The trenches have not been positioned to evaluate any specific feature and are arranged in a configuration designed to provide an even distribution, relatively closely spaced. Trenches will be excavated to the level of the first archaeological horizon or natural subsoil.

4.7 Trenches may be moved from their intended positions particularly where safety or logistical issues require. This will only be done with the prior consent of the County Archaeological Officer.

#### 5. General Standards

5.1 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) 1 and will follow the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.

## 6. Pre-site work preparation

6.1 This environmental sampling will be sent to Jacqui Huntley (English Heritage Scientific Regional Advisor) for comment.

6.2 This sampling strategy is intended to provide sufficient data to characterise the nature and informative potential of the deposits and features observed in the evaluation. This will fulfil the aim of both informing any further archaeological work and creating a record of deposits where no further work is required. Because of the speculative nature of this work and the wide range of features likely to be encountered, this strategy is best set out as a series of principles. These are:

- 10-30l samples should be taken from occupation and industrial features, pits and ditch fills. Other features should be sampled to help to characterise the deposits on the site. Priority should be given to processing samples from identifiable, dated features, or to those undated features which have potential for other forms of dating (e.g. radiocarbon dating)
- bulk sample residues should be checked for the presence of industrial waste (e.g. slags, hammerscale) and small faunal remains (e.g. fishbones, small mammal/avian bones) as well as for plant material.
- The potential of buried soils and ditch fills to provide pollen cores or Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating should be considered, although this type of sampling would normally be undertaken in consultation with the Regional Scientific Advisor.
- The selection of suitable deposits for sampling will be confirmed at site meetings with the County Archaeology Officer. In principle palaeo-environmental samples will be taken from deposits which have clear stratigraphic relationships. Particular attention will be paid to the recovery of samples from any waterlogged samples that may be present.

6.3 The relevant museum will be contacted to discuss archiving, prior to work commencing.

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

## 7. Fieldwork

7.1 Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a suitable machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. This machine stripping will be carried out under continuous archaeological supervision. The fieldwork will be undertaken in such a way as to minimise damage to intact earthworks and grass. Machines will select the shortest route whilst moving between trenches and will wherever possible re-use established routes. The trenches will be backfilled in such a way so that the existing ridge and furrow earthworks are traceable through the backfilled trenches.

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

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

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

- 50% of every discrete feature (e.g. pits, post-holes)
- 25% of the area of linear/curvilinear features (e.g. ditches, gulleys) with a non-uniform fill
- 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features (e.g. ditches, gulleys) with a uniform fill

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

7.6 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for providing environmental or dating evidence. Sampling will be in line with the strategy agreed with Jacqui Huntley and NCC Conservation Team.

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

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

7.9 The drawn record from the site will include all sections from the excavations that clearly allow the nature and depth and any significant changes in the deposits recorded to be demonstrated. Evaluation trenches found to be devoid of archaeological features will be planned in outline and a sample section drawn. If there is any uncertainty, advice will be sought from the Assistant County Archaeologist as to which sections may be appropriate for inclusion within the site record.

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

## 8. Contingency

8.1 It is possible that the initial programme of trial trenching may identify areas of greater archaeological potential which will require further evaluation. It is therefore vital that a contingency sum is allowed to further evaluate areas of archaeological potential identified by initial trial trenching of this site.

8.2 The contingency allowance has been set at an additional 1% contingency of up to 375m of additional trenching (750m<sup>2</sup>).

## 9. Archaeological Recording

9.1 Each evaluation trench will be accurately related to the National Grid and located on a map of the area at an appropriate scale.

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

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

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

9.5 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept.

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

## 10. Post excavation work, archive, and report preparation

## 10.1 Finds

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

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

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

## 10.2 Site Archive

10.2.1 The archive and the finds will be deposited in the appropriate local museum, within 6 months of completion of the post-excavation work and report.

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

10.2.3 NCC Conservation Team will require confirmation that the archive had been submitted in a satisfactory form to the relevant museum.

## 10.3 Reporting

10.3.1 The evaluation is the third stage in a potential multi-staged programme of archaeological work and has been requested prior to the determination of planning permission.

10.3.2 Due to the strict deadlines laid out in the planning system, Tyne and Wear Museums or consultant will submit copies of the report to NCC Conservation Team, the planning department and their client within 20 working days of being commissioned to carry out the work unless agreed in advance with all relevant parties.

10.3.3 The following copies of the report are required:

- Two copies of the report for NCC Conservation Team (one bound and one unbound)
- One bound copy for NCC Planning Department
  - Each page and paragraph will be numbered within the report and illustrations cross-referenced within the text.

- The report will include the following as a minimum:
- Planning application numbers, Northumberland County Council Conservation Team reference, OASIS reference numbers and an 8 figure grid reference
- A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
- A location plan showing trench locations within the site. This will be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Sites and Monuments Record
- Plans and sections of main trench axes and excavated features located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
- A summary statement of the results
- A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
- Tables and matrices summarising feature and artefact sequences
- Archive description of contexts grouped by phase
- Description and illustration of artefacts
- Colour photographs of archaeological features or finds
- Laboratory reports and summaries of environmental data
- Consideration of results in wider research context

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

## 10.4 OASIS

10.4.1 NCC Conservation Team support the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.

10.4.2 The archaeological consultant or contractor will therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. If the contractors are unfamiliar with OASIS, they are advised to contact Northumberland SMR prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR or HER, Northumberland SMR will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website. The archaeological consultant or contractor will indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted to NCC Conservation Team for approval

## 10.5 Publication

10.5.1 A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Sarah MacLean, Northumberland Historic Records Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.

10.5.2 A short report of the work will also be submitted to a local journal if deemed appropriate by Northumberland Conservation Team.

## 11. Monitoring

11.1 The County Archaeologist will be informed on the start date and timetable for the evaluation in advance of work commencing.

11.2 Reasonable access to the site will be afforded to the County Archaeologist or his/her nominee at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation. Regular communication between Tyne and Wear Museums, AC archaeology, the County Archaeologist and other interested parties will be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

11.3. TWM staff for the project will be under the overall management of Dr Nick Hodgson assisted by Jonathan McKelvey, with on-site supervision being provided by Warren Muncaster.



