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MNY 13423.

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*A1 Dishforth to Barton Improvement
Sections 3 and 4, Summary Archaeology Report*

November 2010



D2B-0-W-30-002-RE12-A



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Sections 3 and 4, Summary Archaeology Report*

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Highways Agency
Lateral
8 City Walk
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LS11 9AT

Carillion/Morgan Sindall
A1 Dishforth to Barton Site Offices
Leases Farm Quarry
Leases Bridge
Leeming Bar
Northallerton
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Minor archaeological remains were identified within four fields (Fields 58, 72, 73 and 79) within Section 3 of the A1 Dishforth to Barton road improvement scheme between Ramshaw Farm and the Burneston to Hargill road (B6285) and within three fields and section of carriageway in Section 4 (Fields 82, 84, 112 and Leases Lane) between the B6285 and Leeming Bar (Figure 1). The remains exposed included a number of field boundaries, several minor gullies and a small group of pits.
- 1.2 Significant archaeological remains were encountered at Healam (Fields 60-64) and south of Bedale (Fields 99-108), the results of which are set out in separate reports due to the concentration of features encountered in these areas (D2B-0-W-002-RE08A, D2B-0-W-002-RE09A and D2B-0-W-002-RE011A). ^(ENY 5796)
^{SR/115375-}

2. LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 Fields 58, 72, 73 and 79 in Section 3 were situated between SE 32774 82687 and SE 21434 85587. Fields 82, 84 and 112 in Section 4 were situated between SE 31248 85934 and SE 28277 90778. The fields all lay to the east of the existing A1 and were numbered from south to north. The land within this area of the scheme was slightly undulating and varied in elevation between 30 and 43m AOD.
- 2.3 The solid geology throughout this area is composed of Permian and Triassic sandstones overlain by sands and gravels. The soils are mapped as being of the Wick 1 Association, comprising deep well drained coarse loamy typical brown earths.

3. SECTION 3 RESULTS

Field 58 (Figure 2)

- 3.1 ^{MNY 36109} A single ditch (925) was recorded in Field 58 to the south of Street Lane. It was aligned east to west and was traced for exposed for c.70m. The ditch was recorded as an anomaly by the geophysical survey undertaken in 2005 and a trench was placed across it during the evaluation in 2006. An assemblage of Roman pottery was recovered from the fills of the ditch, including Samian, mortarium and amphora. A fragment of ceramic building material, an iron object and animal bone were also recovered. The ditch is likely to represent a Romano-British field boundary aligned perpendicular to Dere Street.
- 3.2 No evidence of the putative roundbarrow ditch identified in the earlier evaluation was observed following the stripping of the road corridor to the south of ditch 925.

Field 72 (Figure 3)

- MNY 36110
- 3.3 A small cluster of features was identified towards the centre of Field 72 which comprised four pits and three segments of gully. The pits (1505, 1512, 1514 and 1516) were all sub-circular and one of them (1505) appeared to cut the central gully 1506. The gully segments (1504, 1506 and 1509) were all relatively short and measured between 1.8m and 0.8m in length and 0.4m to 0.5m in width. No artefacts were recovered from any of the features and they remain undated.

Field 73 (Figure 4)

- MNY 36111
- 3.4 A single ditch (1168) was identified in Field 73 to the south of and parallel to the existing boundary with Field 74. The ditch was V-shaped in profile, measured 1.64m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.65m. No diagnostic finds were recovered from the fill of the ditch but it was found to contain a significant quantity of fragmented animal bone. This feature appeared to be a forerunner of the present field boundary which had migrated north over time.

Field 79 (Figure 5)

- MNY 36112
- 3.5 Field 79 contained a single ditch (6100) which was located at the southern end of the field and 10m to the north of an existing farm track. The ditch had a rounded terminal to the west and continued beyond the edge of the corridor to the east. A quantity of slag was recovered from the fill but no artefacts were recorded.

4. SECTION 4 RESULTS**Field 82 (Figure 6)** MNY 36113

- 4.1 The remains of an undated trackway were identified at the northern end of the road corridor within Field 82. The trackway was aligned north-east to south-west and ran parallel to the former field boundary. It lay within a slight hollow c.3.18m wide and had a compacted pebble surface (6102). Two distinct ruts (6103) were recorded cut into this surface, but no artefacts were recovered from any of the excavated deposits associated with it.

