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STORY HOMES LTD

LAND AT FAIRHILL, PENRITH, CUMBRIA

POST EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT




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January 2017

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong (WA) was commissioned by Adam McNally of Story Homes Ltd, to undertake an archaeological excavation on land at Fairhill, Penrith, Cumbria (centred on NGR NY 51373 31508). This work was undertaken in advance of a proposed housing development at the site (Planning Ref. 15/0799). The course of the Roman road between Brougham and Old Penrith has long been suspected to run through the site, which was shown on several Ordnance Survey maps of the area. This suspicion was strengthened during 2007, when work undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology identified a linear earthwork and a number of geophysical anomalies along the presumed line of the road. The exact position of the Roman road has now been confirmed within the development area following a programme of archaeological evaluation undertaken by WA. Significantly, this evaluation also highlighted potential roadside activity of probable Romano-British date on the north eastern side of the road.

As a result, Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) requested a further programme of archaeological investigation, comprising the excavation of approximately 1900m² of the proposed development site. It was proposed that this area should cover the entire north eastern side of the Roman road within the development boundary, in order to establish the nature, date and extent of the potential roadside activity identified during the previous evaluation.

The archaeological investigation was undertaken over 25 days between the 7th November and the 9th December 2016 and comprised an initial topsoil strip of the c.1850m² area, which highlighted a number of archaeological remains. This was followed by a full investigation of all archaeological remains identified within the area. In addition, the south-eastern extent of the investigation area was extended in order to expose the full width of the road.

The investigation exposed a number of cobbled areas and other features on the north-eastern side of the road, as well as limited evidence of activity to the southwest of the road. A general lack of artefactual evidence however, and direct association with the road made any interpretation regarding the date and function of these areas of activity difficult. This was especially apparent with regards to the separate areas of cobbling. Although a number of possible interpretations have been put forward for these cobbled areas, including a secondary road and structural foundations. Any interpretation regarding the function of these cobbled areas must

remain speculative at present. Further analysis and comparative research with other Roman roads in Britain may clarify the situation in the future.

A highly significant aspect of the investigation was the recovery of artefacts spanning some 1700 years. Although a number of these finds were of Roman date, the finds assemblage also included two finds of Anglian date (8th/9th century) indicating that the road was still in use during the early medieval period. Of further significance was the recovery of a number of interesting 18th century finds. These finds could relate to Jacobite activity associated with the 1745 rising, which is well documented within the area. Again, given that all of these finds were recovered from the immediate vicinity of the road, despite a preceding evaluation and metal detector survey of the entire site, strongly suggests that this route may have survived in some form as late as the mid-18th century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong (WA) thanks Adam McNally of Story Homes Ltd for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. WALLP also thank Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council for his assistance during the project.

Wardell Armstrong are also grateful to Kevin Mounsey and Alan James for their help during the project.

The archaeological work was undertaken by David Jackson, Damion Churchill, Ed Johnson, Charles Rickaby, Sean Johnson, Ron Brown, Mark Lawson, Maria Spathi, Kimberley Colman, Fiona Lister, and Rachel Frame, with the assistance of Kevin Mounsey and Alan James. The report was written by David Jackson and the drawings were produced by Helen Phillips. The environmental assessment was undertaken by Lynne Gardiner and the finds were assessed by Megan Stoakley. The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post-Excavation Manager for WA. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for WA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong (WA) were invited by Adam McNally of Story Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation on land at Fairhill, Penrith, Cumbria (centred on NGR NY 51373 31508; Figure 1), in advance of a proposed housing development at the site (Eden District Council planning reference 15/0799). This work followed a previous archaeological evaluation which established the exact location and state of preservation of a section of the Roman road, extending between Brougham and Old Penrith. Of particular significance, was the discovery of potential roadside activity on the north eastern side of the road of probable Romano-British date (WAA 2016a).

1.1.2 Given the site's archaeological potential, mitigation work ahead of development was required as a condition of planning consent. In line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012), CCCHES recommended that an archaeological excavation be undertaken on approximately 1900m² of the proposed development site. The excavation was intended to clarify the nature, date and extent of archaeological remains on the north eastern side of the Roman road and to provide preservation of the remains through record.

1.1.3 The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with two Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI's), which were produced following discussions with Jeremy Parsons acting as the archaeological planning advisor on behalf of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service.

1.2 Project Documentation

1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced to provide a specific methodology for a topsoil strip of the investigation area in the first instance (WAA 2016b). The subsequent archaeological excavation was covered by a separate WSI, which provided its own methodology for this stage of work (WAA 2016c). Both WSI's were produced in accordance with discussions held between Wardell Armstrong LLP and Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES). Both WSI's were approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to each stage of field work taking place.

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 works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and Guidance

2.1.1 The archaeological excavation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavations* (2014a), and in accordance with the WALLP fieldwork manual (2017).

2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavations* (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 produced by North Pennines Archaeology (Railton 2007), as part of a programme of archaeological works within the present study area. This 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 1km from the area of investigation.

2.3 The Excavation

2.3.1 The work comprised an archaeological excavation over a single defined area measuring approximately 170m by 11m, with a total area of 1850m², located on the north eastern side of the Roman road (Figure 2). The purpose of the excavation was to establish the nature, date and extent of potential roadside activity and establish its relationship to the Roman road. In addition, two extension areas were excavated immediately outside the main area of investigation. One of the extension areas was located immediately to the north of the main area of investigation, in order to investigate the possibility of archaeological features extending beyond the main area. The other was excavated immediately to the south of the main area, in order to reveal the full width of the Roman road (Figure 2). The extension areas added a further 50m², giving a total excavation area of 1900m².

2.3.2 In summary, the main objectives of the excavation were:

- to establish the nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the excavation area where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces, in order to better understand the nature of the archaeological remains and their relationship to the Roman road;

- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes, to help inform on the date, function, phasing and development of the site;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.3.3 Topsoil and subsoil were removed by mechanical excavator to the level of the first significant archaeological horizon under close archaeological supervision. The excavation area was subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recorded according to the WA standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WA 2017).

2.3.4 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in 3.4 of the ClfA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (2014a).

2.3.5 Finds of potential archaeological interest were retained on site and returned to the Carlisle office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (ClfA 2014b). 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.

2.4 The Archive

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011) The archive will be deposited within Penrith Museum, with copies of the report sent to the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) in Kendal, Cumbria, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **WAA16, FPC/B, CL11904/16**.

2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong 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 Wardell Armstrong as a part of this national project. The OASIS identifier for this project is **wardella2-273223**.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The study area is located on the outskirts of Penrith, less than 1.5km north of the town centre in an area known as Fairhill (Figure 1). In its present form, the proposed development site comprises a steeply sloping rectangular field of pasture, which ranges in height from c.215m aOD at the northern extent of the site to c.195m aOD at the southern extent. The site is bound to the north by Green Lane, to the east by Salkeld Road, to the south by a housing estate and reservoir, and to the west by additional fields (Figure 2).

3.1.2 The proposed development site is situated in the Eden Valley landscape character area, an area which encompasses the broad river valleys of the Eden and its tributaries. The Eden Valley is an area of comparatively low-lying ground that lies between the Lake District fells to the west and the Pennine escarpment to the east (Natural England 2015).

3.1.3 The underlying geology of the area comprises sandstones of the Penrith Sandstone Formation; a sedimentary bedrock which formed approximately 271-299 million years ago in the Permian period (BGS 2016 online). These rocks are generally concealed by glacial till, including outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post-glacial meltwaters (*ibid*). The overlying soils comprise freely draining slightly acidic loamy soils (UKSO online 2016).

3.2 Historical Context

3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical background comprises excerpts taken from an archaeological desk-based assessment that was compiled by North Pennines Archaeology in December 2007 (Railton 2007). This previous work included a site visit as well as historical and cartographic research and map regression analysis of the site and its environs (*ibid*). Historic Environment Record (HER) reference numbers and English Heritage (EH) Listed Building references are given where known.

3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** cist burials of possible Bronze Age date are believed to have been discovered close to the study area (HER 969). Although there is no known written record of this discovery, the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1864 marks the location of 'cistvaens' immediately to the east of the study area, within the vicinity of

the present golf course on the opposite side of Salkeld Road. Other isolated finds of Bronze Age date have also been made in the area.

- 3.2.3 **Romano-British:** there are a number of significant Roman sites within the area of Penrith, including a network of Roman roads, the fort at Old Penrith (*Voreda*) and the strategically important fort at Brougham (*Brocavum*), which guarded the crossing over the River Eamont to the southeast of Penrith.
- 3.2.4 The fort at Old Penrith, located to the north of Penrith at Plumpton, was constructed either in the Late Flavian or Early Trajanic period (90-100 AD) and was abandoned sometime between 125 and 130 AD. The fort was rebuilt around 163 AD (Richardson & Allan 2009, 117). The fort at Brougham, immediately to the southeast of Penrith, was positioned at the junction of the important Roman roads from Manchester and York. Rescue excavations half a mile to the east of the fort, in advance of the construction of the A66 in 1966 and 1967, discovered an important cemetery containing some 250 burials (mostly cremations) that were dated between the 2nd and 4th centuries, perhaps giving an indication to the life-span of the fort (Cool 2004).
- 3.2.5 The course of a Roman road is first cartographically depicted on the 1864 six inch to one-mile Ordnance Survey map. It passes through the present study area on a northwest to southeast alignment, linking the forts at Old Penrith and Brougham. This road is a section of the main Roman road between Chester and Carlisle (Hair 1994). Sections of this road have been investigated at Carleton, on the southeastern edge of Penrith (LUAU 1995), at Penrith Cemetery on Beacon Edge (Headland Archaeology 2003a & 2003b), located immediately to the southeast of the study area, and within the proposed development area during the preceding evaluation (WAA 2016a).
- 3.2.6 **Early Medieval:** no activity dating to this period is known to have taken place within the vicinity of the study area, although the name 'Penrith' probably has early medieval origins. It has been suggested that Penrith may have pre-Norman origins, although such a settlement is unlikely to have attained many urban attributes (Winchester 1987, 124). St. Andrew's Church has also been suggested as having pre-Norman origins, as it is located on a rounded eminence within an oval enclosure. Although the present church is largely 18th century in fabric, the presence of 10th century stone sculpture in the churchyard indicates an early religious focus (Bailey & Cramp 1988, 134-42). It is suggested that the block of land surrounded by Burrowgate, De Whelpdale's Lane, Friargate, King Street and Devonshire Street is a

pre-urban core that contains the church and was possibly surrounded by a defensive enclosure (Winchester 1979).

