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SNY	9113
ENY	2108 (prev 818)
CNY	1110
Parish	3096
Rec'd	9/3/04

**Whitewall Quarry
Norton
North Yorkshire
(SE 7918 6940)**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

**MAP
Feb 2004**

**Whitewall Quarry
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7918 6940**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief undertaken in February 2004 at Whitewall Quarry, during the latest phase of overburden stripping in the southern extension area, revealed a further section of a Romano-British boundary ditch recorded previously during the 1995 Archaeological Watching Brief at the quarry.

1. Introduction

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at, Norton, North Yorkshire, during February 2004. The Watching Brief involved the monitoring of topsoil and overburden stripping in the southern extension area of the quarry in advance of deep quarrying operations.

The site lies immediately to the east of Welham Road, approximately 1km south of the town of Norton, North Yorkshire, at SE 7918 6940 (Fig.1).

The site was under arable cultivation prior to the quarry extension and was under a cover of ploughed-in stubble at the time of the Watching Brief. The site was bounded to the east and south by agricultural land, to the west by the minor road from Norton to Westow Grange and to the north by the present quarry.

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2. Geology

The site lies on Ellerbeck Association soils, characterized by stony, coarse loamy soils over a solid geology of oolitic limestone (Mackney et al 1984, 179).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

A Roman fort was established to the north of the River Derwent at Malton in circa AD 79 and an extensive civilian settlement or *Vicus*, serving the garrison, grew up to the south-east of the fort, spreading southwards across the river to cover large areas of what is now the modern town of Norton (Robinson JF, 1978, 6-7). The fort was part of a system of forts and roads established by Agricola in order to control northern England (*ibid.*).

Of particular significance in terms of the quarry at Whitewall is the Roman road running south from the fort at Malton, through the *Vicus* at Norton and on to Brough-on-Humber, the Roman port of *Petuaria* (Wenham, 1974, 43). To the south of Whitewall quarry, the road is visible as a cropmark to the west of the modern road, running in a northerly direction towards the southern quarry boundary (Robinson, 1978 no 237, RCHME AP plot, Sheet SE 76 NE, Fig. 2). North of the quarry, a second section of the road is visible as a cropmark to the north of Sutton Grange (*ibid.*). A second linear cropmark lies 200m to the east of the presumed Roman road, running northwards into the quarry (*ibid.*).

A Watching Brief conducted during extensions to the quarry in 1995 provided the opportunity to investigate the cropmarks. A double-ditched feature, interpreted as the Roman road, was excavated, whilst the eastern cropmark proved to be a linear boundary ditch of Romano-British date (MAP 1995).

A further extension to the quarry in 2002, situated immediately to the west of the current extension area (Fig. 2), revealed a further stretch of the Roman road, consisting of two road-side ditches (Fig. 3). No trace of road surfacing was identified due to destruction by deep modern ploughing (MAP 2003).

4. Methodology

The topsoil was stripped over an area measuring approximately 150m x 60m, situated immediately to the south of the existing quarry boundary (Fig. 2). The work was undertaken using a mechanical excavator operating under full archaeological supervision.

5. Results

Excavations revealed a deposit of modern ploughsoil (context 1000) extending over the entire extension area and varying in depth from 0.30m to 0.40m. Removal of this deposit revealed natural fractured limestone bedrock, with occasional deposits of natural stony subsoil (context 1001) occupying shallow depressions and undulations in the surface of the bedrock (Pls. 1 and 2). Finds recovered from Deposit 1000 during the topsoil strip

consisted of just two sherds of heavily abraded Romano-British Greyware (Appendix 2). No archaeological features were associated with these finds.

A single linear archaeological feature was uncovered during the Watching Brief, which entered the extension area from the south at a point approximately 20m to the west of the eastern quarry boundary. It ran in a northerly direction for 45m towards the existing quarry face (Pls. 3 and 4). In location and alignment, this feature corresponded to the linear cropmark identified to the east of the Roman road.