Field 84 (Figure 7) MNY 36114

- 4.2 Ditch (6104) was located 183m from the southern field boundary and measured c.4m in length. It crossed the road corridor on an east to west alignment. The ditch survived to a

depth of 0.65m and contained two fills. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the upper fill.

Field 112 (Figure 8)

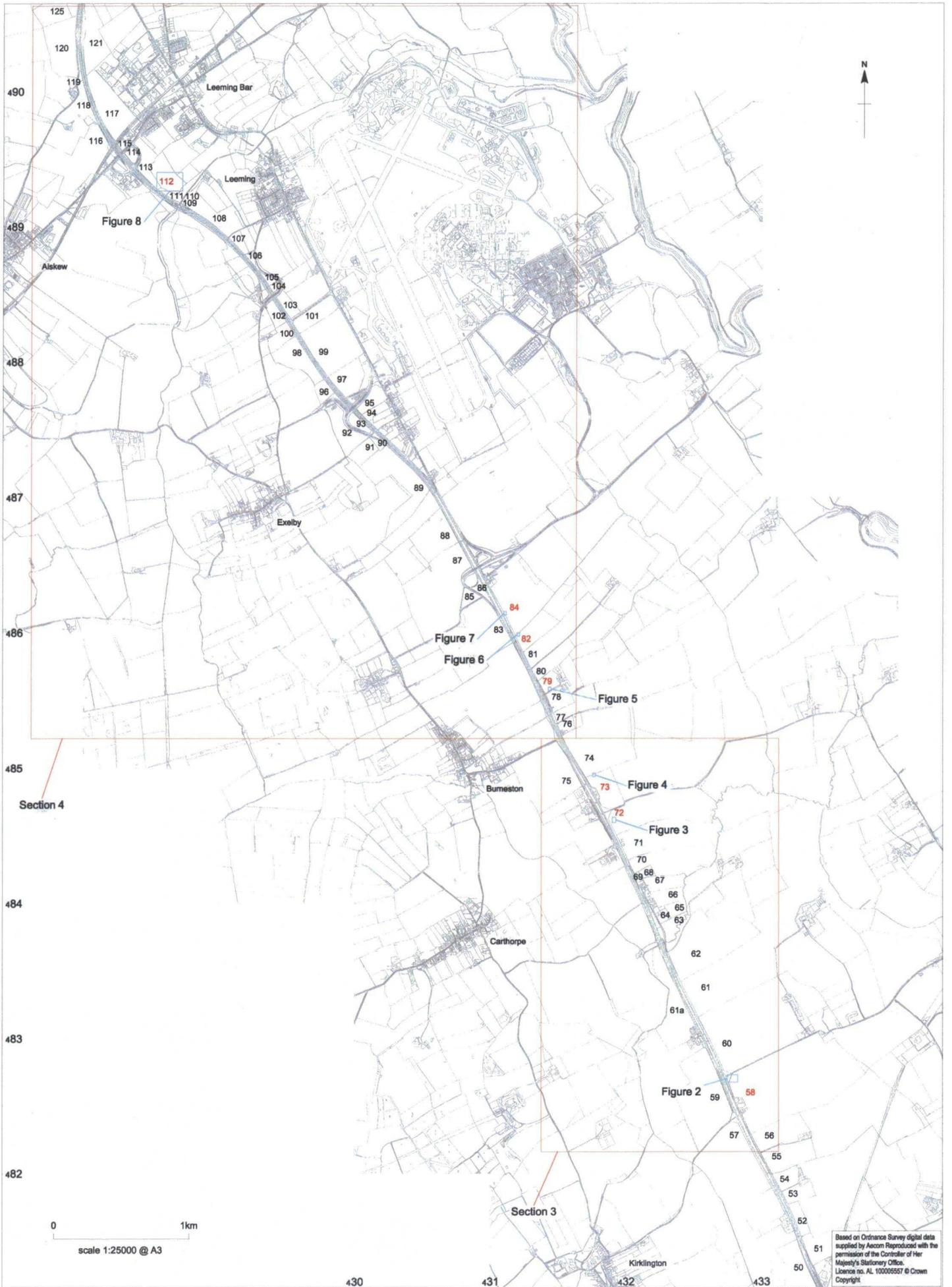
- 4.3 To the north of Leeming Beck, a small number of features were recorded in an access track corridor and within the area of an adjacent balancing pond. The features identified comprised a ditch (4010) which was exposed for 145m within the balancing pond area, a possible extension of this ditch (1542) within the access track corridor, an angled ditch (4002) and a group of shallow plough scars (4004, 1544 and 1546). The fill of ditch 4010 contained three sherds of medieval pottery and a piece of worked flint. No artefactual material was recovered from any of the other features. MN 86115