- 3.2.7 Within the wider area around Penrith, there is significant evidence for early medieval activity. Investigations around St. Andrews Church at Dacre, located to the southwest of Penrith, has revealed significant activity associated with an Anglo-Saxon monastic site, which was first mentioned by Bede in the early 8th century (Leech & Newman 1985, 87-93). This site appears to have been a monastery of some significance and as such, is unique to the region (Newman 2006, 105). Excavations undertaken at Fremington, located just to the east of the Roman fort at Brougham, revealed four sunken-featured buildings. These structures were associated with finds of 7th/8th century date (*ibid*, 98). There is also evidence of continuing activity at the Roman cemetery at Brougham during the post-Roman period (Cool 2004, 461-2). Additional evidence of significant early medieval activity has come from Flusco, located to the east of Penrith. Silver finds have been reported intermittently from this site since 1785, with a significant number of silver artefacts recovered in 2005 (Giecco 2005) and several others found as recently as 2015 (*WA forthcoming*). It is possible that all of these finds belong to the same partially robbed Viking period silver hoard and included brooches, ingots, coins and hacksilver, which have been dated to the early 10th century (Giecco 2005).
- 3.2.8 These discoveries suggest that the proposed development site is located within an area that witnessed significant activity during the early medieval period.
- 3.2.9 **Medieval:** during this period, the town of Penrith developed into the market centre for the Eden Valley (WAA 2016d). The royal borough of Penrith was granted a market charter in 1222 (Winchester 1987, 124), but is likely to have had much earlier urban origins (Newman *et al.* 2000, 108). No activity dating to this period is known however, from within the vicinity of the study area, when the site is likely to have lain within Penrith's common fields.
- 3.2.10 **Post-medieval:** during the post-medieval period, the study area appears to have been in use as agricultural land on the outskirts of Penrith. The only significant developments to the site during this period were the gradual removal of field boundaries. The earliest consulted map, an extract from the 1819 plan of part of the allotments of Inglewood Forest, shows the site as a series of long strip plots, aligned northwest to southeast and northeast to southwest, probably part of a former common field. By the time the First Edition Ordnance Survey map was produced in

1864, the strip plots had been removed and the site was divided into three larger fields. The site appears to have taken its present form as a single large field sometime before the Third Edition OS map was produced in 1925.

3.3 Previous Work

3.3.1 During 2007, a programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (Railton 2007). This work included a desk-based assessment, visual site inspection and geophysical survey. The work highlighted the strong possibility that the remains of the Roman road survived within the site boundary, as well as the potential for prehistoric remains. A number of other geophysical anomalies were also highlighted.

3.3.2 During August/September 2016, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology undertook a trial-trench evaluation within the proposed development boundary (WAA 2016a). This programme of work successfully located the Roman road within five evaluation trenches. The road was found to be situated at a depth of 0.2m below the present ground surface and as such, had been subjected to significant plough damage, although the feature was found to be relatively well preserved at the eastern extent of the site. The road was found to comprise a large earthen mound or *agger*, which formed a raised cambered platform. This was then sealed by a number of deposits, including a foundation layer of crushed red sandstone and cobbles and two separate layers of cobbling, which possibly represented two distinct road surfaces. The edges of the road were defined by kerbs of large cobbles. Of particular significance, was the identification of potential roadside features, including a compact cobble surface, a post-hole and two gravel surfaces, although the exact nature and extent of these features could not be established. The potential significance of these possible roadside features led to the instigation of the present archaeological work.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological work was undertaken over 25 days between the 7th November and the 9th December 2016. As the road itself had been the subject of investigation during a preceding evaluation (WAA 2016a), the main focus of the present investigation was on the potential roadside activity. Therefore, only a limited investigation of the road itself was undertaken during this phase of works.

4.1.2 Deposits of overburden were removed by mechanical excavator to the level of the first significant archaeological horizon under close archaeological supervision. The excavation areas were subsequently cleaned by hand. The natural substrate (**101**) comprised mixed sands, with areas of overlying gravels (**139**). All archaeological remains were sealed by deposits of orange/grey sandy hill wash material (**103/105/114/145**), which varied between 0.1m to 0.3m in depth. The deposits of hill wash were sealed by c.0.2m of mid-brown silty sand subsoil (**102**) and c.0.2m of greyish brown silty sand topsoil (**100**).

4.1.3 Although the investigation was conducted as a single defined area, the entire area could not be fully excavated by hand within the time constraints of the project, because of the extent of the archaeological remains. Therefore, a series of smaller target areas (Areas 1-6; Figure 2) were investigated and recorded fully, as pre-agreed with Jeremy Parsons of CCCHES. These areas were located within parts of the site which provided the opportunity to gain the maximum recovery of information about the archaeological resource.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 **The Roman Road:** although the road was not the main focus of the investigation, it was partially investigated in several areas in order to establish its relationship with other archaeological deposits identified on site. A brief description of the road will be provided here, in order to place the rest of the archaeological activity in context. The description of the road construction is largely based upon a section of the feature at the south-eastern extent of the site, where it was found to be best preserved (Figure 4).

4.2.2 Prior to any construction taking place, it appears that the strip of land along the projected line of the route was terraced in order to form a level base for the road. This appeared as a c.20m wide platform, which interrupted the natural south-

western slope of the area. This was followed by the deposition of an extensive deposit of grey sand (**130/136/147**) over most of the terraced area, which measured c.0.25m in depth and formed a level base for the road structure. The construction of the road comprised the creation of a northwest to southeast aligned embankment or *agger*, which formed a raised foundation for the road. The embankment (**111**) measured approximately 8.4m in width, c.0.25m in depth and comprised a deposit of dark reddish brown silty sand with frequent cobble inclusions. The main body of the embankment retained a slight camber, which became much more pronounced at its northern and southern extents, forming the north and south banks of the road. This embankment appeared to become much less pronounced however, as it extended north-westwards; a possible result of differing topographical conditions.

- 4.2.3 The road itself was found to be approximately 7m in width and was defined by kerbstones comprised of large sub-rounded cobbles (**106 & 143**) (Plate 1). The main foundation layer for the road comprised a firm deposit of crushed red sandstone and cobbles (**134**), which had been laid directly above the embankment (**111**) and measured c.0.1m in depth. The slightly cambered foundation layer (**134**) had been sealed by a further deposit of tightly knit fine cobbles and randomly sized cobbles, interspersed with flat sandstone fragments (**107/138**), which measured c.0.2m in depth and formed the upper surface of the road (Plate 2).
- 4.2.4 Also identified was a northwest to southeast aligned ditch, which was located approximately 6m northeast of the road and was observed running throughout the entire investigation area. The ditch (**118/127/129/132**) had an average width of 0.8m, an average depth of 0.3m and retained a concave profile, which had been filled by a homogenous deposit of mid-greyish brown sand (**117/128/133**) (Plate 3). Roadside ditches are often associated with Roman roads, although they are generally situated immediately adjacent to the road in order to collect surface water. It is highly unlikely that this feature served this purpose, given its significant distance from the road. It is possible however, that the feature acted as a drainage ditch for the wider area, as it was situated at the base of the hill and likely prevented the saturation of the platform where the archaeological features were situated.
- 4.2.5 **Area 1 (Figures 4 & 5):** Area 1 was located at the south-eastern extent of the investigation area and measured 110m². As well as exposing the full width of the road, this area revealed a separate surface running parallel to, and located c.1.6m northeast from the northern edge of the road (see Plate 2). The surface (**108**) measured c.2.5m in width, 0.18m in depth and extended northwest for c.3.4m

before becoming imperceptible. This surface comprised fine cobbles set into a sandy soil, which appeared to form a camber (Plate 4). As a result of the cambered nature of this deposit, the surface (108) was considered to possibly represent a secondary, or even an earlier road surface. No other area of cobbling appeared to retain such a camber however, suggesting that this construction technique was unique to this particular area.

4.2.6 A separate surface was also revealed approximately 2m southwest from the southern edge of the road. This surface (144) measured 2.9m in width, 0.17m in depth and comprised extremely compact tightly knit cobbles, forming an area of hardstanding (Plate 5). Of some note, was that the north-eastern extent of this surface overlay the southern edge of the embankment (111) of the road, highlighting that this surface was constructed after the road. The presence of this hardstanding would also suggest that the cobbled surfaces located along the northern side of the road may have been mirrored on the south side. However, the hardstanding (144) was only noted within a narrow investigation slot and no additional surfaces were observed on the south side of the road during the preceding evaluation. Therefore, any interpretation regarding roadside activity to the south of the road must remain speculative.

4.2.7 **Area 2 (Figure 6):** Area 2 was located approximately 8.5m northwest of Area 1 and measured 23.5m² (Plate 6). As well as the northern edge of the road, Area 2 also revealed an additional cobbled surface immediately adjacent to the road. The surface (109) measured over 2.2m in length, c.5m in width and comprised dispersed small-medium sized cobbles, which had been set into a deposit of orange sand (148). It is possible that this surface represented a continuation of the cobbled area (108) observed within Area 1, although an investigation slot located between Areas 1 and 2 did not reveal any additional cobbling. This would suggest that the two areas revealed separate surfaces. It is also possible however, that the surface had been completely destroyed at this point. The lack of any clear defined edges to the cobbles would also support this.

4.2.8 **Area 3 (Figures 7 & 8):** Area 3 was located approximately 16m northwest of Area 2 and measured 104m². This area revealed the northern edge of the road, although it was clear that significant disturbance had occurred at this point. Area 3 also revealed a separate area of fine cobbling running parallel to, and abutting the edge of the road (Plate 7). The cobbled surface (110) measured over 6m in length, c.2.5m in width and comprised small cobbles set into a sand bedding layer (148). It is possible

that this surface represented a distinct area of cobbling to those identified further southeast (**108 & 109**), as it appeared to be of a much better construction and comprised much finer cobbles.

- 4.2.9 Several additional features were identified within this area, which were located to the northeast of the cobbled surface (**110**). One of these was a shallow linear feature, which was located between the cobbled surface and the potential drainage ditch [**118**]. The linear feature [**116**] measured over 5.5m, terminating at its north-western extent. The feature measured 0.45m in width, c.0.1m in depth and retained a gently sloping profile, which had been filled by a deposit of reddish brown sand (**115**). Also identified were three pits, located either side of the ditch [**118**]. The pits were all very similar; irregular in plan with average diameters of 0.7m and average depths of 0.18m. The pits (**120/122/124**) retained irregular profiles and had been filled by similar deposits of dark grey/black sandy silt (**119/121/123**) with charcoal inclusions (Plate 8). The final feature identified within Area 3 was a small post-hole, located between the cobbled surface (**110**) and the shallow linear feature [**116**]. The post-hole [**141**] measured 0.1m in diameter, 0.2m in depth and retained a vertical sided profile with a rounded base, which had been filled by a deposit of dark brown/black sand (**142**).
- 4.2.10 Unfortunately, none of the additional features identified within Area 3 produced any datable evidence. Neither did they appear to form any coherent pattern, so their exact function and their relationship to the road remains unclear, although they did appear to respect both the cobbled surface (**110**) and the possible drainage ditch [**118**], suggesting some contemporaneity.
- 4.2.11 **Area 5 (Figure 7):** Area 5 was located c.2m northwest of Area 3 and measured 21.5m². The purpose of this area was to look for additional features and to further investigate the cobbled surface (**110**). No additional features were identified, although the area did reveal the north-western extent of the surface (**110**) (Plate 9). Area 5 also revealed a significant change in roadside deposits at this point, as the cobbled surfaces observed within Areas 1-3 were replaced by an extensive deposit of pink clayey sand, which had been compacted to form a solid base. This deposit (**104/131**), which ran parallel to the road and appeared to overlay the bank of the road, measured c.6m in width, 0.2m in depth and extended for approximately 57m, between the cobbles (**110**) and a further cobbled surface located to the northwest (see Area 4 below).