## Contact Details:

Nick Best  
Assistant County Archaeologist  
Northumberland County Council  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
Northumberland  
NE61 2EF

Tel: 01670 534057

Fax: 01670 533086

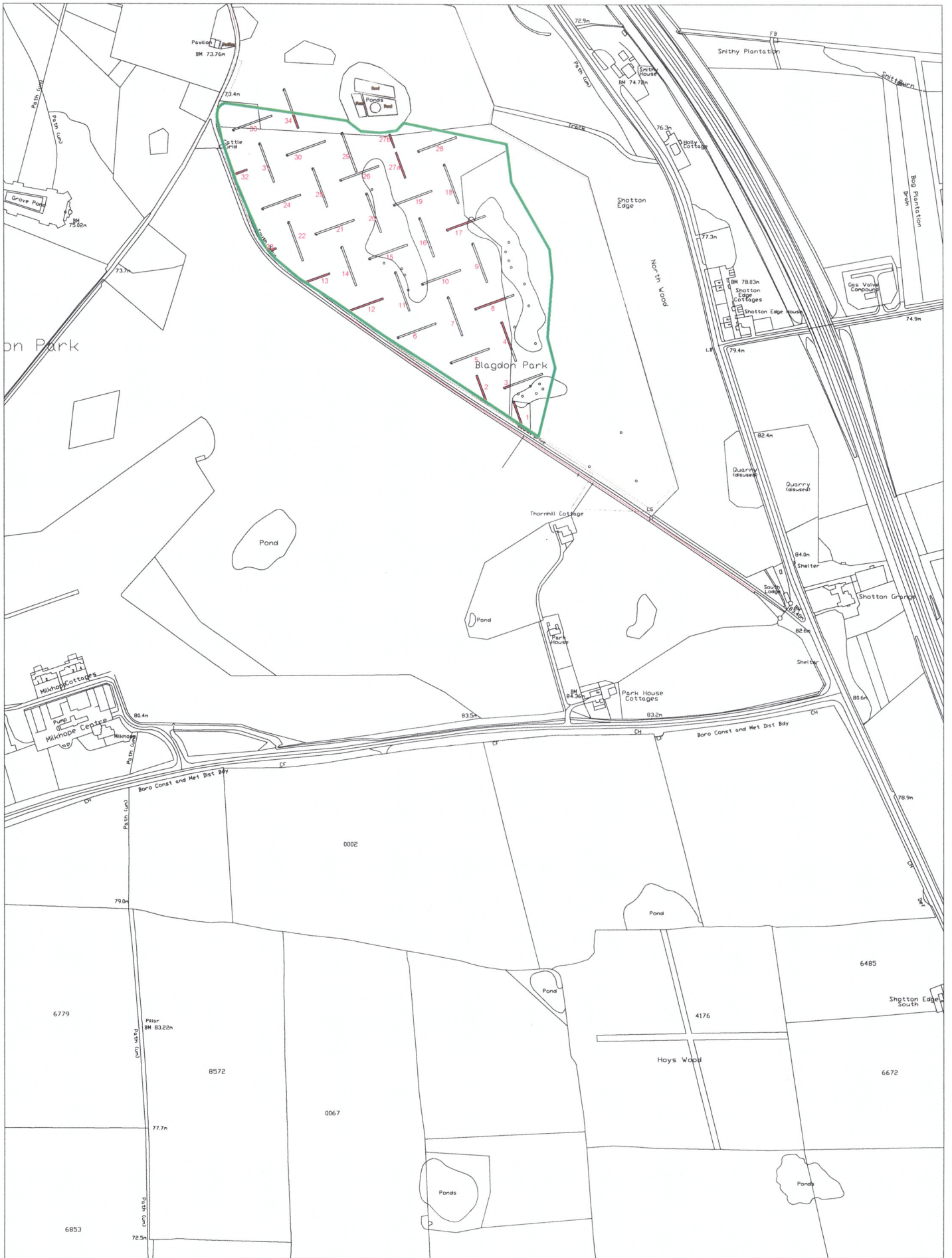
e-mail: [nbest@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:nbest@northumberland.gov.uk)

Jonathan McKelvey  
Keeper of Field Archaeology  
Tyne and Wear Museums Archaeology  
Arbeia Roman Fort  
Baring Street  
South Shields  
NE33 2BB

Tel: 0191 4544093

Fax: 0191 4276862

Email: [jon.mckelvey@twmuseums.org.uk](mailto:jon.mckelvey@twmuseums.org.uk)

