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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



FITZ PARK PROPERTIES LTD

Land at Fitz Park, Cockermouth, Cumbria

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

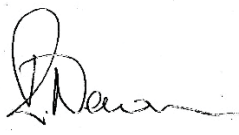

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FITZ PARK PROPERTIES LTD

Land at Fitz Park, Cockermouth, Cumbria

Archaeological Evaluation

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Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

Figure 3: Trench 1 Plan and Section

Figure 4: Trench location plan with geophysical survey

SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) was commissioned by the client Fitz Park Properties Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Fitz Park, Cockermouth, Cumbria (NGR: NY 10813 30767). The evaluation was required as part of a condition of planning consent. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced in response to advice given by Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES).

In total seven trenches were excavated across the area at Fitz Park, Cockermouth. In Trench one an undated archaeological linear feature was recorded but the other six trenches were devoid of any archaeological features other than a small palaeochannel.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thanks the client Fitz Park Properties Ltd for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, WAA thank Jeremy Parsons, at Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service for his assistance.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks John Elliott Plant Hire Company, for their help during this project.

The evaluation was supervised by Ed Johnson with assistance from Kevin Horsley and Adam Mager. The report was written by Ed Johnson and the figures were produced by Helen Philips. Finds assessment was by Megan Stoakley and the palaeo-environmental assessment was by Don O'Meara. The project was managed by Frank Giecco and the report edited by Richard Newman.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

1.1.1 In August 2016, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) undertook an archaeological evaluation on Land at Fitz Park, Cockermouth, Cumbria (NGR: NY 10813 30767) It was commissioned by the Client who intends to construct 16 properties with associated infrastructure for which a planning consent has been granted by Cumbria County Council (planning reference: 2/2014/0880).

1.1.2 The proposed development is known to be close to a Romano-British farmstead (NHL: 1014587) as well as extensive Romano-British activity to the north of the site; evidence for Neolithic activity has been discovered to the immediate west. The heritage significance of these sites may be affected by the application.

1.2 Project Documentation

1.2.1 The project, which was prepared in consultation with Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES). A WSI (WAA 2016) was then produced to provide a specific methodology based on the brief for a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation. This was approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).

1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological evaluation.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014a), and in accordance with the WAA fieldwork manual (2012).

2.1.3 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014a) and the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b).

2.2 Documentary Research

2.2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by WAA (2015), which set out the archaeological and historical background of the site, and provided an assessment of the significance of all known and potential heritage assets up to 0.5km from the area of investigation.

2.3 The Field Evaluation

2.3.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of seven number trenches measuring 30m in length by 1.7m in width across the extension of proposed development area. The trenches were placed to target a series of possible linear features recorded during the previous geophysical survey (WAA 2015). The trench plan was agreed by Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES). The general aims of these investigations were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.3.2 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand. All possible features were

inspected and selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples. Once completed all features were recorded according to the WAA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WAA 2012).

2.3.3 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the Carlisle office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the WAA Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (Ibid). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- unstratified material;
- modern pottery;
- material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

2.3.4 On completion the evaluation trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material.

2.3.5 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with Tullie House Museum, with copies of the report sent to the County HER, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA16, CP11811/16, FIT-C.

2.3.6 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology supports the **Online AccesS** to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WAA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-261517.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The site is located at (NY 10813 30767) and lies on the western edge of the town of Cockermouth, to the north of Fitz House and Fitz Wood. The site is approximately 81,115m² and is currently used as two fields of open pasture for the grazing of sheep.

3.1.2 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as mudstone and siltstone of the Hope Beck Formation, deposited during the Ordovician Period approximately 467 to 479 million years ago under deep sea conditions. This is overlain by superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel of the alluvium group deposited around two million years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS 2016). The natural substrate observed during the current phase of works comprised clay silts with gravel which is consistent with the mapped geologies above.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 A historic impact assessment was produced to summarise the known historical and archaeological background of the site and the surrounding landscape (WAA 2015). It is not intended to repeat that information here and what follows is a brief overview, for further details please refer to the original document.

3.2.2 This report identified that there was one designated heritage asset within the site boundary, The Fitz house which is Grade II listed.

3.2.3 No heritage assets designated as scheduled ancient monuments are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site. However, a scheduled monument known as 'Romano-British Farmstead in Fitz Woods' (NHL 1014587) lies to the south of the development site, while Papcastle Roman fort (*Derventio*) and part of its vicus (NHL 1007760) lies to the north of the Derwent river.

3.2.4 A non-heritage asset, in the form of Roman archaeology, has in recent years, been revealed on the northern side of Low Road B5292. This was excavated between 2012 and 2015 as part of the *Discovering Derventio* project. Ran by Grampus Heritage, its excavations represent the southern vicus associated with Papcastle Roman fort. The heritage impact assessment concluded that there was a reasonable likelihood that archaeological remains of Romano-British date may be present within the proposed development site.