Two segments were excavated across the feature. The northern segment revealed a ditch cut of moderate to steeply-sloping stepped V-shaped profile (context 1005 : Figs 4 and 5 a-b : Pl. 5). Cut 1005 was 2.45m wide, 0.70m deep and had been excavated to 69.75m AOD. It was filled by a sequence of three deposits. The earliest fill consisted of a 0.20m deep deposit of fractured limestone rubble within a silty soil matrix (context 1004). Deposit 1004 was sealed by a 0.15m deep deposit of loose sandy gravel (context 1003). Deposit 1003 was in turn sealed by a 0.40m deep deposit of soft sandy silt (context 1002). Three small sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from Deposit 1002 (Appendix 2).

The southern segment revealed a similar ditch cut of moderate to steeply-sloping stepped V-shaped profile (context 1009 : Figs 4 and 5 c-d : Pl. 6). Cut 1009 was 1.80m wide, 0.60m deep and had been excavated to 70.71m AOD. Three fill deposits were identified, corresponding to those observed in Cut 1005. A 0.22m deep basal deposit of fractured limestone rubble (context 1008 = 1004) was sealed by a 0.16m deep deposit of gravel (context 1007 = 1003), which in turn was sealed by a 0.20m deep deposit of sandy silt (context 1006). Deposit 1006 contained two sherds of Romano-British pottery (Appendix 2).

6. Conclusion

The linear feature uncovered during the Watching Brief represented the eastern cropmark entering the site from the south, which had previously been recorded to the north during the 1995 Watching Brief. The 2004 Watching Brief showed that, despite being truncated to the level of the bedrock by modern deep ploughing and sub-soiling, the feature survived as a rock-cut ditch of substantial size and probably represented a boundary ditch of Romano-British date. The close proximity of the ditch to the Roman road to the west suggests that it may be part of a system of field boundaries associated with agricultural settlement or cultivation along the line of the road.

7. **Bibliography**

- Mackney, D 1984 Soils and Their Uses in Northern England. Harpenden.
MAP 1995 Whitewall Quarry Norton- Watching Brief Report
Robinson, JA 1978 The Archaeology of Malton and Norton. YAS.
Wenham, LP 1974 Derventio Roman Fort and Civil Settlement. Cameo.