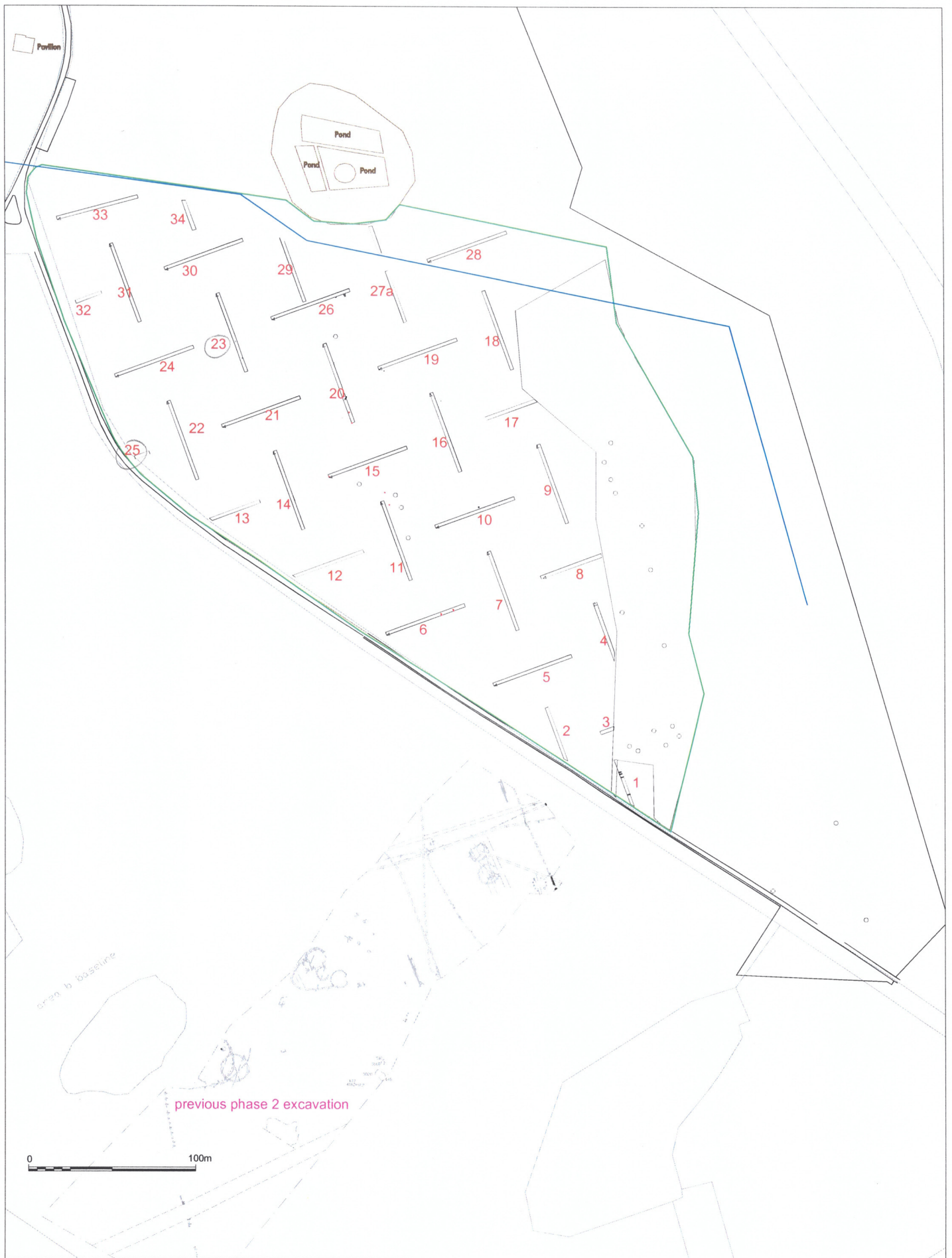


© Crown Copyright, all rights reserved.  
Newcastle City Council, LA 076244, 2005

1:6000  
 ↑ N

Figure 1: General location of the site





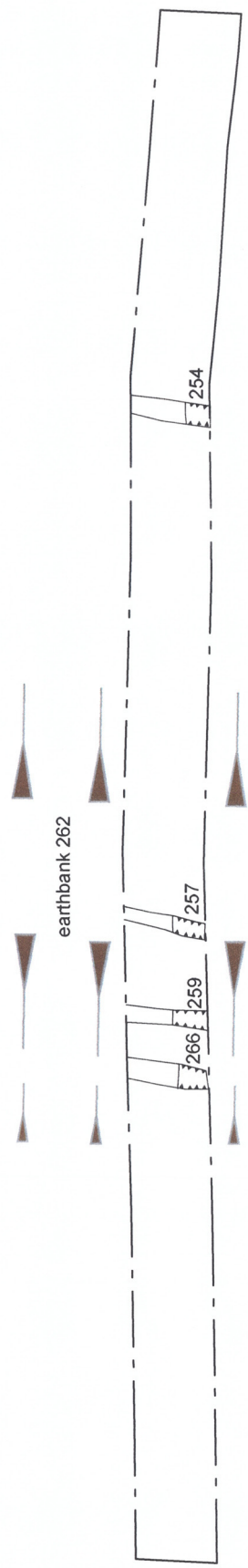
© Crown Copyright, all rights reserved.  
 Newcastle City Council, LA 076244, 2007

1:3000



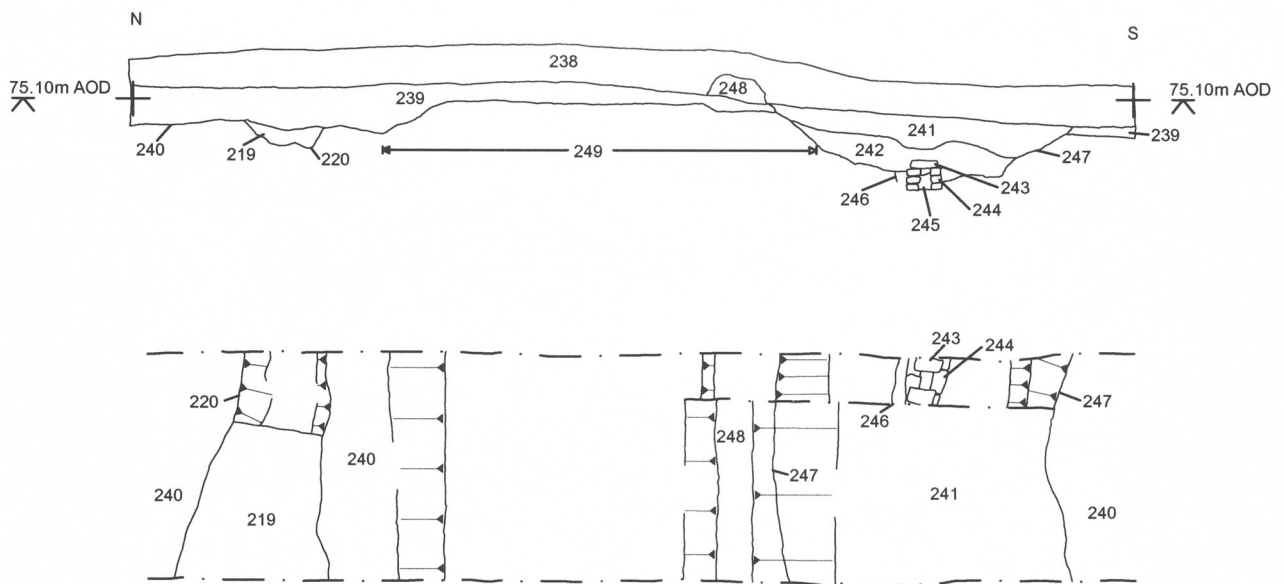
Figure 2: Detailed site and trench plan  
 (site highlighted in green)