- 3.2.5 Several archaeological evaluations have been undertaken in the fields to the west of the current site, which include trenches within the limits of the development site. These evaluations include the discovery of early Neolithic pottery in a palaeochannel (Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS) 2014). A geophysical survey was undertaken within the development area in 2014 (WAA), which highlighted a number of linear and non-linear anomalies. On the basis of these findings an evaluation and open area excavation was undertaken in 2016 (WAA) with several roman features being discovered within the site
- 3.2.6 **Prehistoric:** a palaeochannel, encountered during geophysical surveys in 2009, was investigated in 2014 and produced a single Neolithic vessel, indicative of early activity in the near vicinity. In addition, a scheduled monument, known as ‘Romano-British Farmstead in Fitz Woods’ (NGR NY 10875 30456) (NHL 1014587), to the south, consists of a sub-rectangular enclosure with rounded corners, defended by an inner bank, ditch and outer bank. It is thought to have been a Romano-British farmstead, though it has never been investigated.
- 3.2.7 **Romano-British:** as well as the possible Romano-British site mentioned above (NHL 1014587), an area centred on a known Roman fort at Papcastle has been the subject of archaeological research and investigation over recent years by Grampus Heritage, with Heritage Lottery funding (HER 43625). Discoveries have included a bath house, a *mansio*, parts of the fort’s *vicus*, a bridge, a possible hut circle as well as numerous worked stone fragments and small finds. In addition, geophysical surveys undertaken as part of this ‘*Discovering Derventio*’ project have revealed the route of two roads, one on an east-north-east west-south-west orientation heading south of the river. A section of the western road was excavated and showed the road to be 10m wide with two ditches either side of it. Extensive features between the two roads have also been revealed by these earlier surveys, which are to the immediate north of the Low Road B5292. The southern extent of these archaeological remains has not been found.
- 3.2.8 **Medieval:** a property belonging to St Leonard’s chapel lay in a triangular field known as St Leonard’s Close, between the road and the River Derwent (HER 43340). In 1547, this field was described as ‘toft of St Leonard’s Chapel’. St Leonard’s chapel is recorded in c 1270 and c 1280. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 annotates ‘St Leonards’ to the north-east (Figure 3).

3.2.9 **Post Medieval:** the Fitz estate itself dates from at least 1628 with the present mansion house, a Grade II listed building, being constructed in 1834/5 for the Senhouse family (NHL 1145198),

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken between the 1st and 5th August 2016, with seven trenches excavated across the proposed development site (Figure 2). The trenches were placed to target a series of possible linear features recorded during an earlier geophysical survey (WAA 2014). Agricultural topsoil was removed down to reveal the underlying deposits by a mechanical excavator with toothless grading bucket. Potential features observed were cleaned and investigated.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Archaeological remains were noted in one of the seven trenches (Trench 1) with each trench excavated through a layer of sandy silt topsoil and clayish silt subsoil. This was observed to overlie a natural substrate consisting of river gravel observed across the site. The natural observed in trench 5 differed and was made up of a yellow grey clay however it is noted that previously in this area a pond existed until recently. Trenches 6 and 7 produced the remains of a palaeochannel that had been highlighted by the previous geophysical survey (see figure 4)

4.2.2 The trenches were up to 1.02m in depth with trench 4 being the deepest. Several land drains and modern services were noted within the trenches including a modern water pipe within trenches 2 and 3.

4.2.3 The archaeological remains recorded within trench 1 consisted of a single ditch excavated towards the north-north-western end of the trench. The ditch [103] had a U-shaped profile and measured 0.86m in width with a maximum depth of 0.27m (see figure 3). The ditch contained a single orange brown clayish silt fill (104) with frequent gravel inclusions, no dating evidence was recovered during the excavations.

4.2.4 Both trenches 6 and 7 targeted the potential palaeochannel highlighted by the geophysical survey (see figure 4) and each contained a mid-grey brown silty clay deposit (602 and 705) indicative of a slow moving water borne deposit which covered the southern halves of both trenches.

5 FINDS

- 5.1 A total of thirteen artefacts, weighing 1410g, were recovered during an archaeological evaluation at Fitz Park, Cockermouth, Cumbria (site code FIT-C). All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011), EAC (2014) and Senhouse Museum.
- 5.2 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.
- 5.3 The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley.
- 5.4 Quantification of finds by context is visible in Table 1.

Trench No.	Context	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
1	101	Ceramic	1	11	PM	Buckley-type CRE
4	U/S	Ceramic	1	6	PM	Fine red earthenware, gold & chocolate brown slip on exterior
7	U/S	Copper Alloy	2	13	Med-PM	1 x Tudor buckle, type IVE No. 68 1485-1600 (Marshall 1986, Fig. 7); 1 x post-med buckle, type V Nos. 31-32 1660-1720 (Marshall 1986, Fig. 9)
4	U/S	Copper Alloy & Lead	1	404	RB	A possible handle for bucket/vessel? Single off-centre rivet, possibly part of a statue; 70.84mm (L) x 69.69mm (W) x 52.05mm & 4.68mm (D)
7	U/S	Iron	5	808	PM-Mod	Iron slug, 3 nails, 1 rod or tent-peg (modern)
4	U/S	Lead	1	56	?	Miscellaneous fragment
7	U/S	Lead	1	109	?	Miscellaneous fragment
N/A	U/S	Silver	1	3	Mod	1935 George V six pence
TOTAL			13	1410		

Table 1: Quantification of Bulk Finds by Context

5.5 Post-medieval & Modern Ceramics

- 5.5.1 Two sherds of post-medieval to modern ceramics, weighing 17g, were recovered during the evaluation (Table 1). The artefacts are in good condition.

5.5.2 One sherd comprises Buckley-type coarse red earthenware which probably originated from the rim of a jug / jar. The other sherd comprises a type of fine red earthenware with a chocolate brown and gold slip on the interior. The sherd likely originated from a bowl. Both sherds are of late 19th century date.