4.2.12 The exact purpose of the compact deposit (**104/131**) remains unclear. It is unlikely that it formed a solid base for the road, as the deposit was noted to be stratigraphically later than the bank of the road within an investigation slot (Slot 1; Figure 9, Plate 10). It is also unlikely that it formed a solid base for any additional cobbled surfaces or structures, as no evidence for such features were revealed within the vicinity of the deposit. Therefore, any interpretation regarding the function of this deposit must remain speculative. It was however, the only deposit to produce Roman pottery highlighting that it was present during the late 1st/early 2nd century.

4.2.13 **Area 6 (Figures 10 & 11):** Area 6 was located approximately 25m northwest of Area 5 and measured 137m² (Plate 11). As well as revealing additional details about the north kerb of the road (**106**) and the compact surface (**104/131**), this area also revealed two heavily truncated pits. One of the pits [**112**] was located approximately 9.8m northeast of the road and measured c.1.3m in diameter, 0.12m in depth and retained an uneven profile which had been filled by a deposit of dark brown sand (**113**) with occasional charcoal inclusions (Plate 12). The other pit [**125**], which was located 1.9m southwest of pit [**112**], measured 1.6m in length, 0.94m in width and 0.09m in depth, and retained steep-sided profile with a flat base, which had been filled by a deposit of greyish black sand (**126**) with frequent charcoal inclusions. The southwest edge of the pit [**125**] had also been cut by the possible drainage ditch [**127**]. Given that one of the pits was clearly earlier than the potential drainage ditch, and that both pits had suffered a far greater degree of truncation than any other features within the investigation area, it is possible that the pits predated the activity associated with the Roman road. Whilst prehistoric activity is known to have taken place within the immediate vicinity of the site, analysis of the charcoal will be needed to attempt to establish the date of these features.

4.2.14 **Area 4 (Figure 12):** Area 4 was located approximately 20m northwest of Area 6 and measured 211.4m². The purpose of Area 4 was to investigate a large area of cobbling located immediately adjacent to the road (Plate 13). The extent of the cobbling was entirely exposed, forming a rectangular area which measured 18.7m in length and c.4m in width. The cobbles were situated above a pink/orange sand bedding layer (**146**), which measured c.0.3m in depth. Unlike the cobbled areas identified elsewhere during the investigation, the cobbling within Area 4 was largely variable throughout. In fact, the majority of this area comprised large, poorly sorted cobbles (**140**), which would have formed an extremely uneven surface. It is possible that this

was the result of later plough damage and the installation of several land drains within the area, which would have dislodged many of the cobbles and completely removed others. This seems unlikely however, as two separate areas of fine cobbling within Area 4 showed no signs of damage. One of these cobbled areas (**150**) was located at the north-western extent of Area 4 and measured c.7m². The other cobbled area (**149**) was located approximately 8m to the southeast of (**150**) and measured c.3m in length and 1.4m in width (Plate 14).

4.2.15 The reason why there was such a variance within the Area 4 cobbling is unclear. It is probable that at least two areas formed cobbled surfaces, with cobbles (**150**) forming a c.7m² area at the northwest extent of Area 4 and cobbles (**149**) appearing to form a narrow track extending northeast from the road. As already noted however, the majority of the cobbling within this area would have formed an unsuitable surface indicating that they never served such a function. It is possible that these cobbles (**140**) represented the demolished remains of another type of cobble-built feature, such as wall foundations. This must remain speculative however, without further investigation.

4.2.16 No further roadside features or deposits were noted to the northwest of Area 4.

4.3 Discussion of the Archaeological Remains

4.3.1 Whilst the investigation revealed a number of features to the north of the Roman road, as well as limited remains to the south of the road, the actual date and function of much of this activity is unclear. The cobbled areas identified within the investigation area are particularly difficult to understand, as any interpretation regarding function was not fully supported by the evidence. These areas of cobbling were initially believed to represent a secondary minor road, or possibly an earlier trackway. Neither of these interpretations seem likely however, as the roadside deposits were too variable to form part of the same extensive feature, such as a road or trackway. Furthermore, some of these deposits clearly post-dated the construction of the main road, highlighting that they were neither earlier than, nor associated with the construction of the feature. It may be that the roadside cobbles were just simple areas to move goods and livestock off the road when needed in which case, very little evidence for such a function would survive.

4.3.2 It is also possible that the separate areas of cobbling were associated with individual structures fronting onto the road. This is also problematic however, as there was a general lack of structural evidence identified during the investigation, although it is

possible that the cobbles themselves formed areas of hardstanding which could have been used to build upon. Such a construction technique would not require structural elements such as post-holes or beam slots and would explain the general lack of structural evidence within the investigation area. If roadside structures were present however, a far greater quantity of domestic waste might be expected. Whilst artefacts were retrieved during the investigation, the small size of the assemblage strongly suggests that activity levels were low within the area. This of course, is assuming that the roadside features are of Roman date; a period in which activity levels are generally represented by the quantity of finds. It is possible that the roadside activity occurred in periods when artefact recovery in Cumbria is generally low, such as the early medieval period. If so, this would both account for the potential structural evidence and the low incidence of artefact recovery. Unfortunately, any interpretation regarding the function of these cobbled areas must remain speculative at present. However, further comparative research with other Roman roads in Britain may clarify the situation.

- 4.3.3 There are similar interpretive issues with the cut features to the northwest of the cobbled areas, especially with regards to their date and what, if any, association they had with the road. Whilst there is some speculation that some of these features predate the construction of the road, it is probable that the majority of the features were created when the road was in use. This in itself is problematic however, as the finds assemblage recovered during the investigation suggests that the road was in use for a significant length of time.
- 4.3.4 The recovery of artefacts spanning some 1700 years was a significant aspect of the investigation (for details see Section 5 below). All of these finds were recovered from either directly above the road or immediately adjacent to it. A number of these finds were of Roman date and included coins, scale armour and a lead weight. Also recovered from the immediate vicinity however, were two finds of Anglian date (8th/9th century) indicating that the road was still in use during this period. Of further significance was the recovery of a number of interesting 18th century finds including a lavish military horse snaffle, bit and chain, musket balls and pistol shots. These finds could relate to Jacobite activity, which is well documented within the area. Furthermore, the fact that all of these finds were recovered from the immediate vicinity of the road, even though there was a preceding evaluation and metal detector survey over the rest of the proposed development area, would strongly

suggest that this route may have survived in some form as late as the mid-18th century.

5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of 111 artefacts, weighing 2162g, were recovered from four deposits during an archaeological excavation on land at Fairhills, Penrith, Cumbria.

5.1.2 A total of 62 small finds were recovered during the archaeological excavation (Table 3).

5.1.3 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa) Standard & 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 Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery.

5.1.4 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.

5.1.5 The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley. Preliminary identification of the coins was conducted by Frank Giecco.

5.1.6 Quantification of bulk finds by context is visible in Table 1.

Context	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
104	Ceramic	13	55	RB	One vessel
u/s	Ceramic	6	27	PM-Mod	Transfer print
100	Clay Pipe	1	3	PM	1.47mm Ø
u/s	Clay Pipe	3	3	PM	2.15mm, 1.90mm, 1.84mm Ø
u/s	CuA	14	208	PM-Mod	Miscellaneous fragments and fittings - not retained
u/s	Glass	7	73	PM	19th century bottle base shard, 1 x window shard
100	Iron	15	324	PM	Miscellaneous fragments, nails, horseshoe frags
103	Iron	12	178	PM	Nails, miscellaneous fragments, horseshoe fragments
u/s	Iron	19	959	PM	Nails
100	Pb	21	332	PM-Mod	Miscellaneous fragments - not retained
TOTAL		111	2162		

Table 1: Quantification of Bulk Finds by Context

5.2 Roman Ceramics

5.2.1 A total of 13 sherds of Roman ceramics, weighing 55g, was recovered from deposit (104) (Table 1). The sherds are in moderate condition and display evidence of post-depositional damage; virtually all edges show evidence of abrasion.

5.2.2 The sherds comprise one wheel-thrown coarseware vessel in a soft, two-tone pinkish-buff to mid-grey fabric. The fabric types do not appear to match fabrics from the National Roman Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) and the vessel would have been locally produced. The vessel type comprises a small rouletted jar.

5.2.3 The jar is likely to be of early Roman date (late 1st to 2nd century). The fabric type (CO OX) matches vessels recently recovered during archaeological investigations at Botchergate/William Street car park, Carlisle, Cumbria (WAA 2015a, 48).

5.2.4 No further analysis is warranted.

5.3 Post-medieval to Modern Ceramics

5.3.1 Six sherds of late post-medieval to modern ceramics, weighing 27g, were recovered from an unstratified deposit (Table 1). The sherds are in good condition and display slight evidence of post-depositional damage.

5.3.2 The sherds comprise Transfer Print pottery; vessel types were originally plates, teacups and bowls.

5.3.3 No further analysis is warranted.

5.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe

5.4.1 Four fragments of plain clay tobacco pipe stem, weighing 6g, were recovered from two deposits (Table 1). The artefacts are in good condition.

5.4.2 An approximate date range can be provided by measuring the internal stem diameters of the stem fragments (Table 2).

5.4.3 The internal stem diameters range from 1.47mm to 2.15mm, giving a tentative date range of 1720-1800 (early 18th to 19th century).

5.4.4 No further analysis is warranted.

Stem-Hole Ø (in/XX)	Conversion (mm) 1 inch = 25.4mm 1/64 (inch) = 0.4mm	Dates
9/64	9 x 0.4mm = 3.6	1590 – 1620
8/64	8 x 0.4mm = 3.2	1620 – 1650
7/64	7 x 0.4mm = 2.8	1650 – 1680
6/64	6 x 0.4mm = 2.4	1680 – 1720
5/64	5 x 0.4mm = 2	1720 – 1750
4/64	4 x 0.4mm = 1.6	1750 - 1800

Table 2: Binford's Pipestem Chronology (Kipfer 2008, 8)

5.5 Glass

5.5.1 Seven shards of post-medieval to modern bottle and window glass, weighing 73g, was recovered from a single deposit (Table 1). The shards are in moderate condition and display moderate evidence of post-depositional damage.

5.5.2 No further analysis is warranted.

5.6 Iron

5.6.1 A total of 46 fragments of post-medieval to modern iron, weighing 1461g, were recovered from three deposits (Table 1). The artefacts are in poor condition and display evidence of heavy rust corrosion.

5.6.2 The assemblage comprised parts of agricultural machinery, horseshoes, nails and an assortment of unidentifiable miscellaneous fittings.

5.6.3 No further analysis is warranted and the objects were not retained with the archive.

5.7 Lead

5.7.1 A total of 21 fragments of lead, weighing 332g, were recovered from a single deposit (Table 1). The artefacts are in moderate to good condition and display some evidence of wear.

5.7.2 The objects comprise miscellaneous fragments of likely post-medieval to modern date. Identifying the function of these objects was not possible.

5.7.3 No further analysis is warranted and as such, the objects were not retained with the archive.

5.8 Copper Alloy

5.8.1 A total of 14 copper alloy objects, weighing 208g, were recovered as unstratified (Table 1). The artefacts are in moderate to good condition.