1:150 ↗

Figure 3: Plan of trench 1



1:60



Figure 4 : Section and plan Trench 6

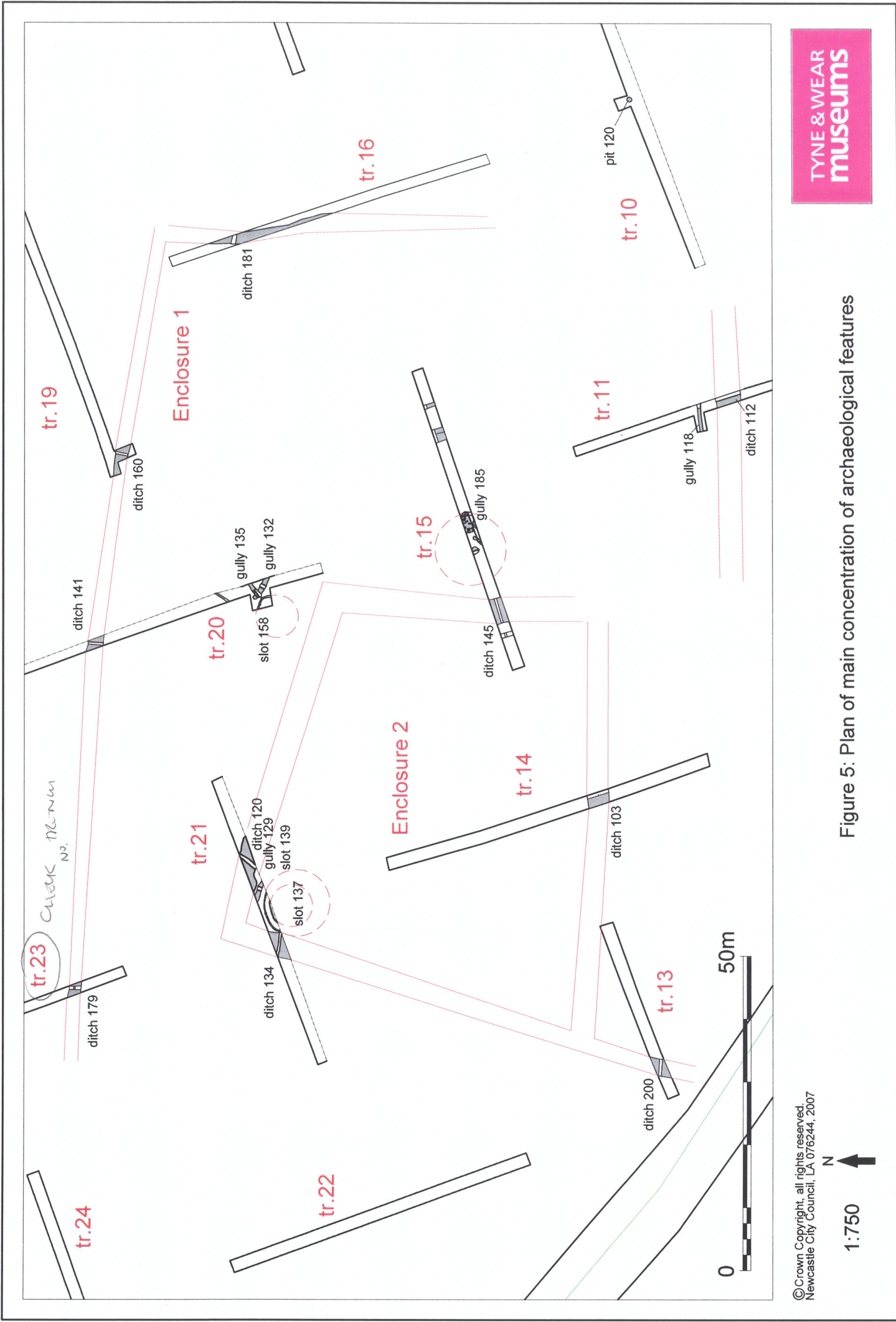
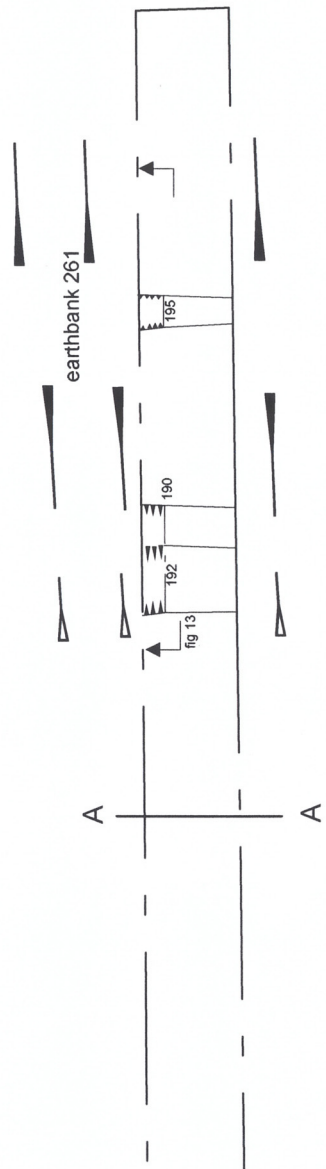
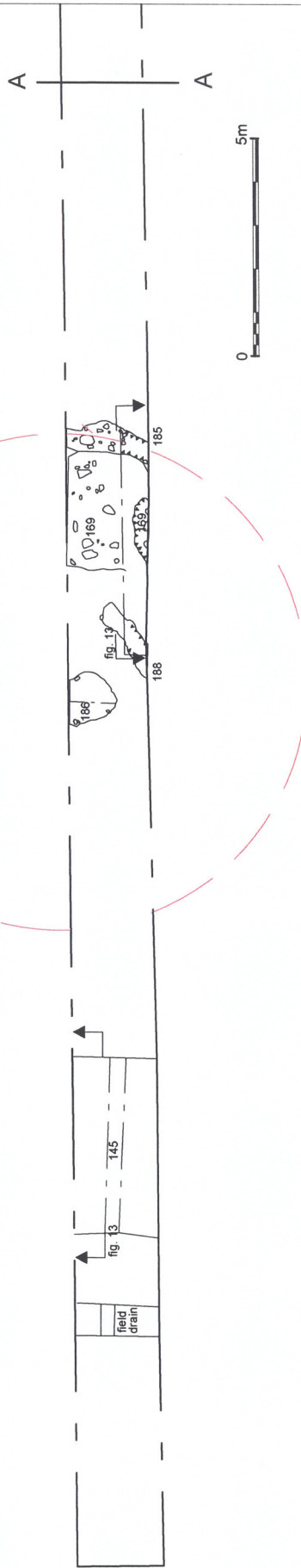