5.5.3 No further analysis is warranted.

5.6 Iron

5.6.1 Five iron artefacts, weighing 808g, were recovered from Trench 7 (Table 1). The artefacts are in moderate condition.

5.6.2 The finds comprise an iron slug, three nails and a probable tent-peg. The artefacts are of late post-medieval to modern date.

5.6.3 No further analysis is warranted.

5.7 Silver

5.7.1 A single George V silver six pence was recovered from an unstratified deposit (Table 1). The artefact is in good condition. The coin dates to 1935. No further analysis is necessary.

5.8 Lead & Copper Alloy

5.8.1 Three copper alloy and lead artefacts, weighing 417g, were recovered from Trenches 4 and 7 (Table 1). The artefacts are in good condition.

5.8.2 Copper alloy artefacts recovered from Trench 7 comprise two buckles. One buckle comprises a Type IVE No. 68 shoe buckle dated to 1485-1600 (Marshall 1986, Figure. 7).

5.8.3 The other buckle comprises a Type V Nos. 31-32 shoe / belt buckle dated to 1660-1720 (*Ibid*, Figure. 9).

5.8.4 A single copper alloy and lead artefact, weighing 404g, was recovered from an unstratified deposit in Trench 4. The artefact has a concave surface and comprises a short and wide flattened shaft which tapers to a point. The object has a single rivet towards one edge and a series of grooves is evident along one outer surface.

5.8.5 One possibility is that the object could be a handle or fitting for a bucket or large vessel. However, only one rivet is evident which is not central and would not have provided the support necessary for an individual to hold or lift. Another possibility is

that the object comprises part of a statue; the artefact in this instance would not need to be weight-bearing and its function would therefore be decorative.

5.8.6 A Roman date has been attributed to this artefact.

5.8.7 Should the project progress to publication, there is a small possibility that further analysis may be warranted on the possible handle / statue fragment.

5.8.8 No further analysis is warranted on the buckles.

5.9 **Miscellaneous Lead Fragments**

5.9.1 Two undated miscellaneous lead fragments, weighing 165g, were recovered from unstratified deposits in Trenches 4 and 7 (Table 1). The artefacts are in moderate to good condition.

5.9.2 No further analysis is warranted.

5.10 **Statement of Potential**

5.10.1 The recovery of the buckles is of interest on a local scale. The recovery of the possible bucket / vessel is also of interest and may warrant further investigation / research to establish its function and date, including research of comparable artefacts.

5.10.2 Finds of modern date were not retained with the archive.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 During the course of the archaeological evaluation three samples were taken for the purposes of archaeobotanical/archaeometallurgical/zooarchaeological analysis. This material was taken to extract material that may aid the understanding of the depositional history of these contexts, as well as understand the levels of organic preservation found within the excavated area; as per Historic England recommendations (English Heritage 2011).
- 6.1.2 The environmental assemblage recovered from ditch [103] (context 104) and paleo channel deposits (context 602 and 705) were all assessed and no samples contained any archaeobotanical material or potential for further analysis.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Interpretation

- 7.1.1 Archaeological remains were found in one of the seven trenches, consisting of a ditch. The remains were concentrated in the north eastern corner of the site and are undated. Previous excavations on the site have revealed both Roman and Post-Medieval features similar in shape to the identified ditch.
- 7.1.2 The survival of the archaeological features could be affected by subsequent land use. Remains of ridge and furrow are visible across the entirety of the site with the eastern edge of site showing signs of possible landscaping.

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9 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NNW-SSE
 Minimum Depth: 0.47m Maximum Depth: 0.92m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
100	Deposit	Topsoil	0.20m	Greyish brown sandy silt topsoil.
101	Deposit	Subsoil	0.64m	Clayish silt subsoil.
102	Deposit	Natural	NFX	River Gravels
103	Cut	Ditch Cut		Cut for linear ditch
104	Deposit	Ditch Fill	0.27m	Mid orange brown clayish silt.

Trench 2

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NE-SW
 Minimum Depth: 0.50m Maximum Depth: 0.92m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
200	Deposit	Topsoil	0.25m	Greyish brown silt topsoil
201	Deposit	Subsoil	0.25m	Orangey brown clayish silt
202	Deposit	Natural	NFX	River gravels

Trench 3

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NNW-SSE
 Minimum Depth: 0.50m Maximum Depth: 0.86m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
300	Deposit	Topsoil	0.26m	Greyish brown silt topsoil
301	Deposit	Subsoil	0.60m	Orangey brown clayish silt
302	Deposit	Natural	NFX	River gravels

Trench 4

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: E-W
 Minimum Depth: 0.53m Maximum Depth: 1.02m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
400	Deposit	Topsoil	0.24m	Greyish brown silt topsoil
401	Deposit	Subsoil	0.30m	Orangey brown clayish silt
402	Deposit	Natural	NFX	River gravels

Trench 5

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NNW-SSE
 Minimum Depth: 0.32m Maximum Depth: 0.64m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
500	Deposit	Topsoil	0.22m	Greyish brown silt topsoil
501	Deposit	Subsoil	0.28m	Orangey brown clayish silt
502	Deposit	Natural	NFX	River gravels