Leeming Lane

- 4.4 The remains of a substantial Roman road and an 18th century turnpike road and its foundations were identified on the removal of modern tarmac at Leases Lane, to the north of Leeming Bar. The present Leases Lane represents the original course of the old A1 (the former Great North Road) prior to the dualling of the A1 in the 1950s. MN 13423
- 4.5 The surface of the Roman road was traced for approximately 180m and measured a minimum of 5.5m wide. The road surface comprised a layer of rounded stones and gravel (9216) and this was laid upon a cambered foundation of imported sand, apparently in order to assist drainage. Two heavily abraded fragments of Romano-British pottery and a number of iron nails were recovered from the road make-up. No evidence of side ditches or any later burials were encountered.

5. DISCUSSION

- 5.1 Very few of the fields within Sections 3 and 4 excluding Fields 60-64 at Healam and Fields 99-108 at Leeming were found to contain archaeological features. Only one Roman field boundary was identified and this lay to the south of the *vicus* at Healam. Evidence of Roman Dere Street was encountered beneath Leases Lane (and at Healam), but no remains were found during works in the central reservation adjacent to Gatenby Bridge, south of Leeming Airfield. The majority of the ditches, pits and gullies that were recorded within Sections 3 and 4 were undated. Most of the recorded ditches were parallel to existing field boundaries and were either medieval or post-medieval. The undated trackway identified in Field 82 did not relate to any modern track or nearby settlement.



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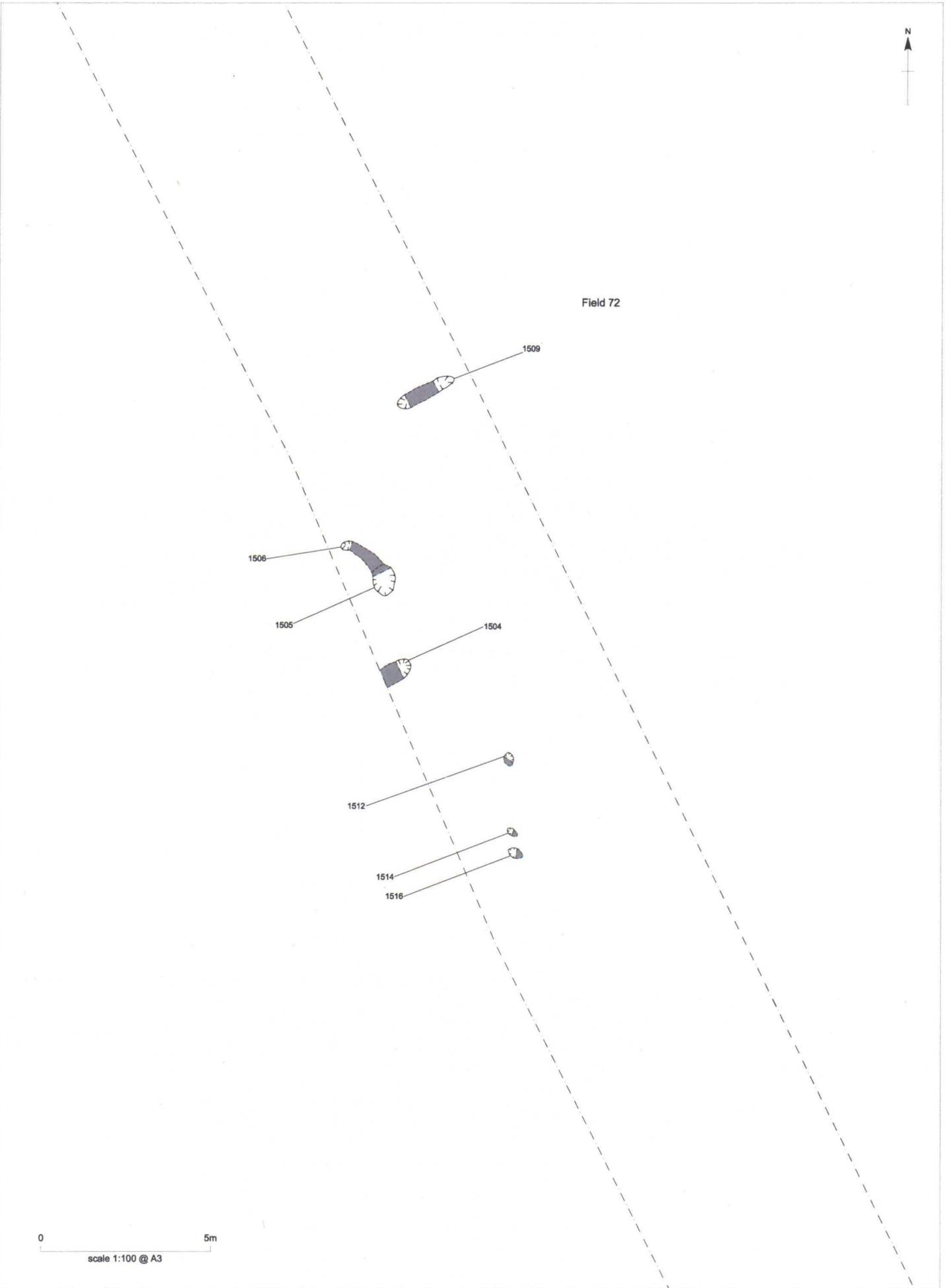