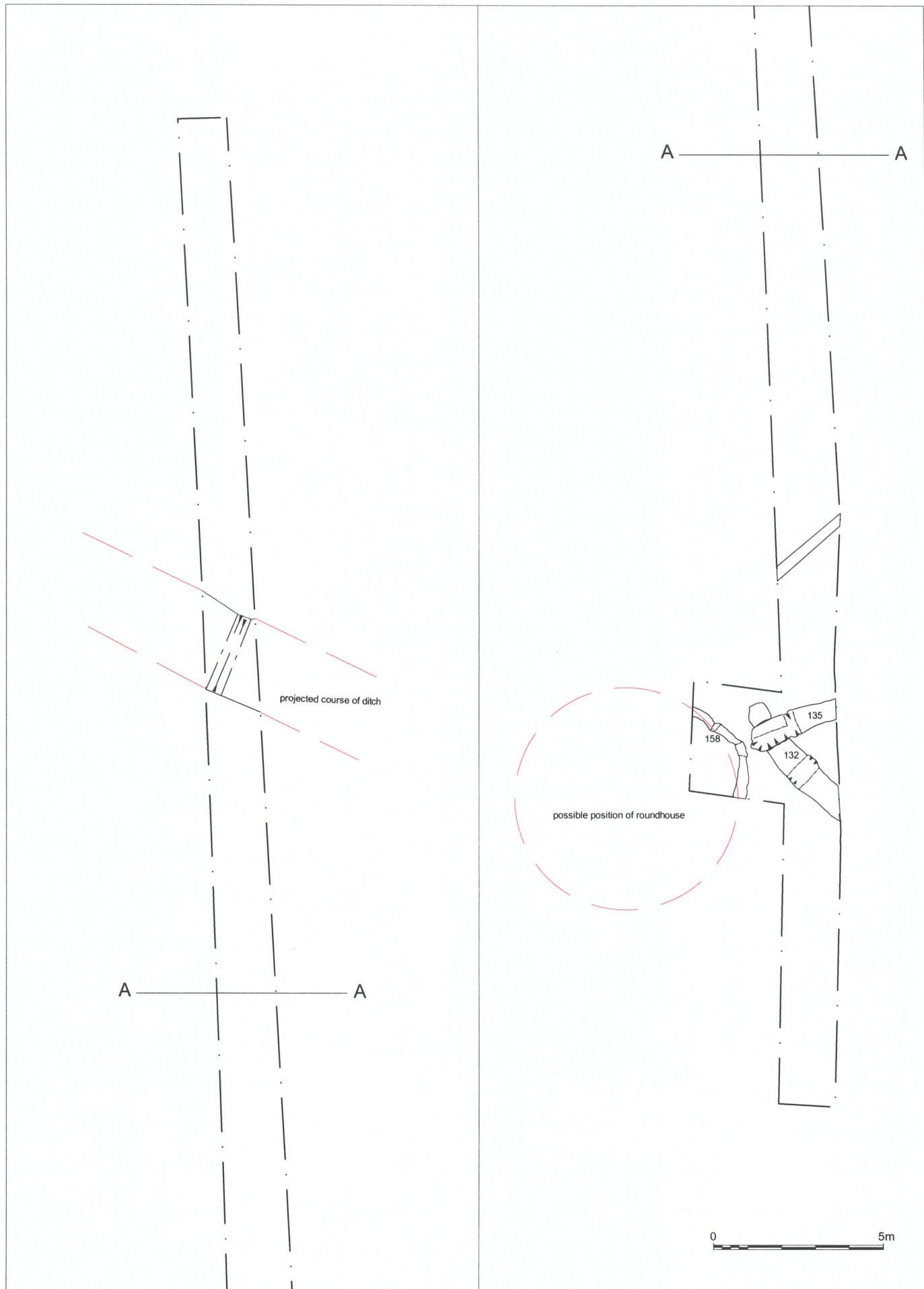
Figure 5: Plan of main concentration of archaeological features