Trench 6

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NNW-SSE
 Minimum Depth: .??m Maximum Depth: .??m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
600	Deposit	Topsoil	0.22m	Greyish brown silt topsoil
601	Deposit	Subsoil	0.28m	Orangey brown clayish silt
602	Deposit	Natural	NFX	River gravels
603	Deposit	Palaeosol	0.40m	Mid orange sandy clay palaeosol (Palaeochannel deposit)
604	Deposit	Palaeosol	0.30m	Blue grey gravel clay (Palaeochannel deposit)

Trench 7

Length: 30m Width: 1.5m Orientation: NNW-SSE
 Minimum Depth: 0.52m Maximum Depth: 1.00m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
700	Deposit	Topsoil	0.20m	Greyish brown silt topsoil.
701	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	Orange brown clayish silt subsoil

702	Deposit	Natural	NFX	River gravel
703	Deposit	Natural	NFX	Orange brown sandy gravel
704	Deposit	Natural	NFX	Grey river gravel
705	Deposit	Paleaosal	0.50m	Mid yellow brown clayish sand with frequent lenses of gravel.
706	Deposit	Natural	NFX	Orange grey gravel

10 APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1; Trench 1 overall shot



Plate 2; Trench 2 overall shot showing rise for modern water service

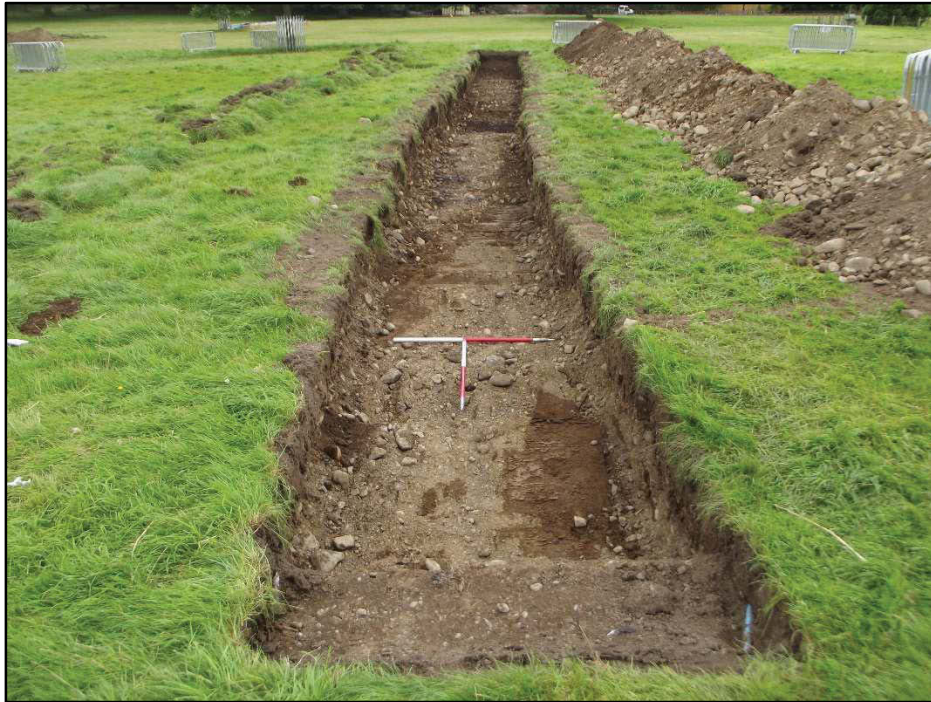


Plate 3; Trench 3 overall shot

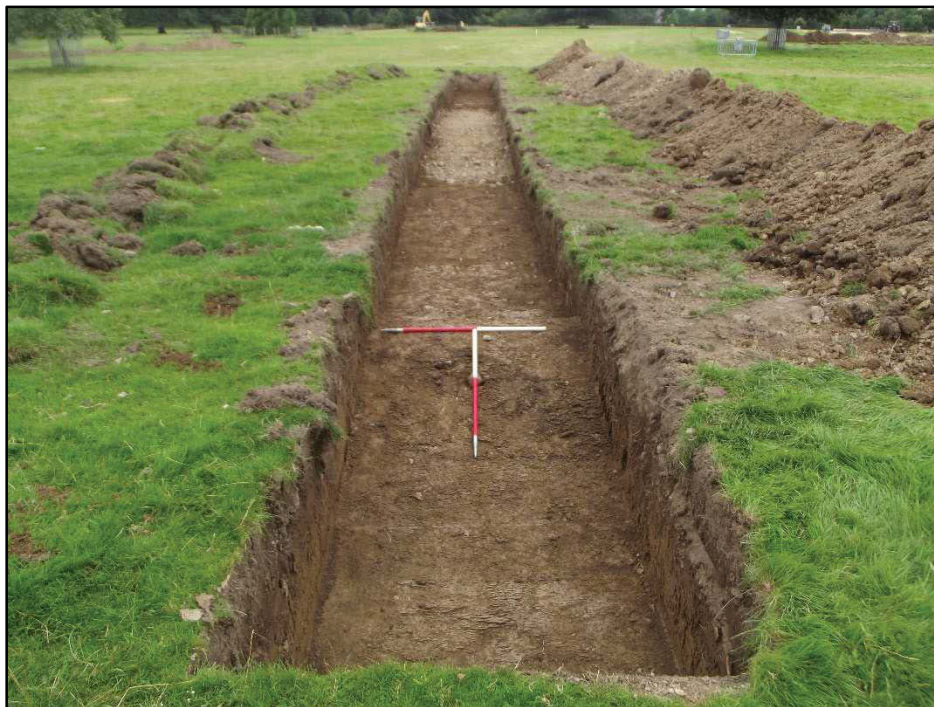


Plate 4; Trench 4 overall shot showing rise left in to cover modern drain.