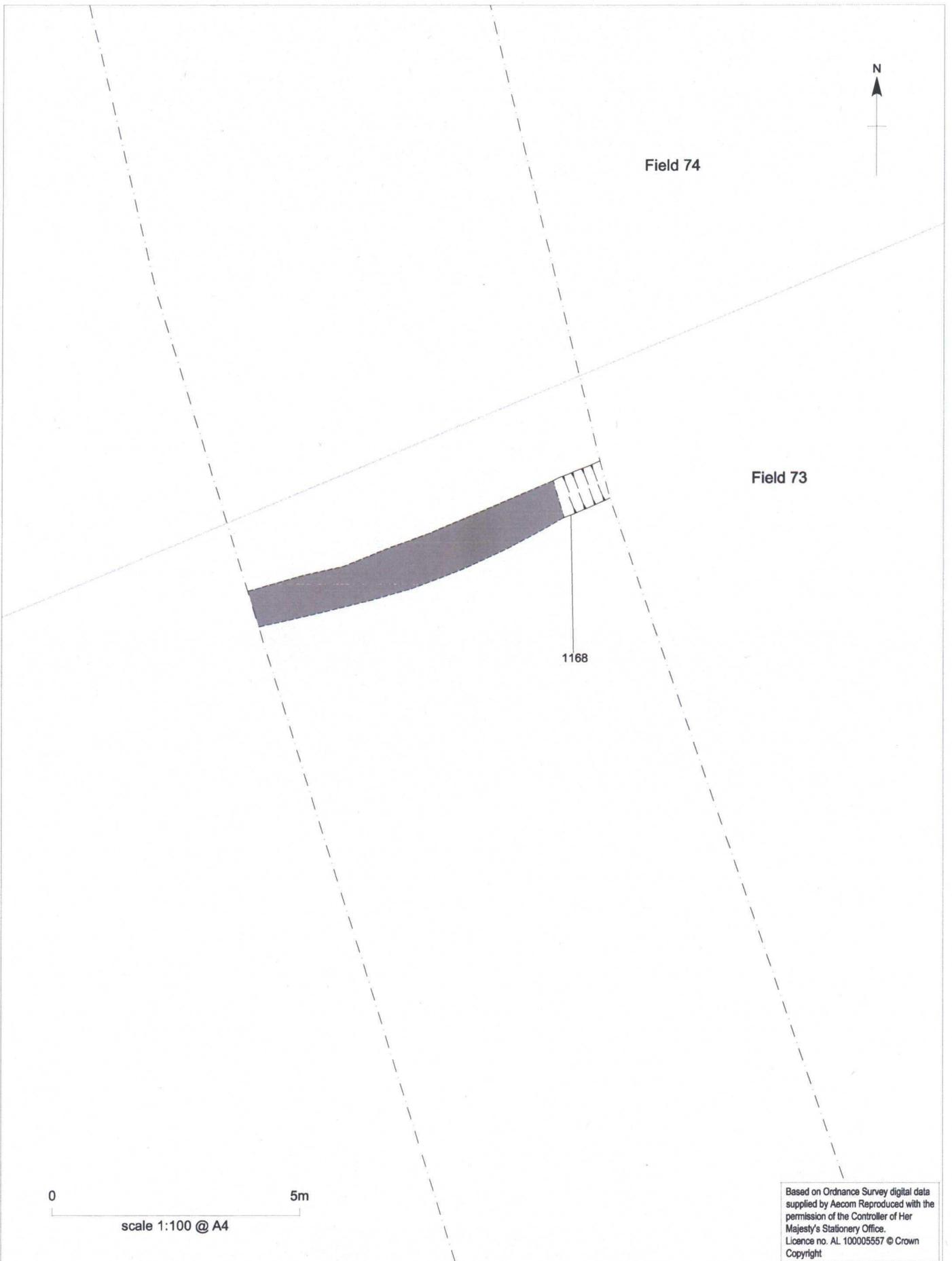
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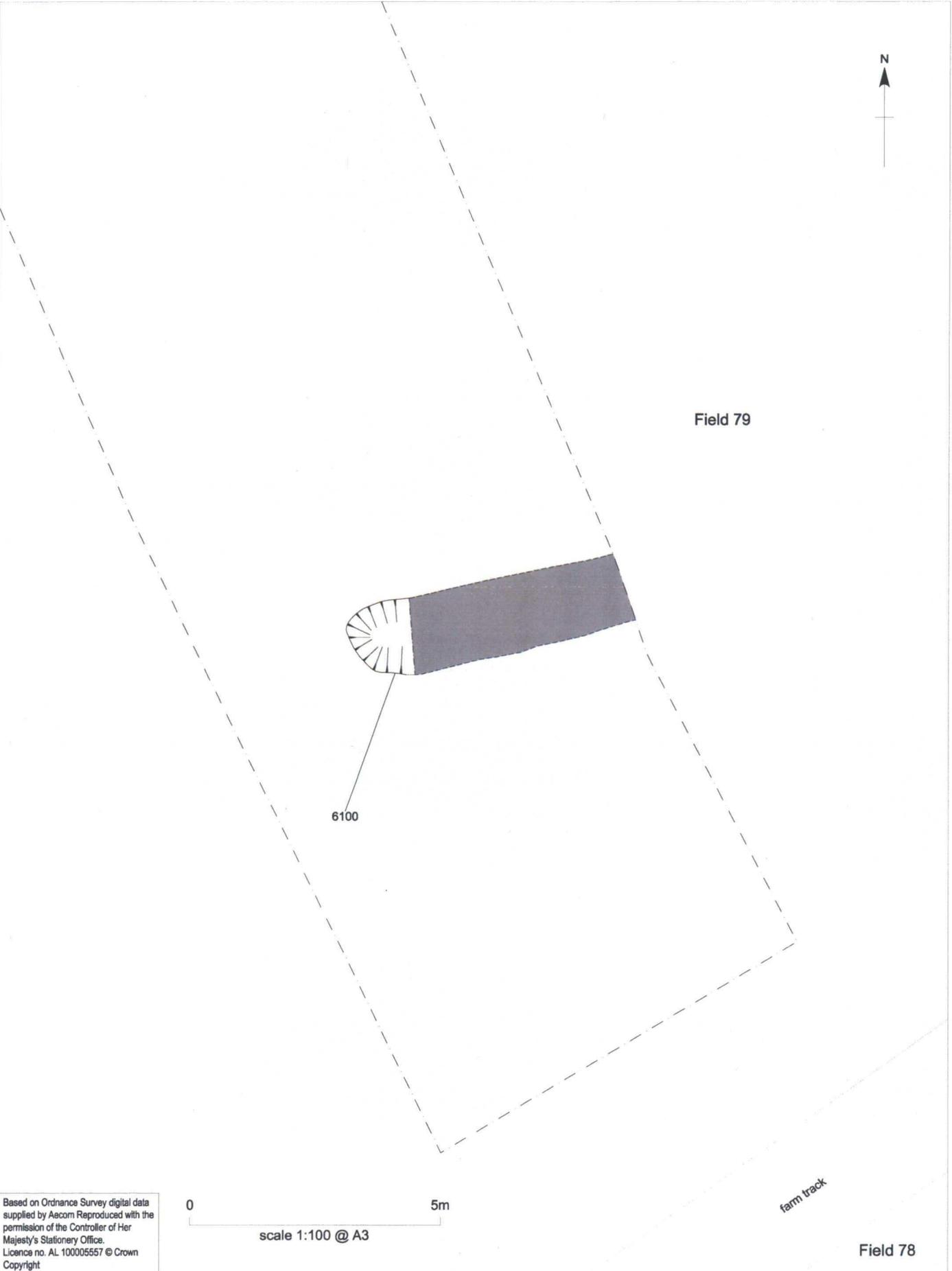
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A1D2B: plan of archaeological features in Field 58