possible position of roundhouse



1:150

Figure 6: Plan of trench 15



1:150



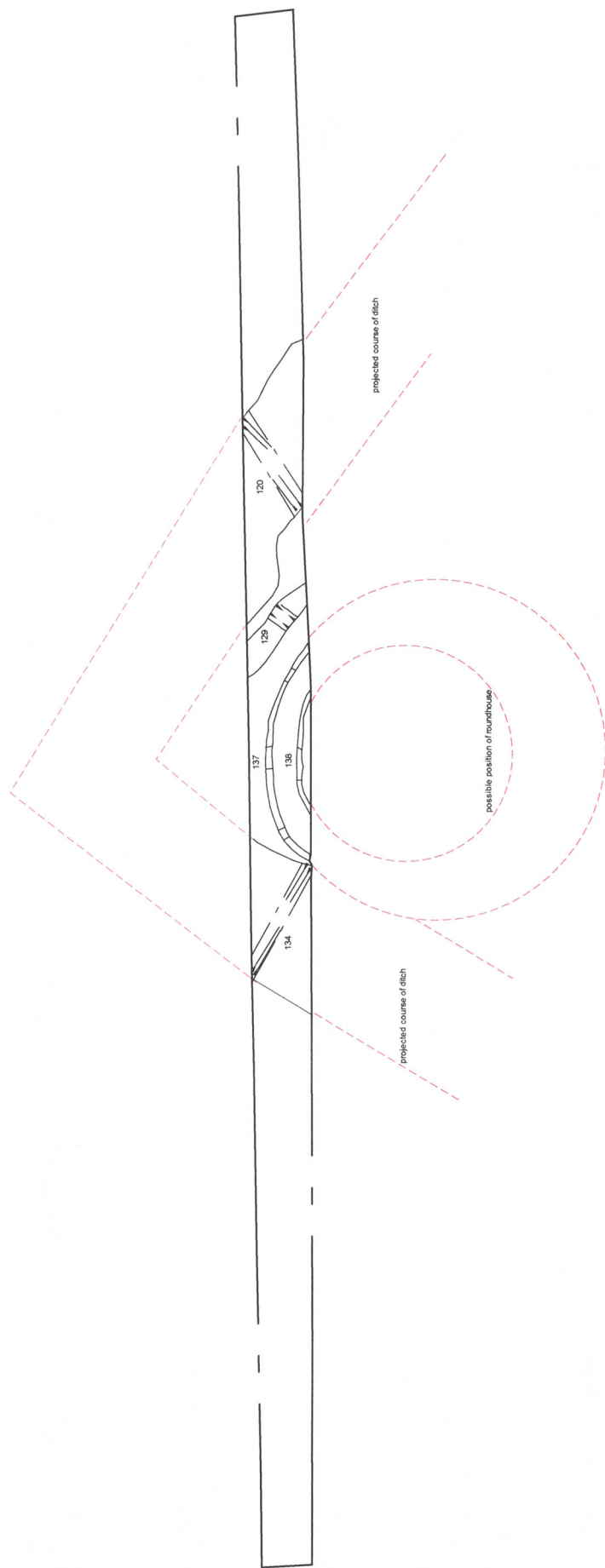
Figure 7: plan of trench 20

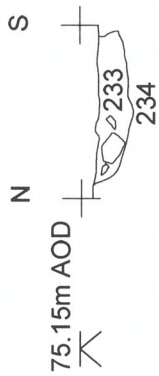


Figure 8: Plan of trench 21

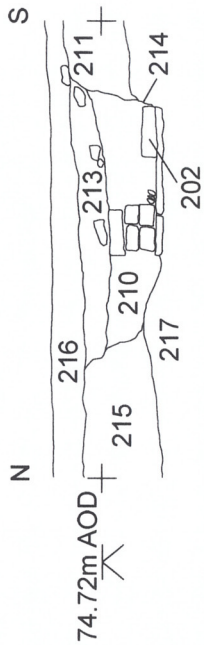


1:200

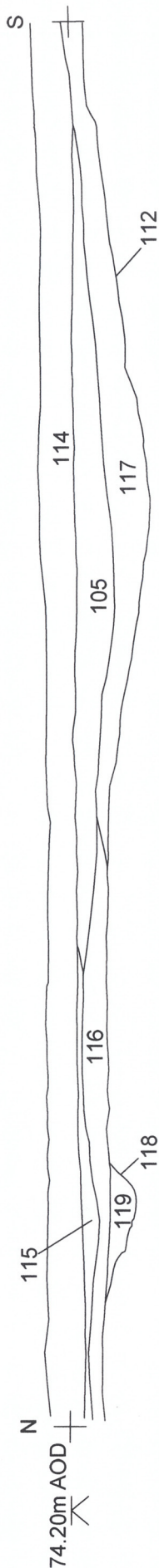




(Figure 9) Section of pit (234) Trench 10



(Figure 10) South west facing section of brick feature

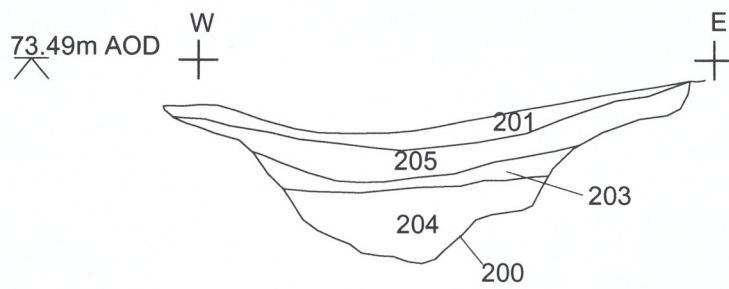


(Figure 10) West facing section of gully 118 and ditch 112



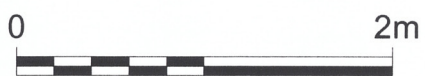
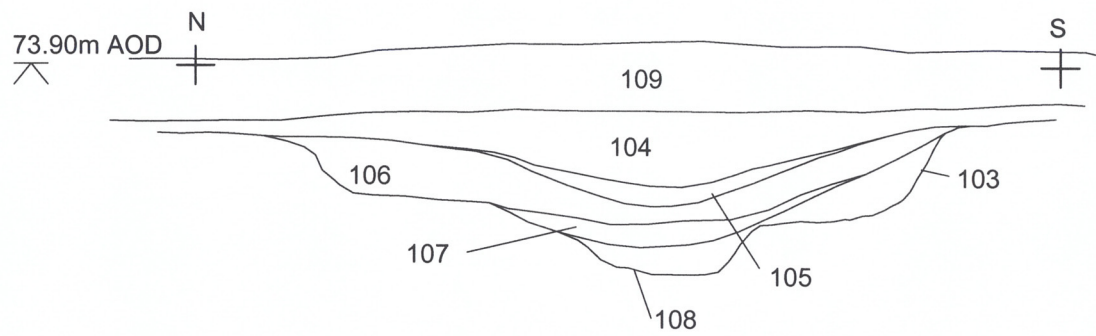
Figure 9 : Section of pit (234) Trench 10