5.8.2 The small assemblage comprises late post-medieval to modern industrial/agricultural fittings.

5.8.3 No further analysis is warranted and the finds were not retained with the archive.

5.9 Small Finds

5.9.1 A total of 62 small finds (comprising 71 objects and weighing 2056g) were recovered during the archaeological excavation (Table 3). The vast majority of the finds were recovered by metal-detector and the finds are in moderate to good condition, with only some objects displaying evidence of post-depositional damage.

5.9.2 Small finds are discussed by chronological period and artefact category.

SF No	Context	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Notes
1	103	CuA	1	17	RB	Faustina Jnr, Mint of Rome 161-175 AD, Sesterius
2	103	CuA	1	15	RB	Trajan sesterius, Mint of Rome 98-117 AD
3	100	CuA	1	4	RB?	Coin??
4	100	Iron	1	73	PM	Door knocker? Fitting? Dolphin
5	100	CuA	1	7	PM	Buckle
6	100	CuA	1	2	PM	Screw fastening from necklace - Victorian
7	100	CuA	2	11	PM	Embossed star, fragile, horse fitting?
8	u/s	Pb	1	894	RB	Circular weight
9	100	Pb	1	33	PM?	Cylindrical object, unknown function
10	100	Pb	1	8	PM	Seed tag, Victorian
11	100	Pb	1	7	PM?	Small fragment, unknown function
12	100	Pb	1	3	PM?	Small fragment, unknown function
13	100	CuA	1	2	RB	Armour scale
14	100	CuA	1	1	PM?	Fastening?
15	u/s	CuA	1	6	PM-Mod	Small tube - fitting
16	100	CuA	1	5	PM	Victorian, police button?
17	103	Pb	1	34	RB-PM	Weight
18	100	Pb	1	19	Med-PM	Seal
19	u/s	CuA	1	3	RB	Armour scale
20	u/s	CuA	1	4	RB	Armour scale
21	103	CuA	1	8	PM	Folded sheet, small
22	u/s	Pb	1	16	PM	Musket ball
23	u/s	Pb	1	25	PM	Musket ball
24	100	Pb	2	14	PM	Pistol shots
25	u/s	CuA	1	3	PM	Shirt button
26	u/s	CuA	1	6	PM	Victorian, penny?
27	u/s	CuA	1	2	PM	Victorian, cufflink??
28	u/s	CuA	1	5	PM	Button
29	103	CuA	1	2	PM	Shirt button
30	100	CuA	1	1	PM	Domed shirt button
31	100	CuA	1	3	PM	Tack

32	100	CuA	3	5	PM	Small collection of fittings
33	100	CuA	1	4	PM	Screw, turnkey
34	100	CuA	1	3	PM	Button
35	100	CuA	1	3	PM	George V/VI??
36	u/s	CuA	3	4	PM	Buttons
37	u/s	CuA	1	4	PM	Coat button
38	u/s	CuA	1	4	PM	Rivet
39	u/s	CuA	1	15	PM	Victorian drawer handle/knob
40	u/s	CuA	1	1	PM	Fitting
41	u/s	CuA	1	5	RB??	Tack or small nail
42	100	CuA	1	9	Mod	1912 penny
43	100	CuA	1	11	Mod	Two shillings, 1964
44	100	CuA	1	8	Mod	Georgian penny
45	100	CuA	1	9	Mod	Georgian penny
46	u/s	CuA	1	52	PM	Knife handle, bent
47	u/s	CuA	1	23	PM-Mod	Handle, wood inside
48	u/s	Iron	1	77	PM	Shoe cleat
49	100	CuA	1	5	Med-PM	Part of a lynch pin?
50	100	CuA	1	2	PM	Fitting
51	100	Steel?	1	15	Mod	Early modern, print-block 'L'
52	u/s	Glass?	1	1	PM	Half a glass bead, necklace
53	u/s	CuA	2	481	PM	Military horse snaffle bit and chain, 18th C
54	u/s	CuA	1	4	Ang-med	Partial strap-end
55	u/s	CuA	3	6	PM	3 x complete buttons
56	u/s	Pb	1	9	PM	Musket ball
57	u/s	CuA	1	1	Ang?	Styca? 790-850 AD
58	u/s	CuA	1	9	PM	Complete buckle
59	u/s	CuA	1	13	PM	Complete buckle
60	u/s	Pb	1	7	RB-PM?	Small perforated lead sheet, triangular
61	u/s	CuA	1	1	RB?	Partial amour scale fragment?
62	u/s	CuA	1	32	PM	Buckle
TOTAL			71	2056		

Table 3: Quantification of Small Finds

5.9.3 Small Finds of Roman date comprise three coins (SFs **1**, **2**, **3**), the former two comprising a Faustina Junior Sestertius (161-175 AD) and a Trajan Sestertius dated to 98-117 AD. SF **3** is identifiable as Roman, but not to a specific ruler or mint. Armour scale was recovered during the archaeological excavation (SFs **13**, **19**, **20**, **61**) as well as lead weights (SFs **8** & **17**), a small tack/hobnail (SF **41**) and a small, perforated lead sheet (SF **60**).

5.9.4 Of significance was the recovery of two Anglian finds, including a Styca (SF **57**, 790-850 AD) and the fragment of a strap-end (SF **54**). Both of these finds were recovered from the topsoil overlying the Roman road. Anglian finds are rare in Cumbria; further analysis and research would certainly be warranted on these artefacts should further

work be commissioned. An Anglian (9th century) strap-end of similar dimensions and design was found during archaeological investigations at Birney Hill, Ponteland (WAA 2015b, 31).

5.9.5 Two artefacts of medieval to post-medieval date comprise a lead seal and a possible copper alloy lynch pin (SFs **18 & 49**).

5.9.6 Several interesting 18th century artefacts were recovered during the archaeological investigation, including a lavish military horse snaffle, bit and chain (SF **53**), musket balls and pistol shots (SFs **22-24, 56**). An ornate star fitting (SF **7**) was also recovered and could be an 18th century horse bridle fitting. These artefacts may relate to Jacobite activity either on the site and/or in its close environs. Whether these artefacts are related to an event such as the Battle of Clifton Moor is inconclusive, but a possibility not to be ruled out.

5.9.7 Other 18th and 19th century finds include military and civilian coat, trouser and shirt buttons (SFs **16, 25, 28-30, 34, 36, 37, 55**), buckles (SFs **5, 58, 59, 62**), miscellaneous fittings (SFs **9, 32, 33, 38-40, 46, 50, 11, 12, 14, 15, 47**), a shoe cleat (SF **48**), a cufflink (SF **27**) and a possible dolphin-shaped iron door-knocker (SF **4**).

5.9.8 Finds of modern provenance (20th century) include two shillings (SF **43**), a 1912 penny (SF **42**), two Georgian pennies (SFs **44 & 45**) and an early modern 'L' print-block from a printing press (SF **51**).

5.10 **Statement of Potential**

5.10.1 Finds with the highest level of archaeological significance comprise the Roman artefacts, Anglian artefacts and the finds of 18th century date. Of particular significance was the recovery of two Anglian finds and artefacts possibly related to Jacobite activity either on the site and its environs.

5.10.2 Should further work be commissioned, further analysis and research is certainly warranted on these artefacts; an article focussing on comparative examples would be beneficial, particularly for the Anglian finds.

5.10.3 The Roman coins, Anglian finds and the 18th century finds should be illustrated.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Ten bulk environmental samples were taken during the course of the archaeological excavation on land at Fairhill, Penrith, Cumbria. List of sampled contexts are presented in Table 1.

6.1.2 The preliminary results of the excavation are presented above. This report presents the results of the assessment of the palaeobotanical and charcoal remains in accordance with Campbell *et al.* (2011) and English Heritage (2008).

<>	C	Context description
1	117	Fill of [118]
2	121	Fill of pit [122]
3	119	Fill of pit [120]
4	115	Fill of [116]
5	123	Fill of pit [124]
6	113	Fill of pit [112]
7	126	Fill of pit [125]
8	128	Fill of ditch [127]
9	130	Grey layer
10	148	Foundation layer

Table 4: Sampled Contexts

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The bulk environmental samples were processed at WAA (Wardell Armstrong Archaeology). The colour, lithology and volume of each sample was recorded using standard WAA pro forma recording sheets. cf. Table 2. The samples were processed with 500 micron retention and flotation meshes using the Siraf method of flotation (Williams 1973). Once dried, the residues from the retention mesh were sieved to 4mm and the artefacts and ecofacts removed from the larger fraction and forwarded to the relevant specialists. The smaller fraction was scanned by a magnet in order to retrieve magnetic matter that may have contained micro-slugs such as hammerscales.

6.2.2 The flot, plant macrofossils and charcoal were retained and scanned using a stereo microscope (up to x45 magnification). Any non-palaeobotanical finds were noted on the pro forma, cf. Table 3.

6.2.3 The plant remains and charcoal were identified to species as far as possible, using Cappers et al. (2012), Cappers and Bekker (2013), Cappers and Neef (2012), Hather (2000), Jacomet (2006) and Schoch et al. (2004) and the NAA reference collection. Nomenclature for plant taxa followed Stace (2010) and cereals followed Cappers and Neef (2012).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 Charred plant remains were visible in the samples from pits [120], (119) <3>, [124], (123) <5> and [125], (126) <7>. All yielded less than ten examples apiece of poorly preserved probable wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains. A single uncharred example of a plum species (probably *Prunus domestica*) was observed in sample <2> from (121), fill of pit [122].

6.3.2 Charcoal was present in the majority of the samples with the exception of (117) <1>, and (115) <4>. Rare presence of charcoal (i.e. <1g) was observed in pit fill (123) <5>, ditch fill (128) <8>, grey layer (130) <9> and foundation layer (148) <10>. Larger quantities were presented in pit fill (119) <3> with 9g, pit fill (113) <6> with 17g and pit fill (126) <7> with 59g. A few fragments from the latter two were examined to ascertain the potential for identification; these were identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.) and willow/poplar (*Salix/Populus*).

6.3.3 No earthworm capsules were present and, although the flots consisted of mostly very fine rootlets, no bioturbation was suspected.

6.3.4 The samples did not yield any magnetic matter.

6.3.5 The only non-ecofactual material was observed in <7>, from fill (126) of pit [125]. This was 520g of fire cracked pebbles (FCP), these were very angular, cracked stones that had signs of reddening. Very angular stone, although not reddened, was visible in <8> from (128) fill of ditch.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The charred plant remains were of insufficient quantity and quality to provide further discourse.

6.4.2 The charcoal from pit fill (126) was observed alongside some fire-cracked pebbles. This was highly suggestive of in-situ burning, however the pit may not have been the primary deposition point and the burning may have taken place elsewhere.

6.5 Statement of Potential and Recommendations

- 6.5.1 The pH readings have still to be undertaken on small sub-samples taken from the bulk samples. This should allow an understanding of any preservation issues that have occurred in this area.
- 6.5.2 The charcoal, especially from pit fills **(113)** and **(126)** could be analysed in order to provide an insight into local woodland management practices and fuel procurement. Subsequently charcoal (of short-lived tree species) will be submitted for AMS dating prior to the commencement of the analysis. This will not only help date these two features but could potentially help to date the wider activity within the area, as artefact recovery was low during the investigation.
- 6.5.3 If further analysis is deemed negligible then the material from the flots (charcoal, molluscs and plant remains) may be discarded. If analysis is warranted and a date for the feature is possible then the charcoal from **(113)** and **(126)** should be retained with the remainder discarded.