Figure 2



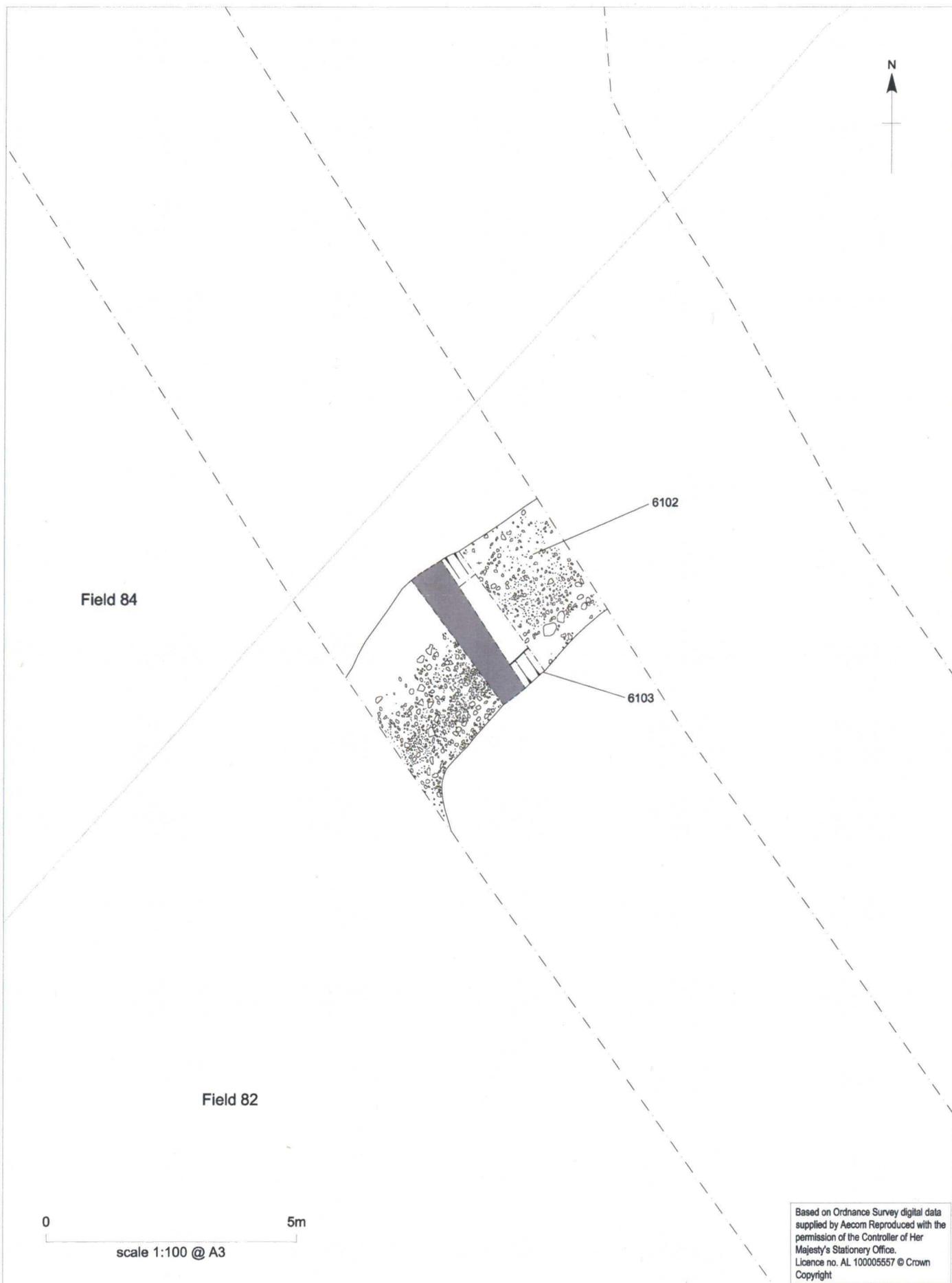


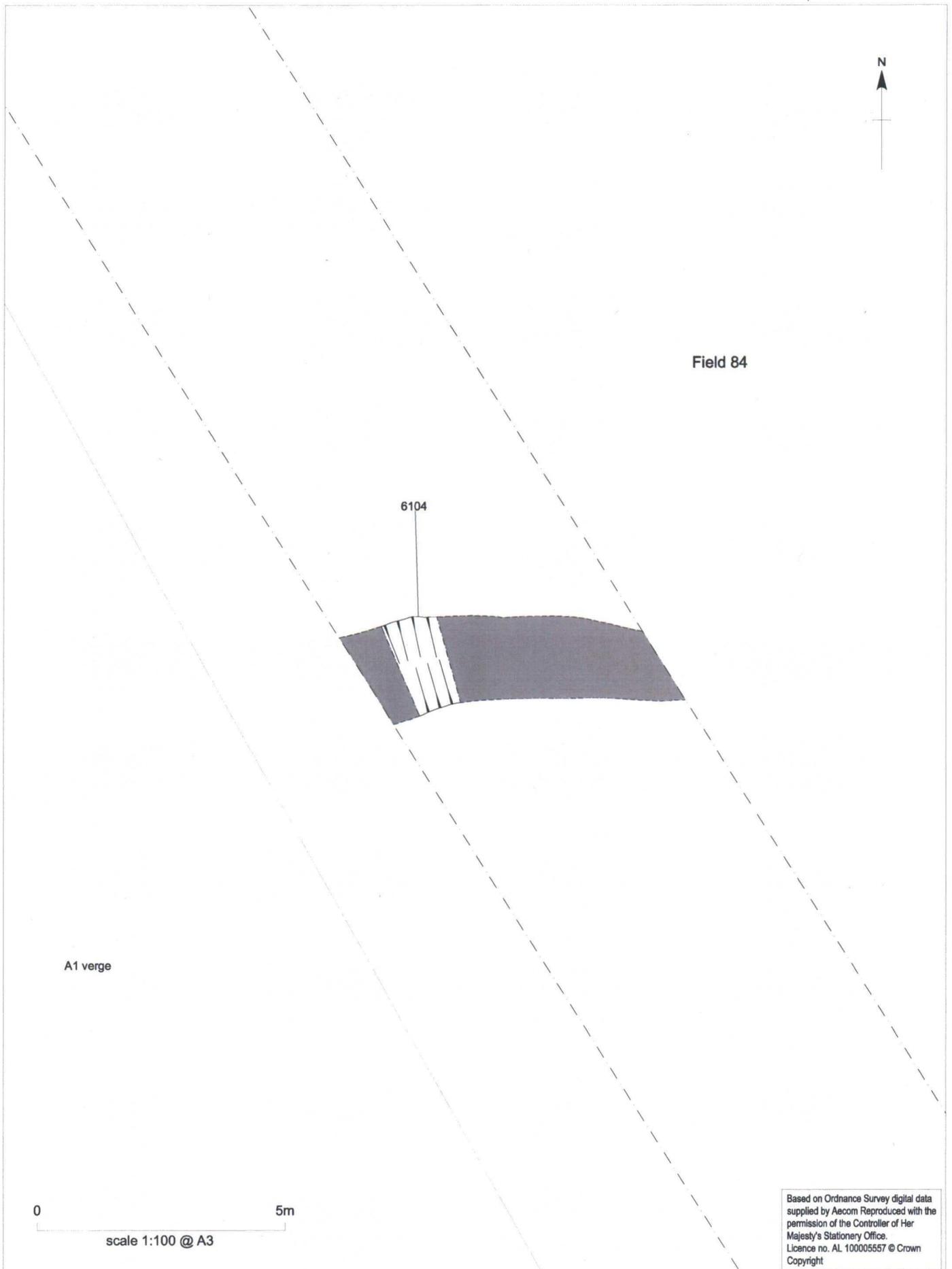


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A1D2B: plan of archaeological feature in Field 79

Figure 5









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