Figure 1. Site Location

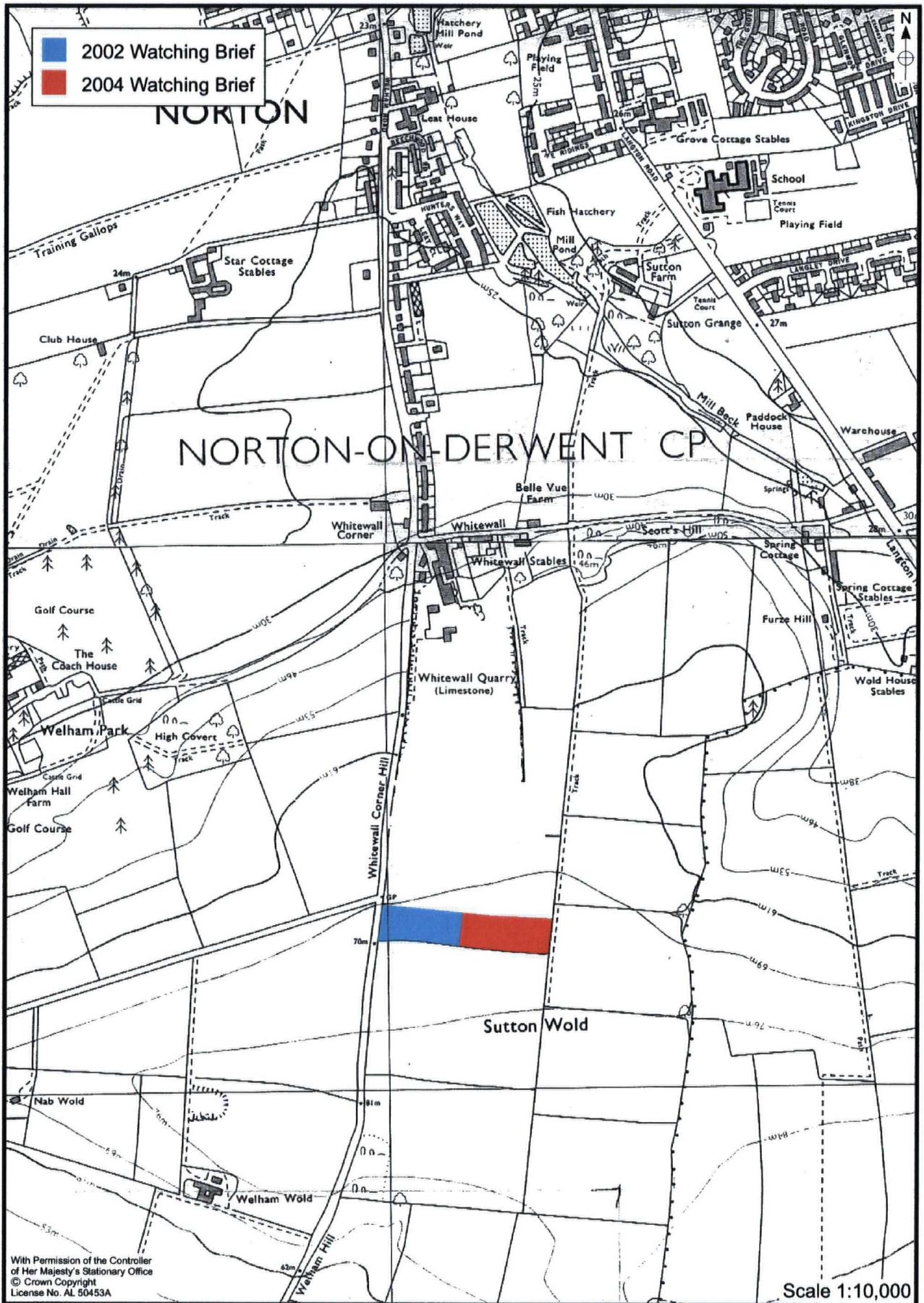


Figure 2. Site Location

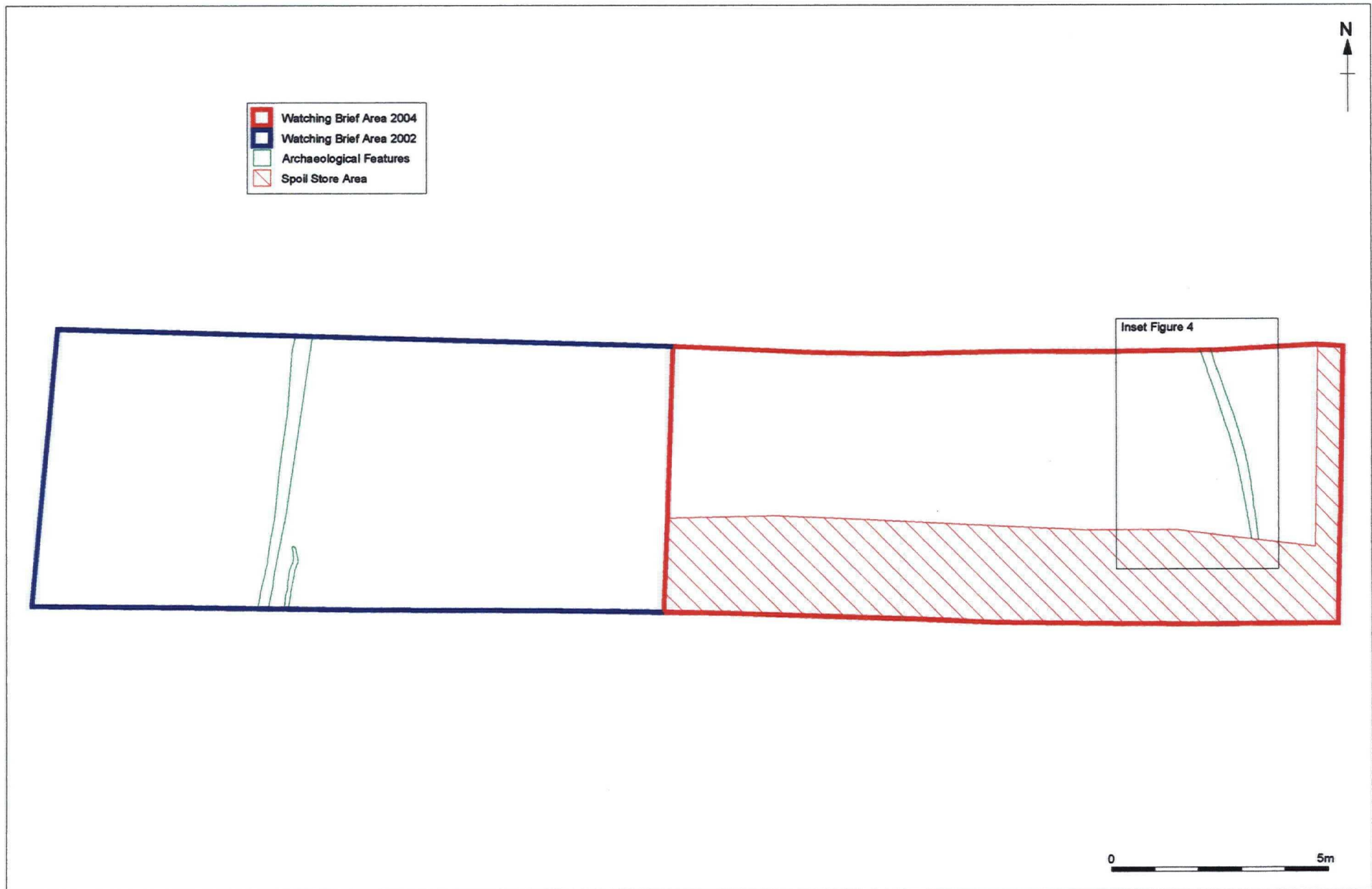


Figure 3. Watching Brief Areas

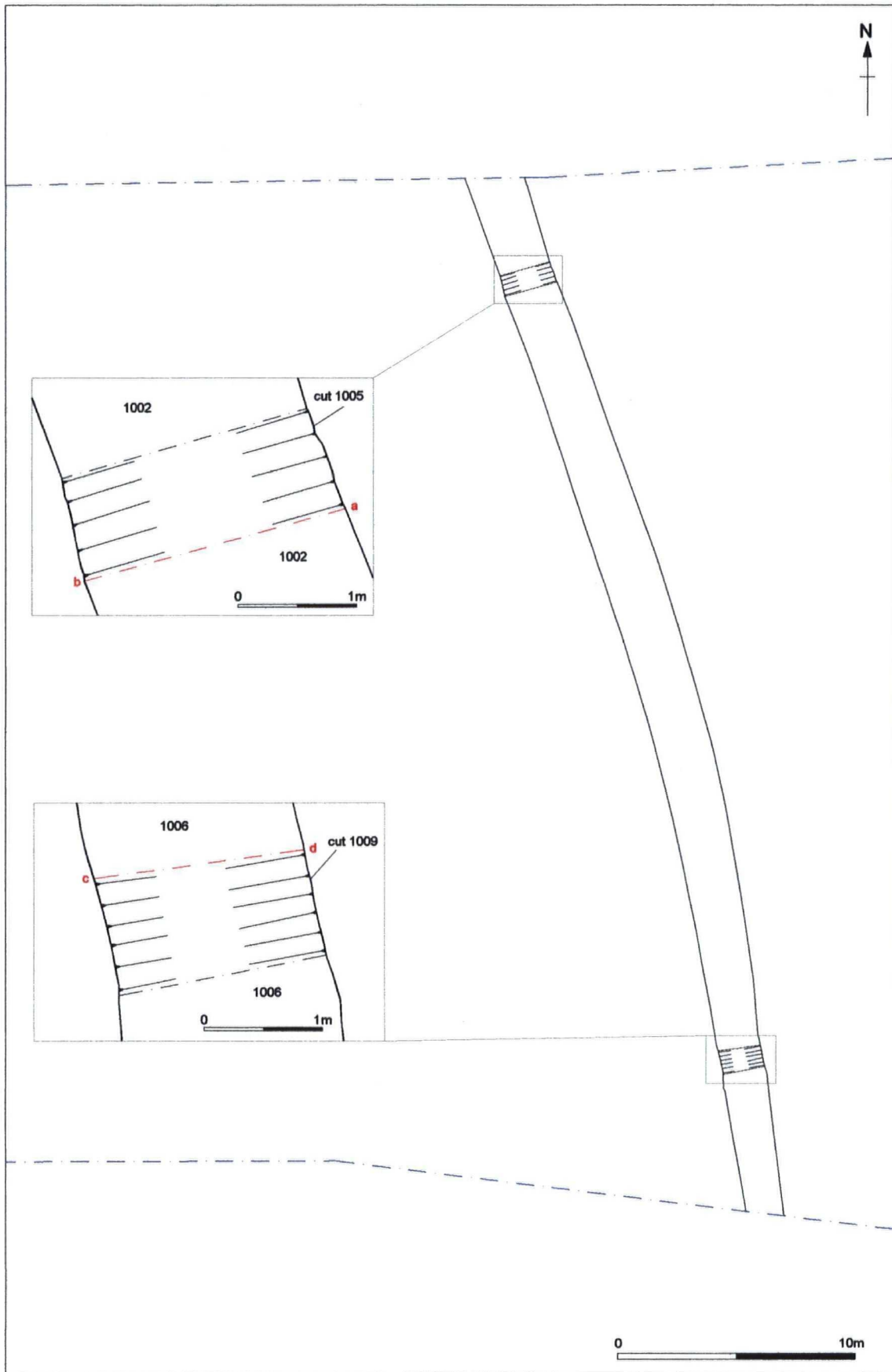


Figure 4. Plan of Watching Brief Features

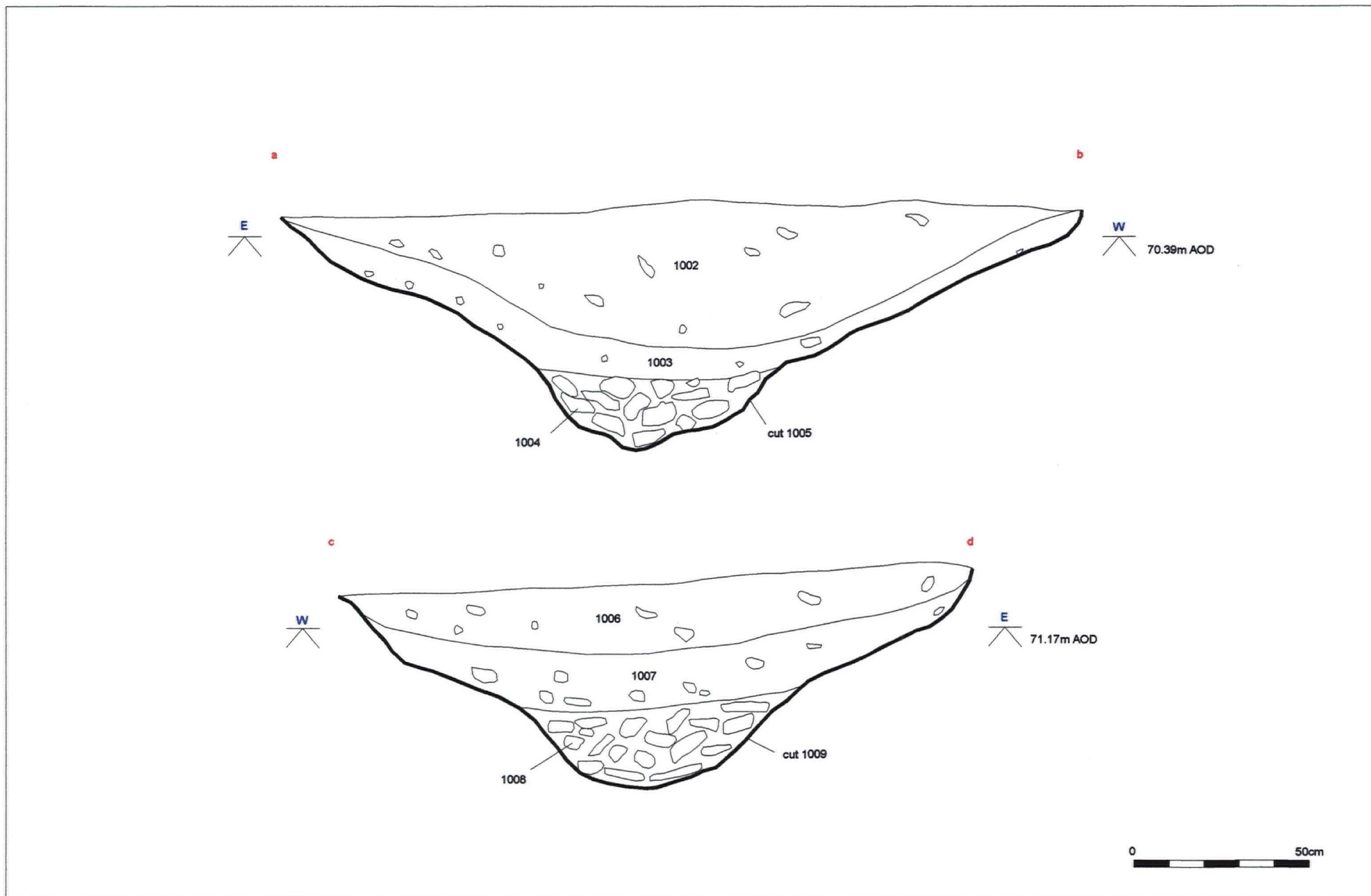


Figure 5. Sections of Watching Brief Features



Plate 1: View of Extension Area After Topsoil Strip. Facing North-west.



Plate 2: View of Extension Area After Topsoil Strip. Facing North-east.



Plate 3: Ditch 1005/1009. Facing North.



Plate 4: Ditch 1005/1009. Facing South.



Plate 5: Ditch Segment Cut 1005. Facing South.



Plate 6: Ditch Segment Cut 1009. Facing North.

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Munsel</i>	<i>Description</i>