Figure 10 : Sections of Trench 11



West facing section of Ditch

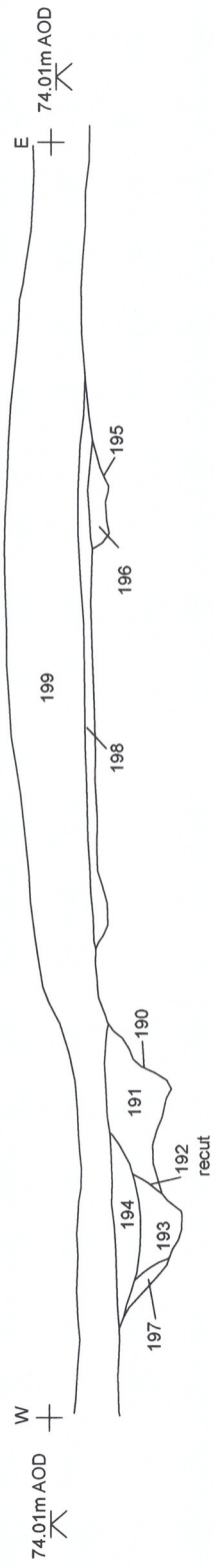




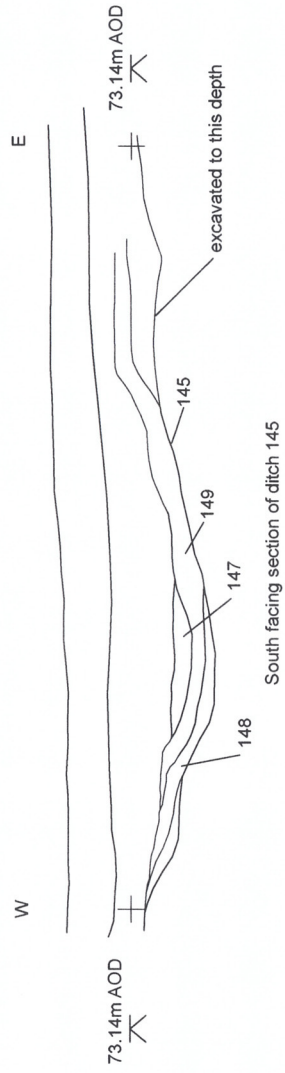
1:40

Figure 12 : West facing section of ditch 103, Trench 14

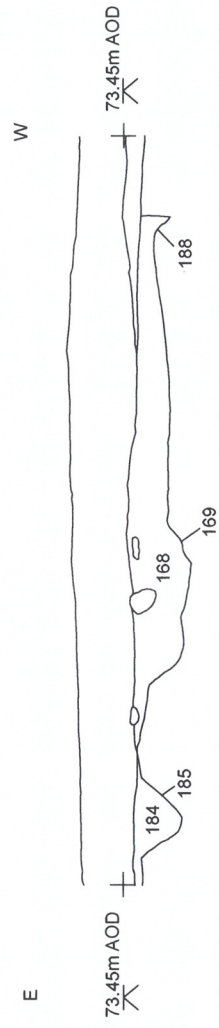




South facing section through boundary bank 262



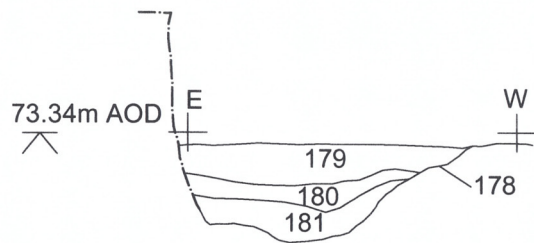
South facing section of ditch 145



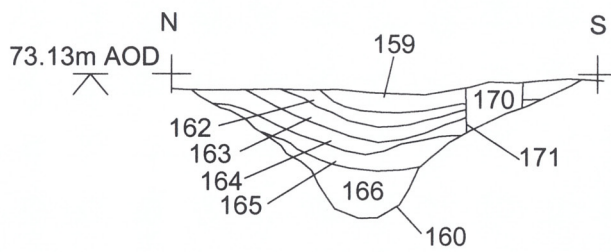
North facing section of gullies and ditch 169



Figure 13 : Sections of Trench 15



(Figure14 ) North facing ection of ditch 178 Trench 16

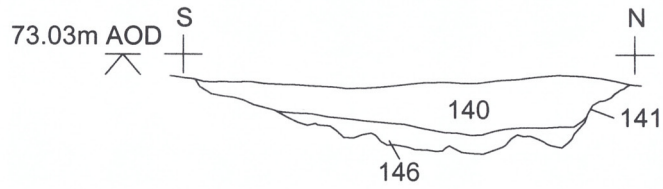


(Figure15) West facing section of ditch 160 Trench 19

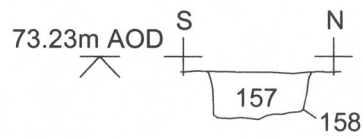


1:20

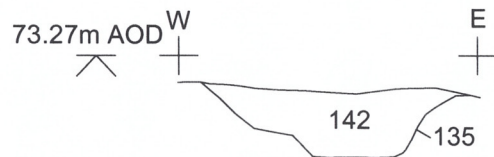
Figure 14 : Section, Trench 16  
 Figure 15 : Section, Trench 19