C	<>	TQ	CP	TP	MP	PV	CS	TS	Components (sorting)	A	SA	SR	R	SW	SV	>SW	>SV
117	1	1	dark reddish brown	loose	sandy silt	9	pale reddish brown	loose	stone>1cm 10%: stone<1cm 20%: sand 70%	-	-	-	X	5900	3000	3100	4800
121	2	1	dark greyish brown	loose	sandy silt	10	mid reddish brown	loose	stone>1cm 10%: stone<1cm 20%: sand 70%	-	-	-	X	6420	4600	1060	1150
119	3	1	dark greyish brown	loose	sandy silt	10	very pale reddish brown	loose	stone>1cm 10%: stone<1cm 20%: sand 70%	-	-	-	X	5120	2900	2440	1200
115	4	1	dark reddish brown	loose	sandy silt	10	reddish brown	loose	stone>1cm 20%: stone<1cm 40%: sand 40%	-	-	X	-	8590	4600	5490	2600
123	5	1	dark reddish brown, lenses of black	friable and loose	sandy silt	11	very dark brown	loose	stone>1cm 10%: stone<1cm 20%: sand 70%	-	X	-	-	5100	4000	1720	2000
113	6	1	dark reddish brown	loose	sandy silt	8	very pale reddish brown	loose	stone>1cm 5%: stone<1cm 5%: sand 90%	-	X	-	-	2150	1500	380	500
126	7	1	dark greyish brown	loose	sandy silt	8	dark brown	loose	stone>1cm 5%: stone<1cm 10%: sand 85%	X	-	-	-	2300	1750	760	600
128	8	1	mid reddish brown	loose	sandy silt	8	very pale reddish brown	loose	stone>1cm 5%: stone<1cm 5%: sand 90%	X	-	-	-	1390	900	140	100
130	9	1	pale yellowish brown	loose	sandy silt	5	very pale reddish brown	loose	stone>1cm 5%: stone<1cm 5%: sand 90%	-	X	-	-	1550	900	140	100
148	10	2	pale to mid yellowish brown	loose	sandy silt	22	dark reddish brown	loose	stone>1cm 10%: stone<1cm 10%: sand 80%	-	-	-	X	9080	5300	1300	700

Table 5: Sample Descriptions

Key: **C**= context, **<>**=sample number, **TQ**= tub quantity, **CP**= colour of pre-processed sediment, **MP**= matrix of pre-processed sediment, **PV**= volume (l) of pre-processed sediment, **CS**= colour of dried retent, **TS**= texture of dried retent, **A**, **SA**, **SR** or **R**= stone shape **A**= angular, **SA**= sub-angular, **SR**= sub-rounded or **R**= rounded, **SW**= weight (g) of dried retent residues, **SV**= volume (ml) of dried retent residues, **>SW**= volume (ml) of >4mm retent, **>SV**= volume (ml) of >4mm retent

C	<>	Wt flot (g)	V flot (ml)	PR	AMS?	CF(g)	CR(g)	Components	EWC
117	1	0.5	5	-	-	-		very fine rootlets 75%: sand 25%	-
121	2	0.8	5	1	-	<1	1	very fine rootlets 75%: sand 25%	-
119	3	1.1	10	6	-	<1	9	very fine rootlets 75%: sand 25%	-
115	4	1	10	-	-	-		very fine rootlets 90%: sand 10%	-
123	5	2.2	20	6	-	<1		very fine rootlets 90%: sand 10%	-
113	6	0.4	5	-	-	<1	17	very fine rootlets 95%: sand 5%	-
126	7	1.5	15	4	-	<1	59	very fine rootlets 90%: sand 5%: comminuted charcoal 5%	-
128	8	0.3	5	-	-	-	<1	very fine rootlets 95%: sand 5%	-
130	9	0.06	5	-	-	-	<1	very fine rootlets 100%	-
148	10	5.9	15	-	-	<1		sand 20%: very fine rootlets 80%	-

Table 6: Flot Descriptions

Key: **C**= context, **<>**= sample number, **PR**= plant remains, **AMS?**= any potential material for AMS dating?, **CF(g)**= charcoal from flot weight (g), **CR(g)**= charcoal from residue weight (g), **EWC**= earthworm capsules

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 During the archaeological excavation, a single defined area measuring approximately 170m by 11m, with a total area of 1850m², located on the north eastern side of the Roman road was investigated. Whilst a limited investigation of the road was undertaken, the main focus of the excavation was on the potential roadside activity, which was initially identified during a preceding evaluation.
- 7.2 The investigation exposed a number of cobbled areas and other features on the north-eastern side of the road, as well as limited evidence of activity to the southwest of the road. However, a general lack of structural or artefactual evidence, and direct association with the road made any interpretation regarding the date and function of these areas of activity difficult. This was especially apparent with regards to the separate areas of cobbling. Although a number of interpretations are possible, without further analysis it is difficult to be definitive. Further comparative research with other Roman roads may clarify the situation. It is notable however, that these areas of cobbling were not associated with Roman artefacts. Given the ubiquity and quantity of Roman period artefacts usually encountered in areas of Roman period activity, their lack here may suggest activity of a different period. It was apparent that some of the roadside activity at least, was later than the construction of the road, indicating that some of these feature may post-date the Roman period.
- 7.3 A significant aspect of the investigation was the recovery of artefacts spanning some 1700 years. Although a number of these finds were of Roman date, the finds assemblage also included two finds of Anglian date (8th/9th century) indicating that the road was still in use during this period. Of further significance was the recovery of a number of interesting 18th century finds. These finds could relate to Jacobite activity, which is well documented within the area. Furthermore, the fact that all of these finds were recovered from the immediate vicinity of the road, even though there was a preceding evaluation and metal detector survey of the entire site, would strongly suggest that this route may have survived in some form as late as the mid-18th century.

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APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 1: View southwest of kerbstones (106)



Plate 2: Overview of road looking west (Area 1)



Plate 3: Southeast facing section of ditch [129]



Plate 4: Northwest facing section showing cobbles (108)



Plate 5: View west-southwest of investigation slot showing cobbles (144) in background



Plate 6: View southwest of Area 2



Plate 7: View northwest of Area 3 showing road (left) and cobbles (110) (right)



Plate 8: Northwest facing section of pit [124]



Plate 9: View northeast of Area 5 showing extent of cobbles (110) beyond road



Plate 10: Northwest facing section of Slot 1 showing details of compact deposit (104)



Plate 11: Overview of Area 6 looking southeast



Plate 12: Southeast facing section of pit [112]



Plate 13: Overview of Area 4 looking southeast



Plate 14: View northeast of Area 4 showing contrast between cobbles (149) (right) and cobbles (140) (left)

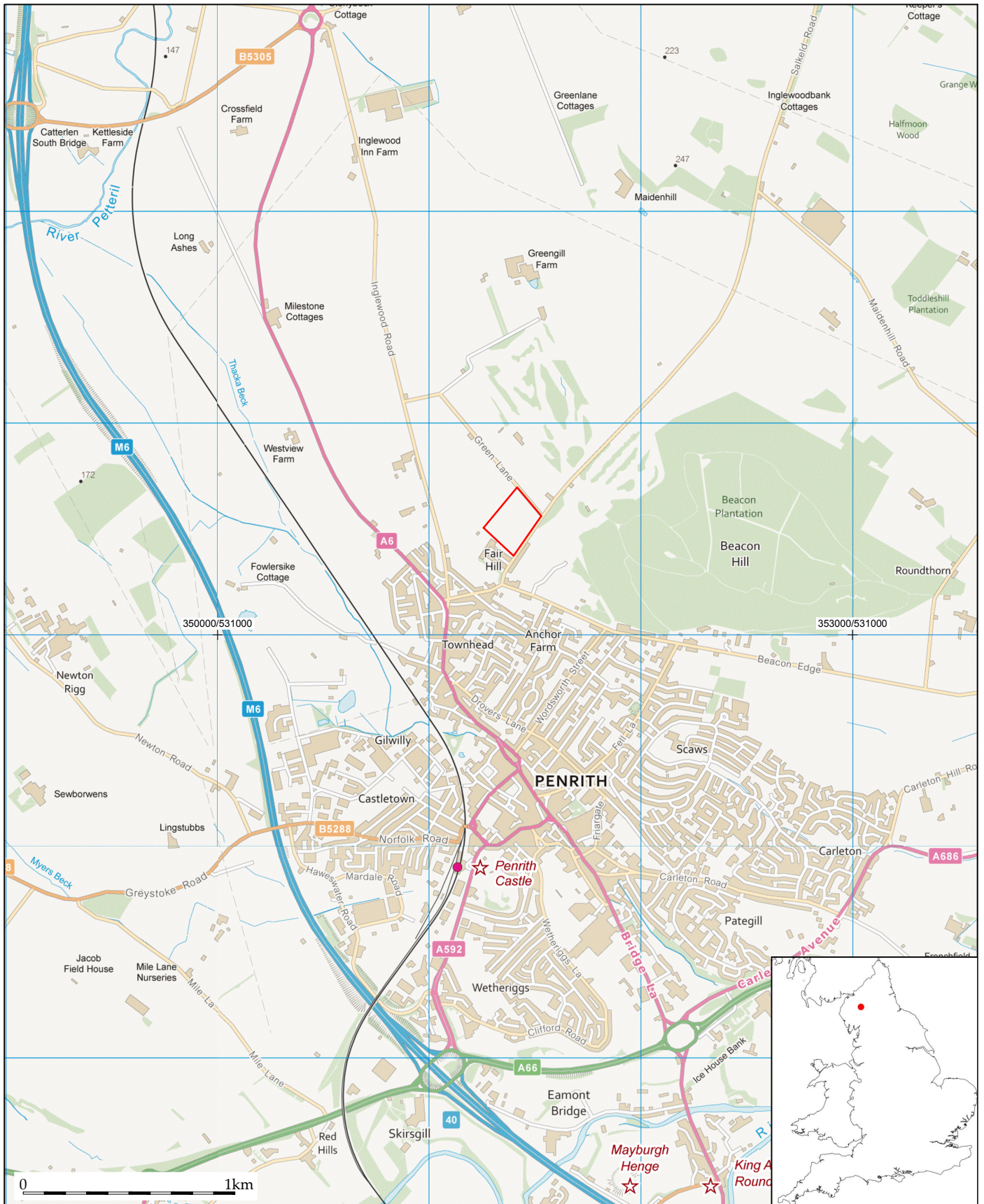
APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Above	Below
100	Deposit	Topsoil	102/107	-
101	Geological	Natural Substrate	-	139
102	Deposit	Subsoil	103/114	100
103	Deposit	Orange Sandy Hill Wash	Arch.	102
104	Deposit	Pink Clayey Sand Levelling Deposit	137	103
105	Deposit	Same as (103)	Arch.	102
106	Deposit	North Kerb of Roman Road	111	103
107	Deposit	Roman Road Surface	111	100
108	Deposit	Fine Cobbling (Area 1)	148	103
109	Deposit	Fine Cobbling (Area 2)	148	103
110	Deposit	Fine Cobbling (Areas 3 & 5)	148	103
111	Deposit	Bank for Roman Road	101	106/107/144
112	Cut	Shallow Pit	101	113
113	Fill	Fill of [112]	112	114
114	Deposit	Grey Sandy Hill Wash	Arch.	102
115	Fill	Fill of [116]	116	114
116	Cut	Shallow Linear Feature	139	115
117	Fill	Fill of [118]	118	114
118	Cut	Same as [129]	139	117
119	Fill	Fill of [120]	120	114
120	Cut	Shallow Pit	139	119
121	Fill	Fill of [122]	122	114
122	Cut	Shallow Pit	139	121
123	Fill	Fill of [124]	124	114
124	Cut	Shallow Pit	139	123
125	Cut	Shallow Pit	101	126
126	Fill	Fill of [125]	125	127
127	Cut	Same as [129]	126	128
128	Fill	Fill of [127]	127	103
129	Cut	Generic No. for NW-SE Aligned Linear	101	117/128/133
130	Deposit	Grey Sand Levelling Layer	101	131
131	Deposit	Same as (104)	130	103
132	Cut	Same as [129]	101	133
133	Fill	Fill of [132]	133	103
134	Deposit	Foundation of Roman Road	136	135/138
135	Deposit	Banking Material	134	137
136	Deposit	Same as (130)	101	134
137	Deposit	Firm Yellow Sand Levelling Deposit	135	104
138	Deposit	Same as (107)	134	100
139	Geological	Natural Red Sand & Gravel	101	Arch.
140	Deposit	Roadside Cobbles (Area 4)	146	103
141	Cut	Post-hole	139	142
142	Fill	Fill of [141]	141	103
143	Deposit	South Kerb of Roman Road	111	145
144	Deposit	Compact Surface on south side of Road	111	145
145	Deposit	Deposit of Fine Sand	143/144	102
146	Deposit	Pink/Orange Sand Levelling Layer	147	140/149/150