1000	Deposit	Mid grey-brown	Ploughsoil
1001	Deposit	Mid orange-brown	Subsoil
1002	Deposit	Mid orange-brown	Sandy silt, upper fill of Cut 1005
1003	Deposit	Light yellow-brown	Sandy gravel, middle fill of Cut 1005
1004	Deposit	Mid brown-cream	Limestone rubble, basal fill of Cut 1005
1005	Cut	N/A	Ditch segment cut
1006	Deposit	Mid orange-brown	Sandy silt, upper fill of Cut 1009
1007	Deposit	Light yellow-brown	Sandy gravel, middle fill of Cut 1009
1008	Deposit	Mid brown-cream	Limestone rubble, basal fill of Cut 1009
1009	Cut	N/A	Ditch segment cut

APPENDIX 2

Finds Catalogue

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
1000	Pottery	2 Greyware (1 rim)	0.058kg
1002	Pottery	3 Calcite Gritted	0.008kg
1006	Pottery	2 Greyware (1 handle)	0.060kg

APPENDIX 3

Drawing Archive Listing

<i>Drawing</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	1:10	Section	North-facing section Ditch Cut 1005
2	1:10	Section	South-facing section Ditch Cut 1009
3	1:20	Plan	Plan Ditch Cut 1005
4	1:20	Plan	Plan Ditch Cut 1009

APPENDIX 4

Photographic Archive Listing

Film 670: Colour Print

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Facing</i>
1	ID Shot	N/A	N/A
2	ID Shot	N/A	N/A
3	Ditch Segment Cut 1009	1 x 1m	N
4	Ditch Segment Cut 1009	1 x 1m	N
5	Ditch Segment Cut 1009	1 x 1m	N
6	Ditch Segment Cut 1009	1 x 1m	N
7	General View of Ditch 1005/1009	2 x 1m	N
8	General View of Ditch 1005/1009	2 x 1m	N
9	Ditch Segment Cut 1005	1 x 1m	S
10	Ditch Segment Cut 1005	1 x 1m	S
11	Ditch Segment Cut 1005	1 x 1m	S
12	General View of Ditch 1005/1009	2 x 1m	S
13	General View of Ditch 1005/1009	2 x 1m	S
14	Misfire	N/A	N/A
15	General View of Ditch 1005/1009	2 x 1m	N
16	General View of Ditch 1005/1009	2 x 1m	N
17	General View of Ditch 1005/1009	2 x 1m	N
18	View of Extension Area After Topsoil Strip	N/A	NE
19	View of Extension Area After Topsoil Strip	N/A	NE
20	View of Extension Area After Topsoil Strip	N/A	NE
21	View of Extension Area After Topsoil Strip	N/A	NE
22	View of Extension Area After Topsoil Strip	N/A	NE
23	View of Extension Area After Topsoil Strip	N/A	NE
24	View of Extension Area After Topsoil Strip	N/A	NW
25	View of Extension Area After Topsoil Strip	N/A	NW