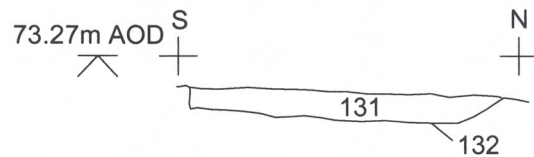
East facing section of ditch 141



East facing section of wall slot 158



South facing section of gully 135

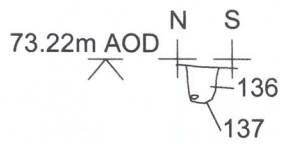


East facing section of gully 132

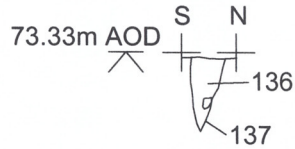


1:40  
1:20

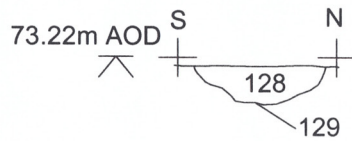
Figure 16 : Sections of Trench 20



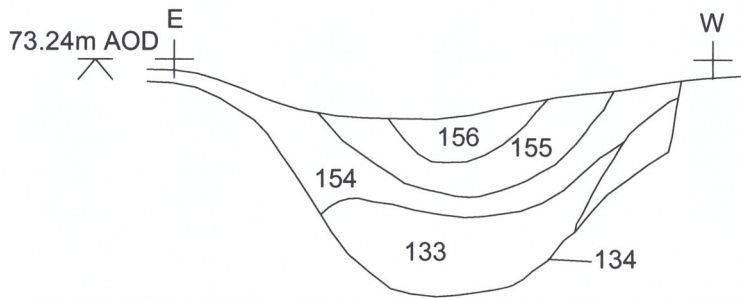
East facing section of wall slot 137



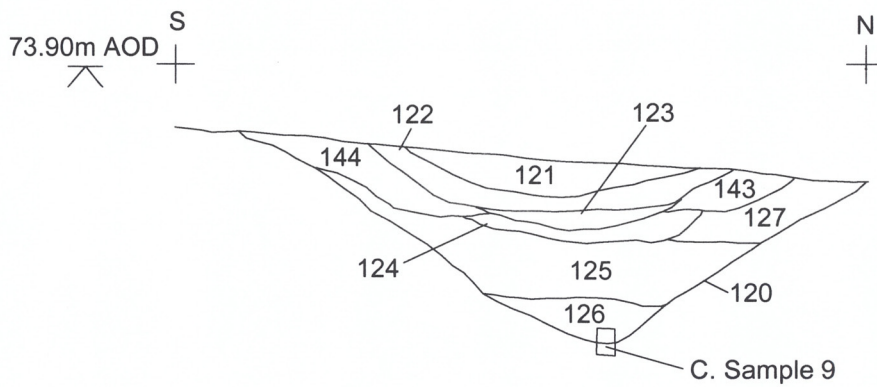
West facing section of wall slot 137



West facing section of gully 129



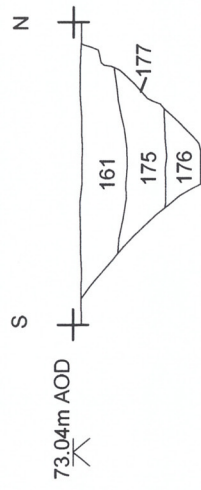
North facing section of ditch 134



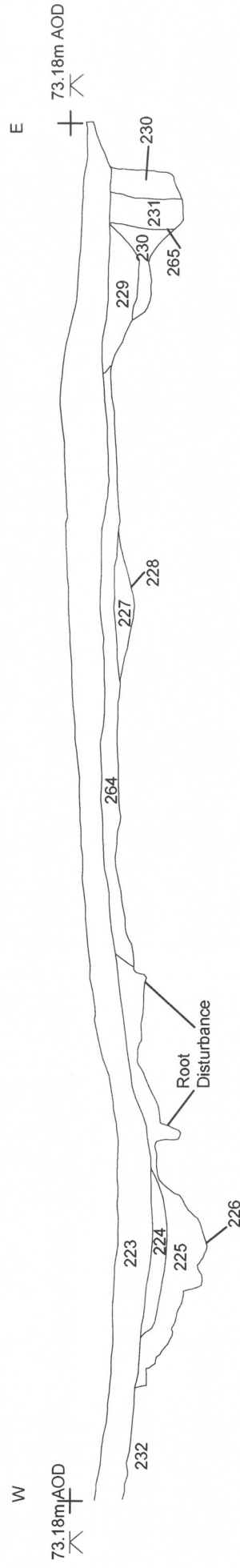
West facing section of ditch 120







(Figure 18) East facing section of ditch 177



(Figure 19) South facing section of boundary bank 261 at east end of trench 26

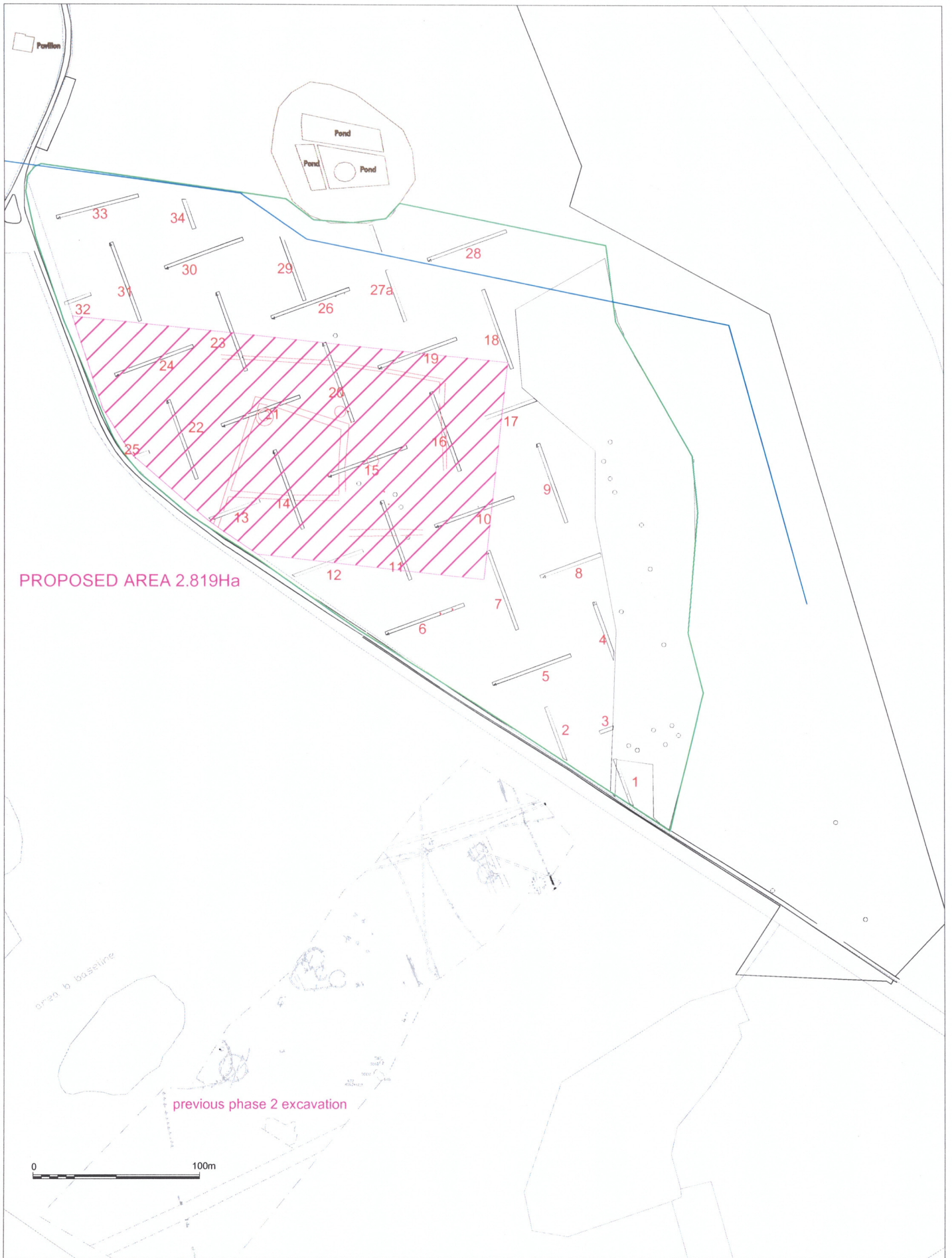


Figure 20: Plan of proposed excavation area

TWM Archaeology,  
Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum  
Baring Street  
South Shields  
NE33 2BB

Tel: 0191 454 4093  
Fax: 0191 427 6862