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Above	Below
147	Deposit	Same as (130)	101	146
148	Deposit	Fine Orange Sand Levelling Layer	101	108/109/110
149	Deposit	Possible Lane (Area 4)	146	103
150	Deposit	Fine Cobbles NW Extent of Area 4	146	103

Table 7: Context numbers issued during the excavation

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES






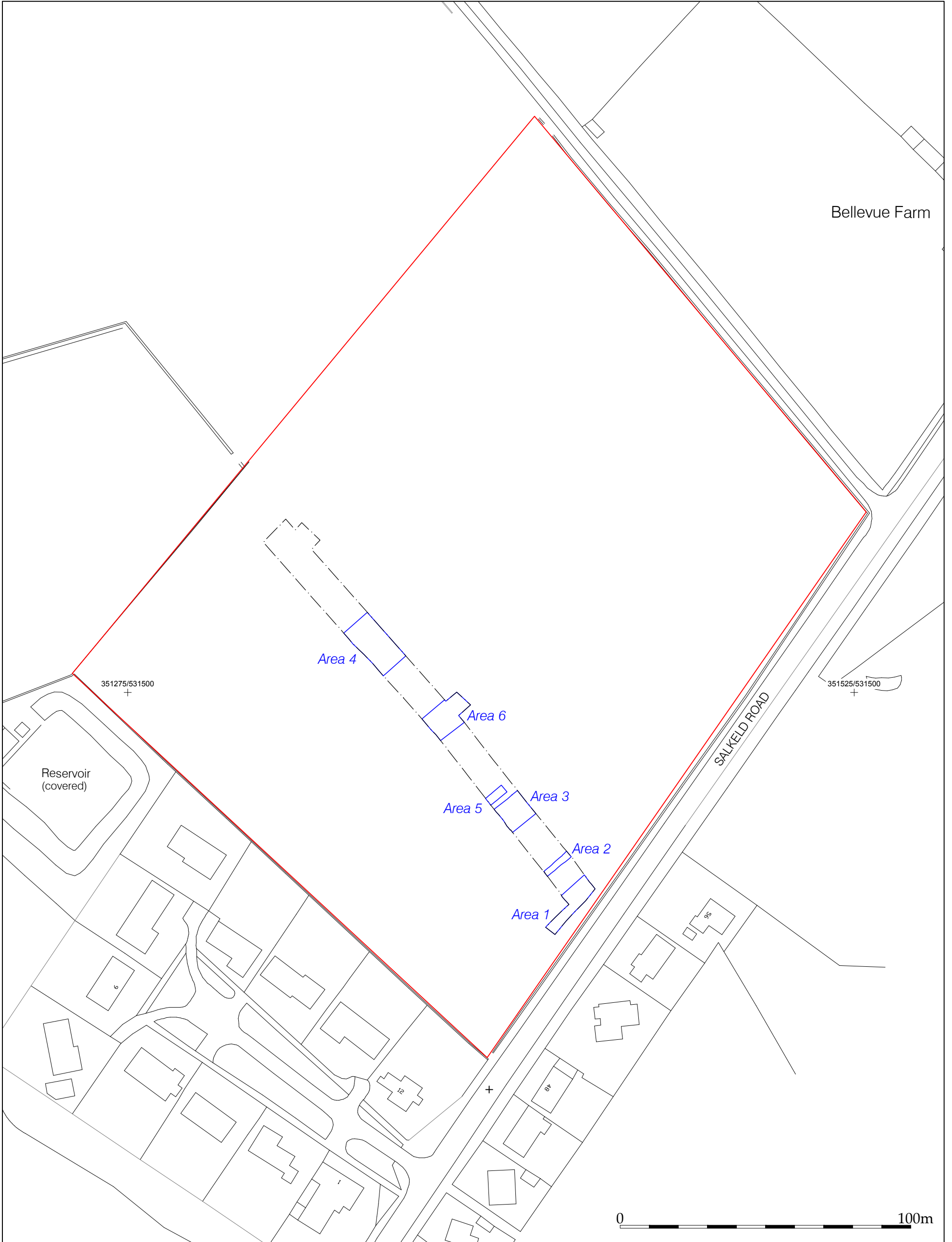
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	<p>CLIENT: Story Homes Ltd</p>		
	<p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p>		
	<p>DRAWN BY: HP</p>		
	<p>CHECKED BY: AB</p>		
	<p>DATE: January 2017</p>		
<p>REPORT No: CL11904</p>			

Figure 1: Site location.





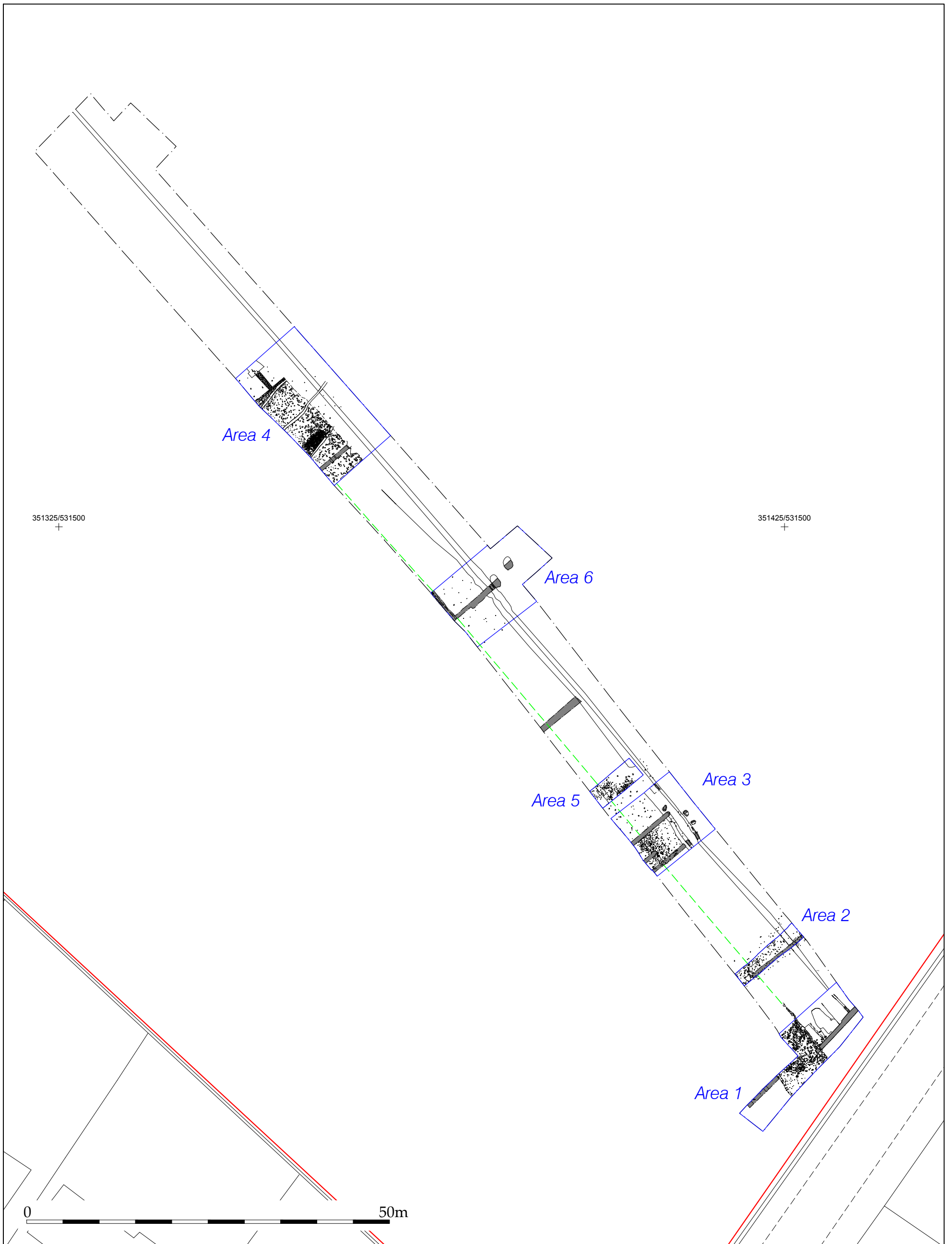
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Figure 2: Location of excavation.





 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2017</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land at Fairhill, Penrith, Cumbria</p> <p>CLIENT: Story Homes Ltd</p> <p>SCALE: 1:500 at A3</p> <p>DRAWN BY: HP</p> <p>CHECKED BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: January 2017</p> <p>REPORT No: CL11904</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site boundary Limit of excavation Areas 1 - 6 Projected north-eastern edge of Roman road 	 <p style="font-size: small;">Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100058076.</p>
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Figure 3: Overall site plan showing Areas 1-6.

PROJECT:

Land at Fairhill, Penrith,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Story Homes Ltd

SCALE: 1:75 at A3

DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: January 2017

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- Section location
- Outline of Area
- Excavated slot
- Limit of excavation
- Projected north-eastern edge of Roman road



REPORT No:

CL11904



Figure 4: Area 1 plan.