Plate 5; Trench 5 overall shot

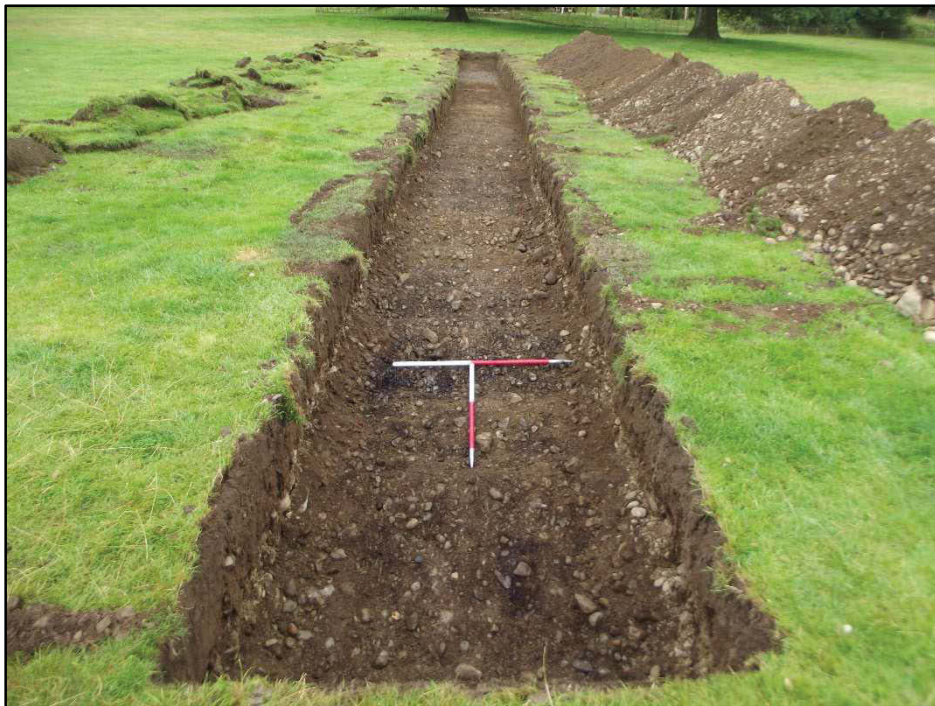


Plate 6: Trench 6 overall shot

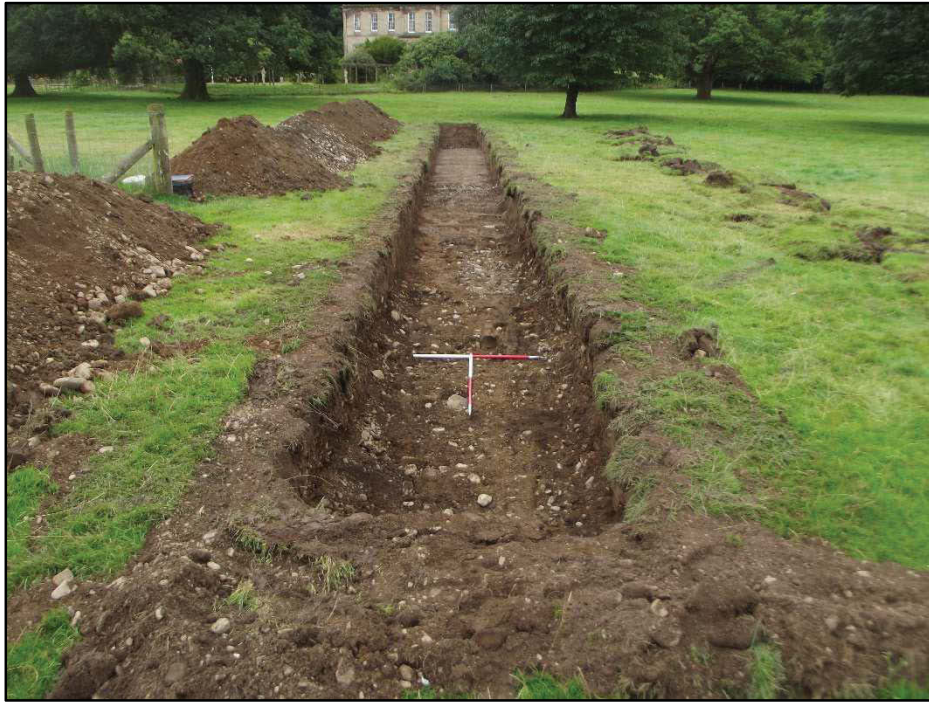
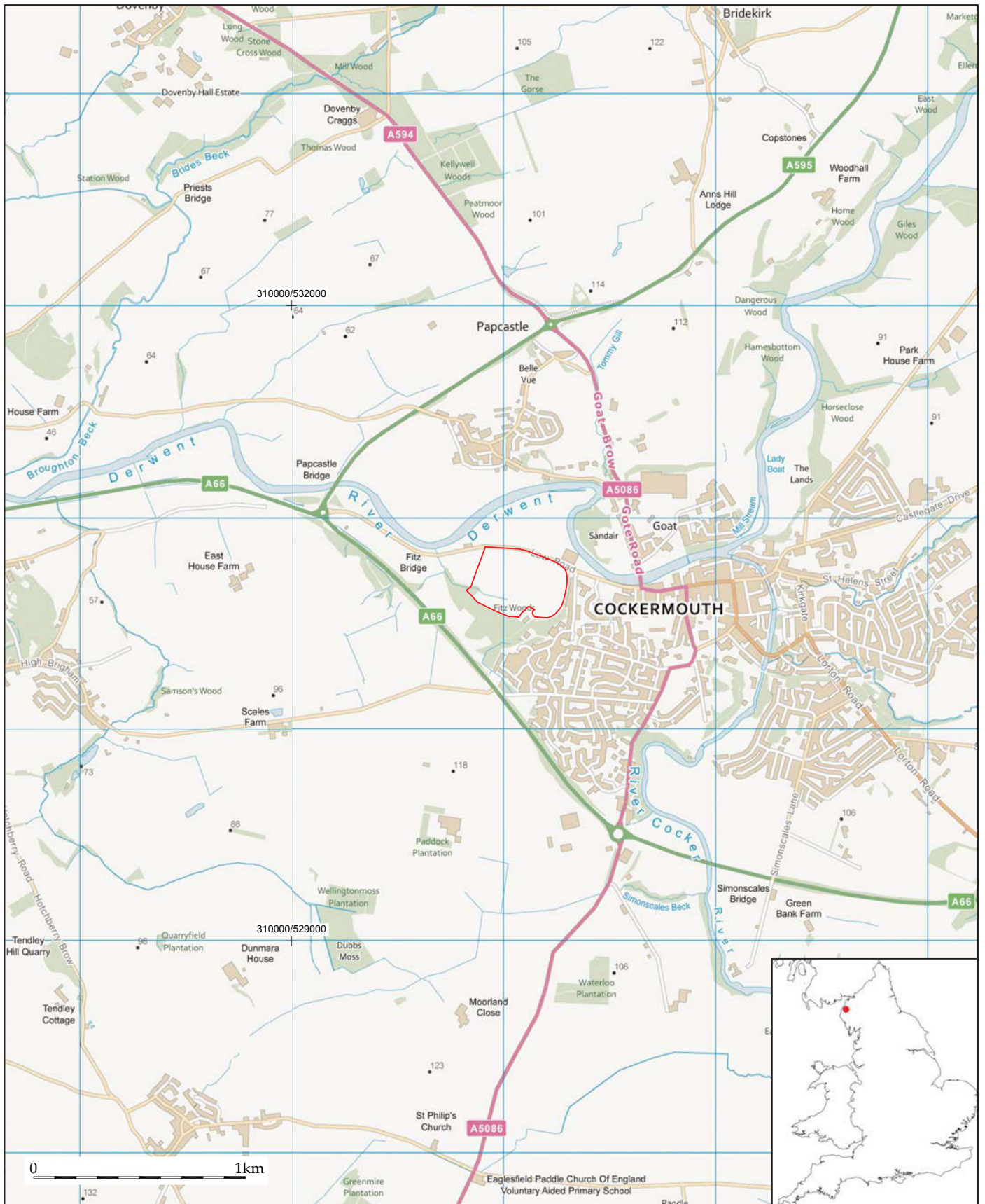


Plate 7; Trench 7 overall shot

11 APPENDIX 3: FIGURES






 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2016</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land at The Fitz, Cockermouth, Cumbria</p> <p>CLIENT: Fitz Park Properties Ltd</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>DRAWN BY: HP</p> <p>CHECKED BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: August 2016</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11811</p>	<p>KEY:</p>  <p>Site location</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.

PROJECT:

Land at Fitz Park,
Cockermouth,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Fitz Park Properties Ltd

SCALE: 1:2,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: August 2016

KEY:



Site boundary



Evaluation trenches



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REPORT No:

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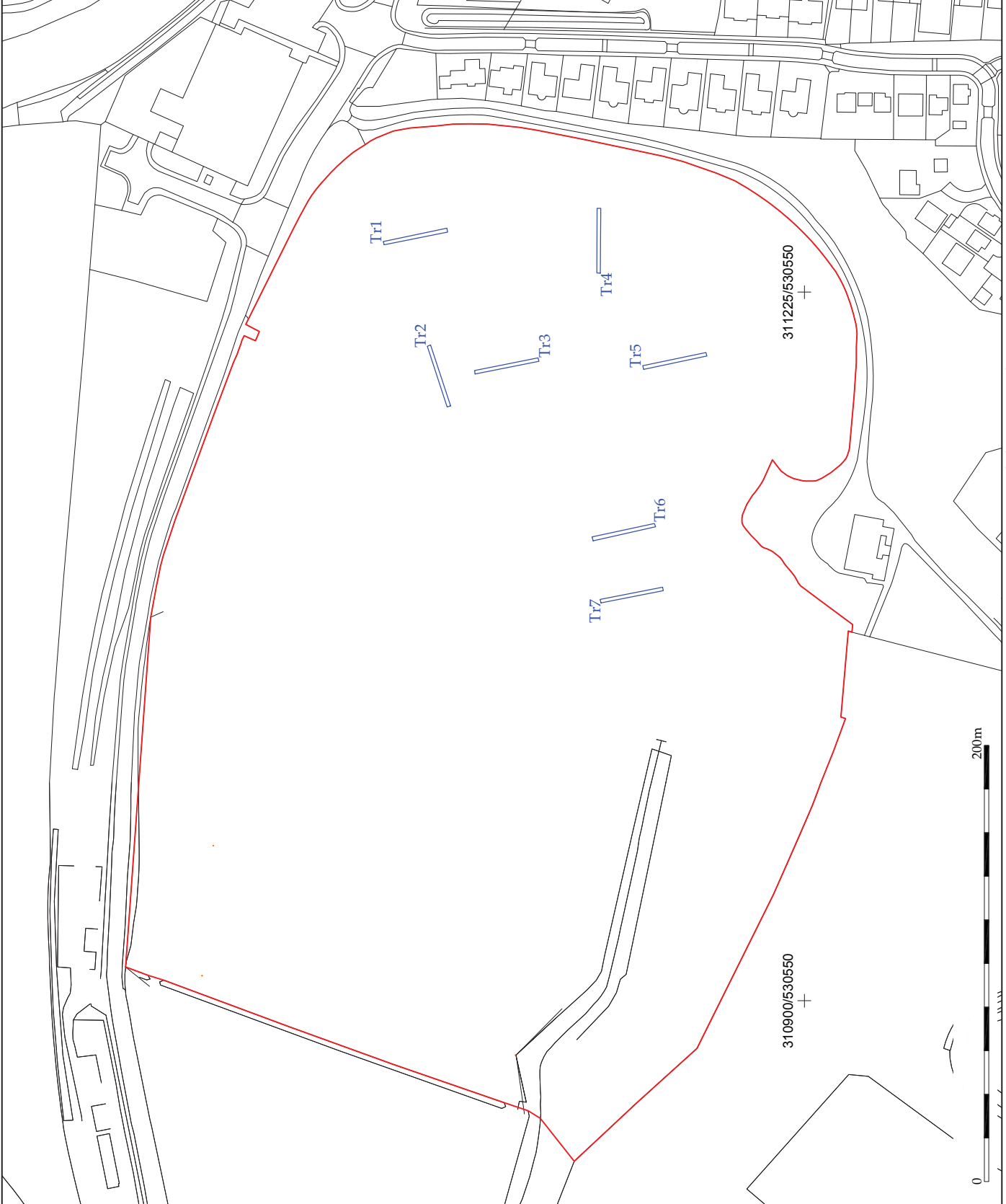


Figure 2: Trench location plan.

PROJECT:

Land at Fitz Park,
Cockermouth,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Fitz Park Properties Ltd

SCALE: Plan 1:75/Section 1:20 at A4

DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: August 2016

KEY:

(101)