PROJECT:

Land at Fairhill, Penrith,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Story Homes Ltd



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DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: AB

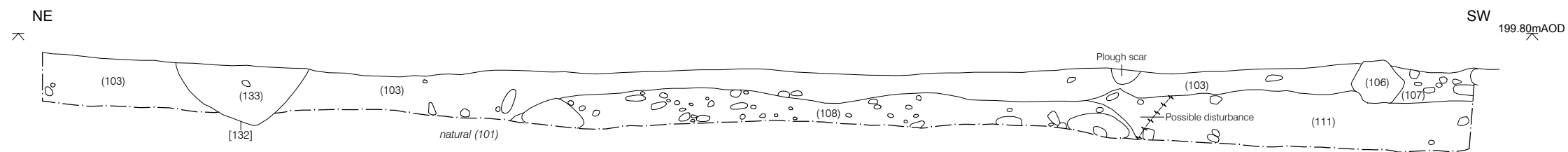
DATE: January 2017

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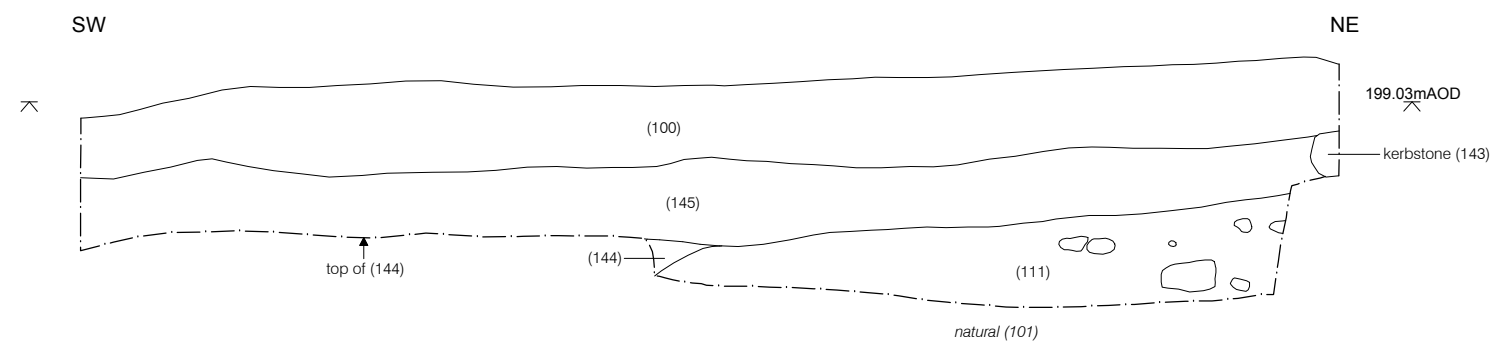
- (101) Context number
-  Height mAOd
-  Limit of excavation

REPORT No:

CL11904



Section 16. North-west facing section showing ditch [132], cobbled surface (108), embankment (111) and kerbstones (106).



Section 39. South-east facing section showing cobbled surface (144), embankment (111) and kerbstones (143).



Figure 5: Area 1 sections.

PROJECT:
Land at Fairhill, Penrith,
Cumbria

CLIENT:
Story Homes Ltd




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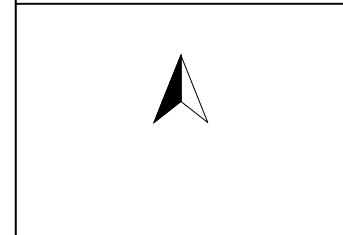
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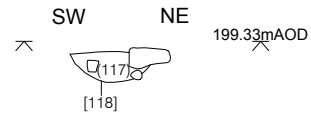
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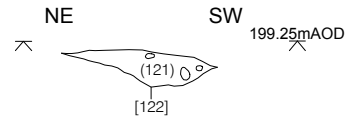
	Context number
	Height mAOd
	Limit of excavation



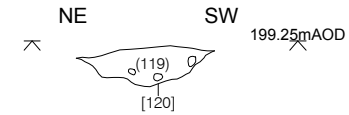
REPORT No:
CL11904



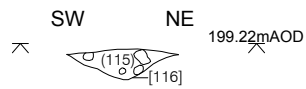
Section 3. South-east facing section across ditch [118].



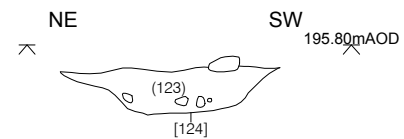
Section 4. North-west facing section across pit [122].



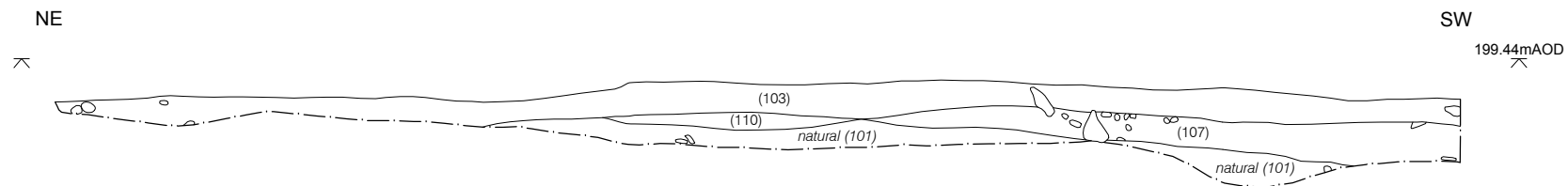
Section 5. North-west facing section across pit [120].



Section 6. South-east facing section across gully [116].



Section 9. North-west facing section across ditch [124].



Section 26. North-west facing section across deposit (103) and cobbled surfaces (107) & (110).



Figure 8: Area 3 sections.

PROJECT:
Land at Fairhill, Penrith,
Cumbria

CLIENT:
Story Homes Ltd

SCALE: Plan 1:75/Section 1:30 at A3

DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: January 2017

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- Section location
- Excavated slot
- Limit of excavation
- Projected north-eastern edge of Roman road
- Height mAOD



REPORT No:
CL11904

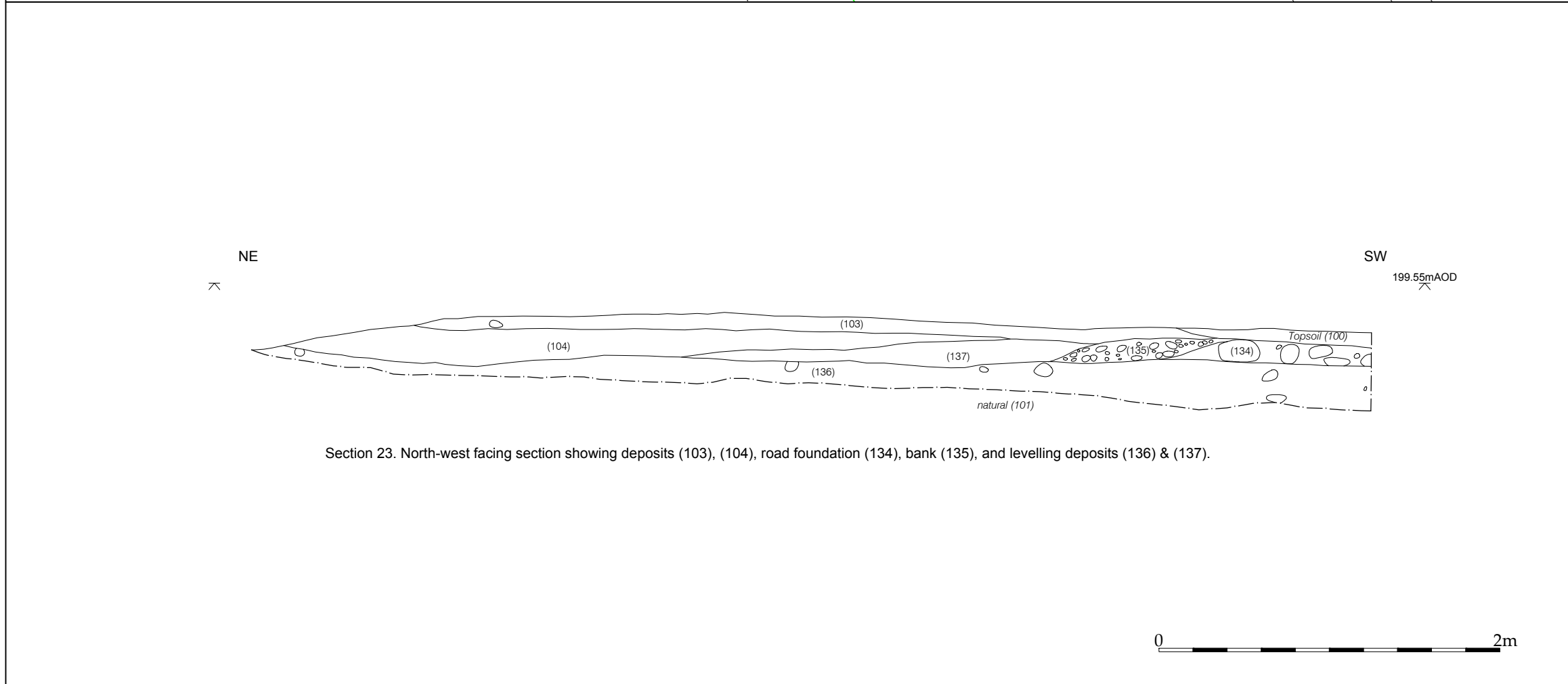
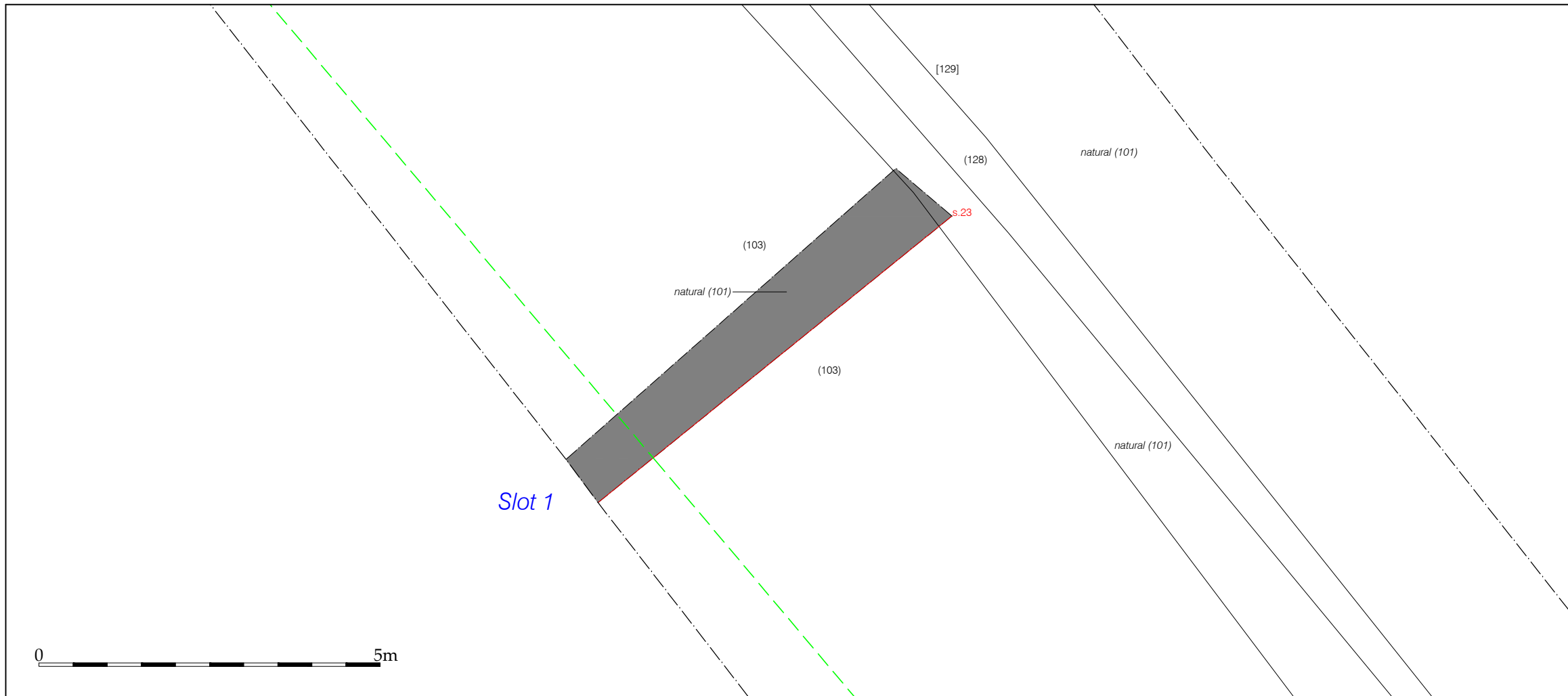


Figure 9: Slot 1 plan and section.