Context number

<

Height mAOD

—

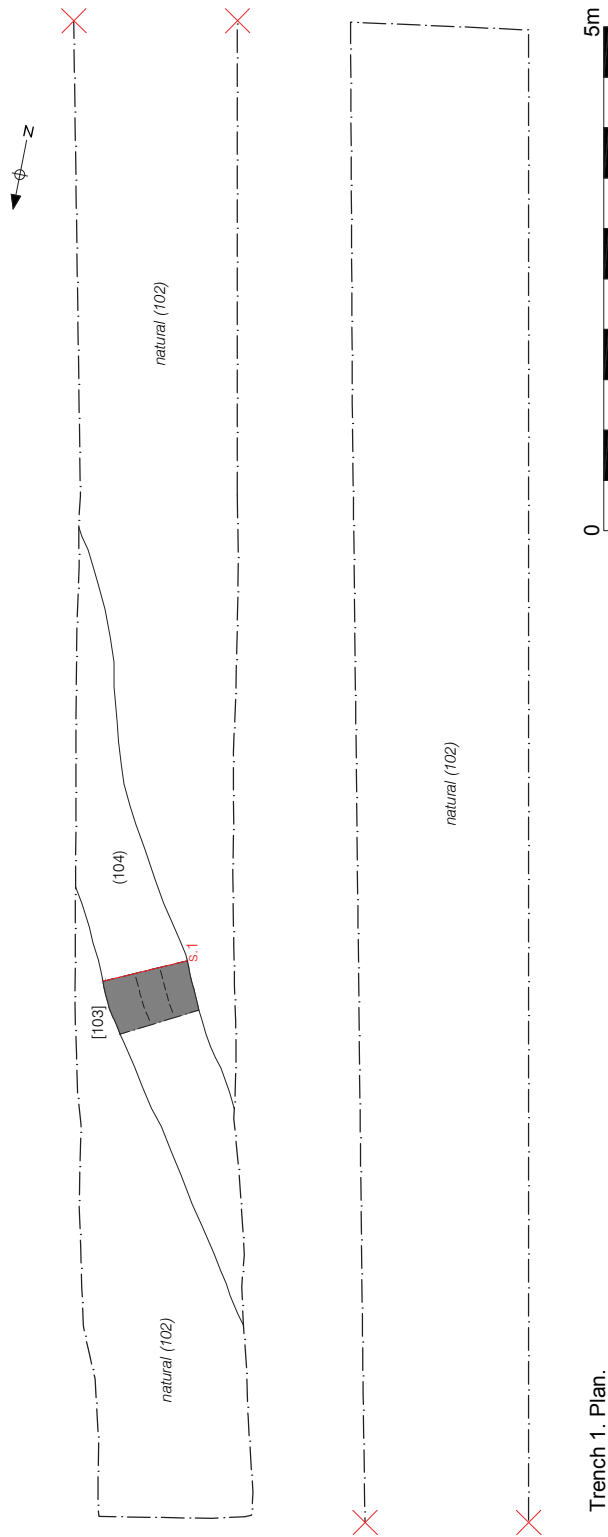
Section location

- - -

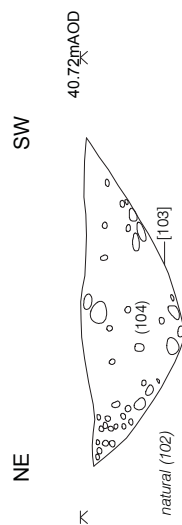
Limit of excavation

REPORT NO:

CP11811



Trench 1. Plan.



Section 1. North-west facing section across Ditch [103].



Figure 3: Trench 1; plan and section.

PROJECT:

Land at Fitz Park,
Cockermouth,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Fitz Park Properties Ltd

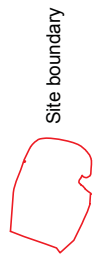
SCALE: 1:2,500 at A4

DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: August 2016

KEY:



Site boundary

Evaluation trenches

Outline of geophysical
survey area



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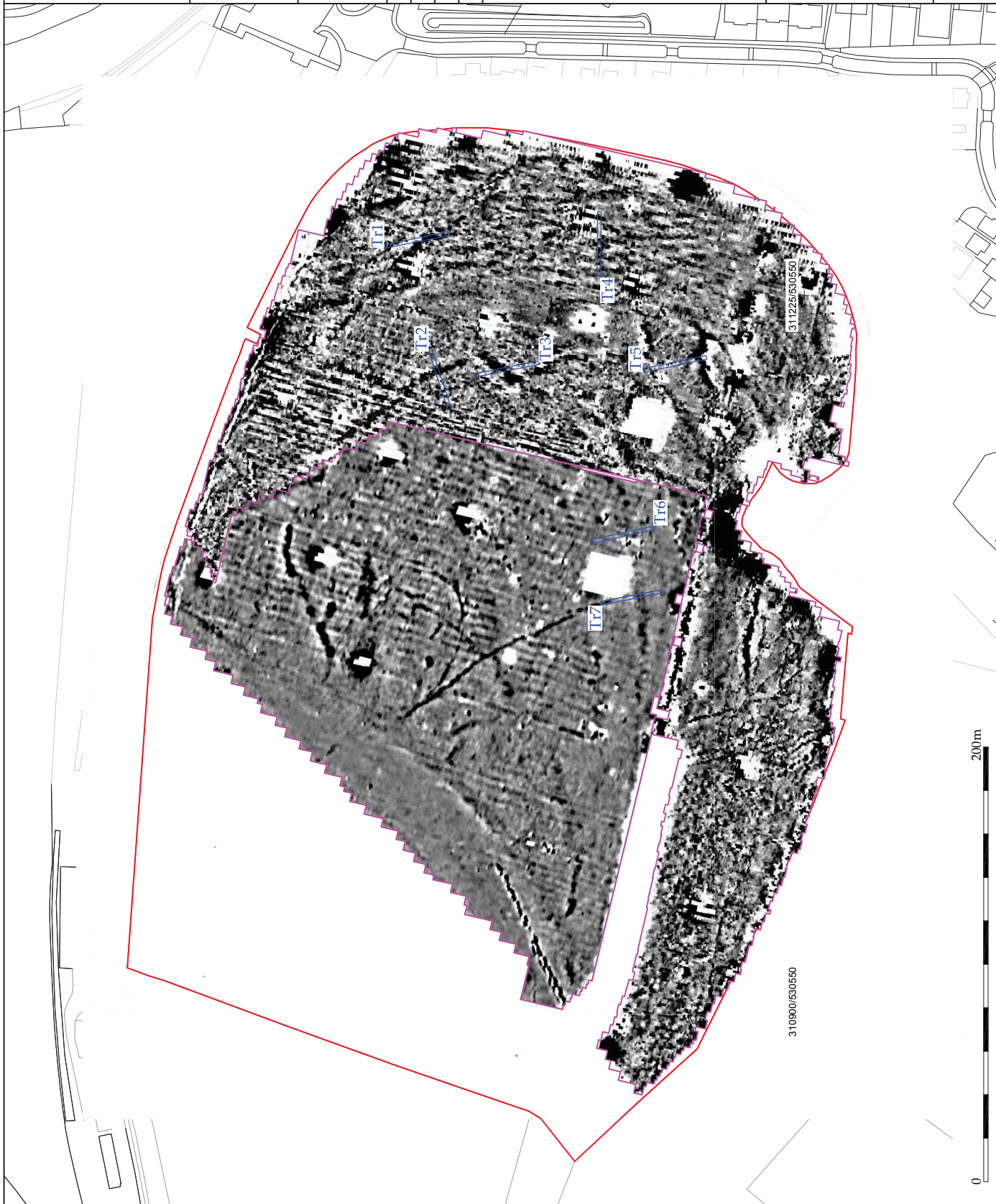


Figure 4: Trench location plan with geophysics results.

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