PROJECT:

Land at Fairhill, Penrith,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Story Homes Ltd

SCALE: 1:75 at A3

DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: January 2017

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- Section location
- Outline of Area
- Excavated slot
- Limit of excavation
- Projected north-eastern edge of Roman road



REPORT No:

CL11904

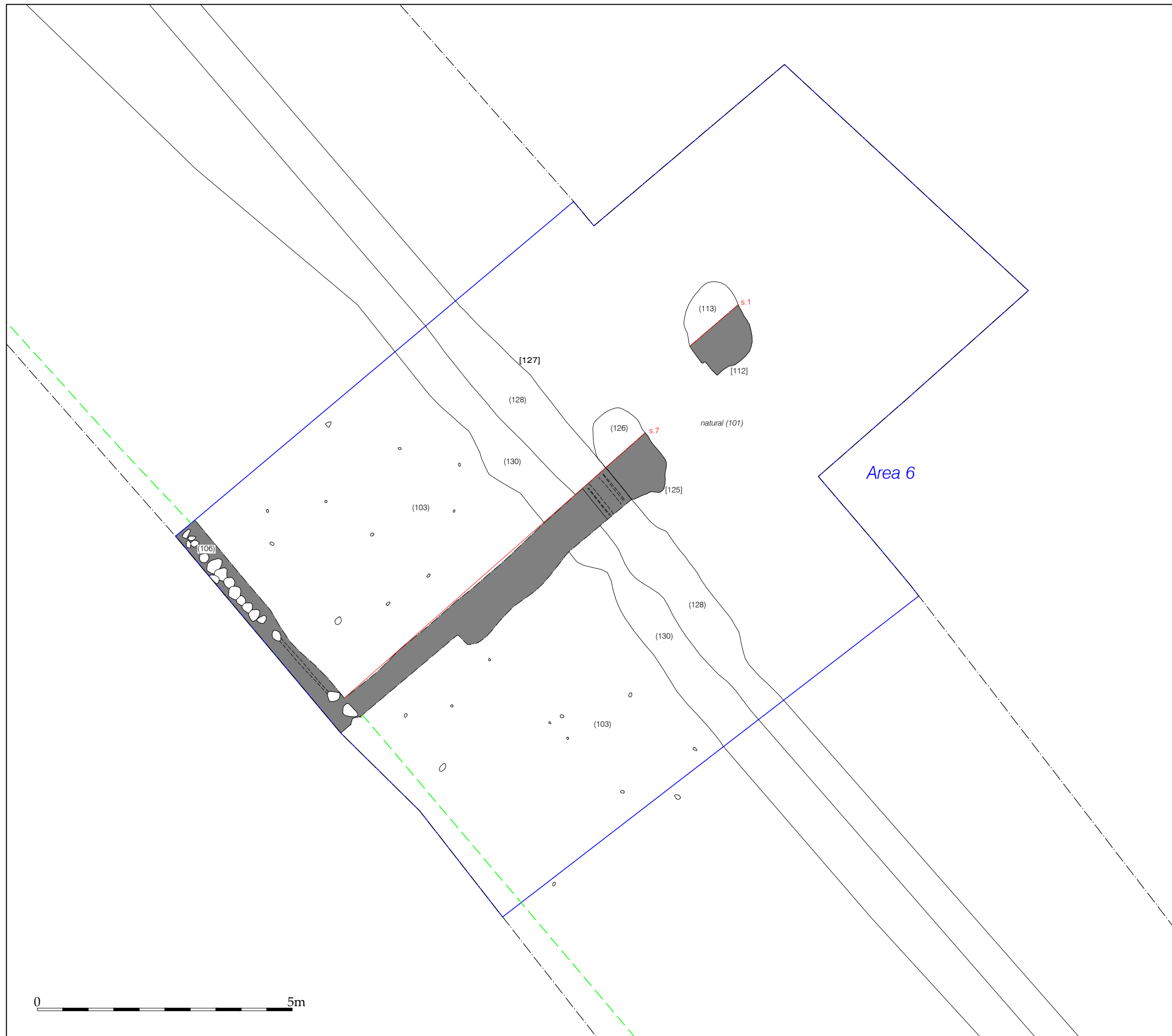


Figure 10: Area 6 plan.

PROJECT:

Land at Fairhill, Penrith,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Story Homes Ltd



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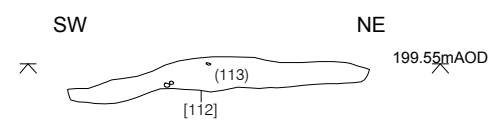
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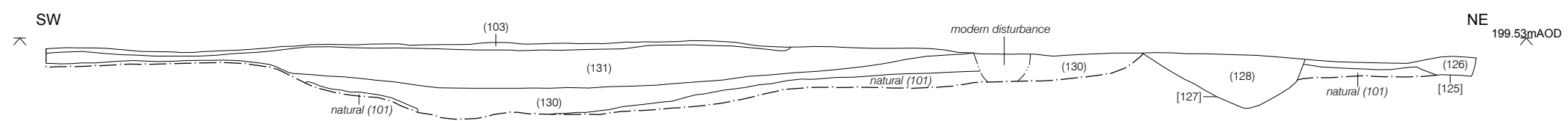
DATE: January 2017

KEY:

- (101) Context number
-  Height mAOD
-  Limit of excavation



Section 1. South-east facing section
across pit [112].



Section 7. South-east facing section showing pit [125], ditch [127] and deposits (103), (130) and (131) .



REPORT No:

CL11904



Figure 11: Area 6 sections.

PROJECT:

Land at Fairhill, Penrith,
Cumbria

CLIENT:

Story Homes Ltd

SCALE: Plan 1:75 at A3

DRAWN BY: HP

CHECKED BY: AB

DATE: January 2017

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- Section location
- Outline of Area
- Excavated slot
- Limit of excavation
- Projected north-eastern edge of Roman road



REPORT No:

CL11904

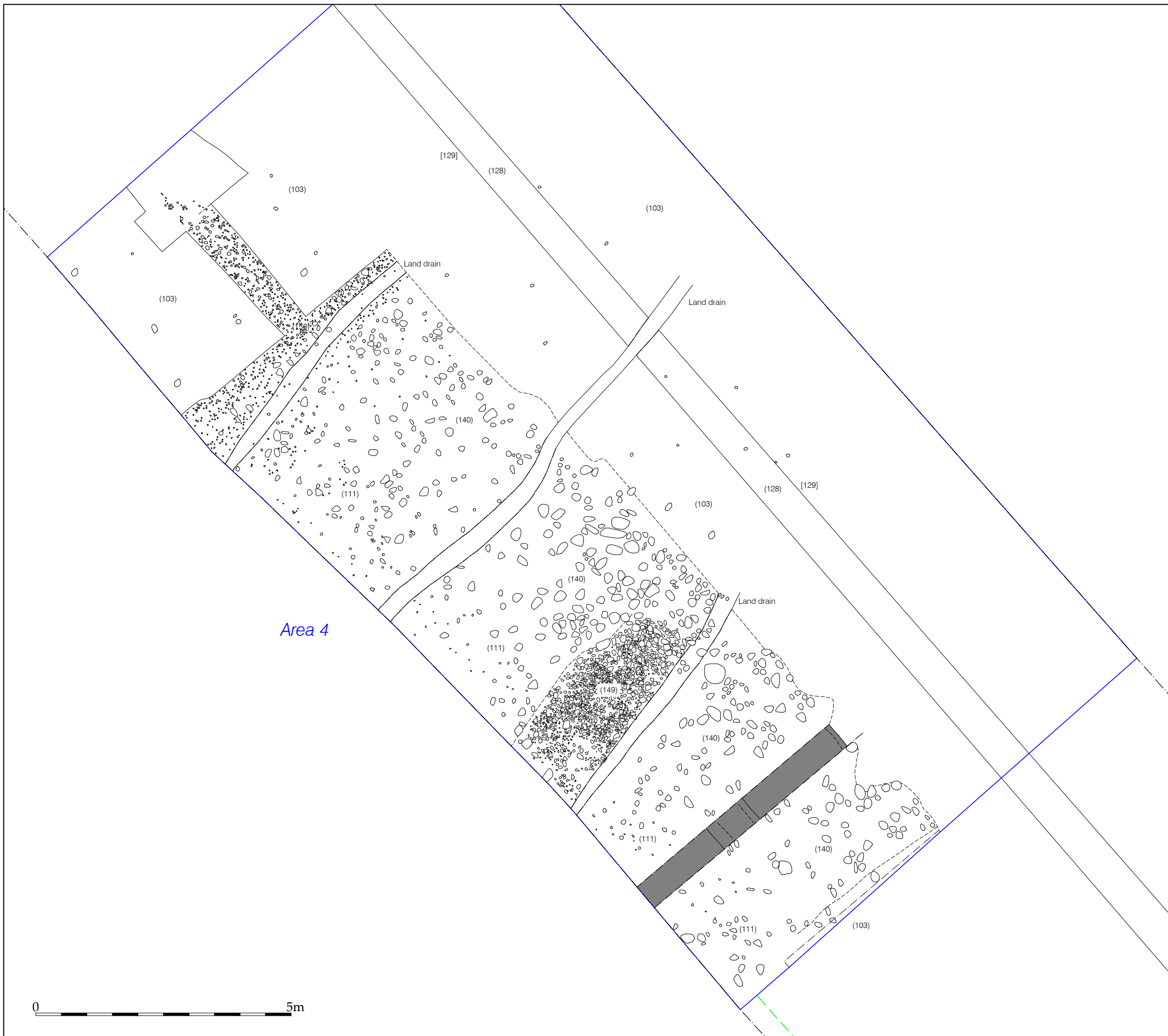


Figure 12: Area 4 plan.

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