

**Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience
Programme (HARP).
Haslingden Road Compound,
Rossendale.**

**Archaeological Trial Trenching
Report**

For United Utilities Water

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Ecus Ltd


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Executive Summary

Ecus was commissioned by United Utilities to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the proposed Haslingden Road Compound to aid the discharge of a planning condition associated with the replacement Haslingden and Walmersley tunnel section which forms part of the Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme. The Haslingden Road Compound site can be found at National Grid co-ordinate SD 79391 22090 and the archaeological works comprised a single trial trench in the western portion of the site to target a rectilinear anomaly identified on an earlier geophysical survey.

The anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey was not identified within the trench, suggesting that it does not represent an archaeological feature. The truncated remains of a single shallow ditch were found, orientated from north to south. No environmental or dating evidence was recovered from the ditch. The presence of the ditch demonstrates the potential presence of archaeological features not identified by the geophysical survey. The absence of artefacts within the ditch suggests that it was a field boundary located away from significant settlement activity and its importance alone is therefore negligible. On this basis, the risk of significant negative impact of compound construction upon the archaeological resource is considered to be low.

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 Ecus was commissioned by United Utilities to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the proposed Haslingden Road Compound to aid the discharge of a planning condition associated with the replacement Haslingden and Walmersley tunnel section which forms part of the Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme. The archaeological works within the Haslingden Road Compound site (hereafter “The Site”) consisted of a single evaluation trench, sited to investigate a rectilinear anomaly recorded in a previous geophysical survey of the area carried out in October 2020 (Magnitude 2020).
- 1.1.2 Initial consultation with the Archaeological Advisor for Lancashire County Council (LCC) identified that an archaeological evaluation, based on the results of the geophysical survey, will be required prior to construction to satisfy the planning condition, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 194 (MHCLG 2021).
- 1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation of the Site comprised a 1% sample, the single trench measuring 30m x 1.8m.
- 1.1.4 This document presents the results of the archaeological trial trench evaluation, which was carried out as stipulated in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Ecus 2023) and conducted in accordance with relevant standards and guidance.

1.2 Site Background

- 1.2.1 The Site is c. 400 m south-west of Rawtenstall and is directly north of the A56.
- 1.2.2 The Site slopes from the highest point in the north tip of 205 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 170 m aOD at the eastern edge.
- 1.2.3 The bedrock geology is recorded as three bands: the north band is Rossendale Formation mudstone and siltstone; the middle band is Holcombe Brook Grit sandstone; and the south band is Marsden Formation mudstone and siltstone. The trench is located within the Rossendale Formation mudstone and siltstone. Superficial deposits are recorded throughout the Site as Devensian Till (Diamicton) (BGS 2023)

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following summary of the archaeological and historical background is drawn from the Environmental Statement provided by Jacobs (Jacobs 2021).

Post-medieval

- 1.3.2 Post-medieval activity is present within the vicinity of the Site. The activity is associated with

industrial works. Directly south of the site, Lockgate Mill was established in the 19th century as a weaving shed (HER ref: PRN23043). West of the site was the woollen spinning mill, Syke Side Mill (HER ref: PRN2080) built prior to 1839. The mill began producing cotton in 1907, with production finally ceasing in 1982 and the mill demolished in 2002.

1.3.3 The site sits south of Pike Law Quarries, a 19th century sandstone quarry (HER ref: PRN7352) which produced flags and roofing slates, while to the north west, Brick Works was also present (HER ref: PRN23044).

1.3.4 Further east of the site, evidence of post medieval industrial activity include a woollen mill and associated reservoir (HER ref: PRN7955) and further reservoir to the north east of the site (HER: PRN23046), both of which were present in the 19th century. Further mills were also present to the south east of the site.

1.4 Geophysical survey

1.4.1 Following a magnetometer survey commissioned by ECUS in 2020, Magnitude Surveys produced a report for the Site (2020), which stated the following:

- The geophysical survey has detected anomalies of modern origin produced by a trackway, surrounding agricultural buildings, fencing and two telegraph posts;
- A linear anomaly and an amorphous anomaly have been detected but their origin is undetermined. The linear anomaly could have an agricultural origin, possibly being a land subdivision. The amorphous anomaly is bisected by a possible land drain that may indicate a drainage function;
- A series of linear anomalies have been interpreted as drainage features; and,
- Three buried services have been identified that intersect or adjoin each other.

2. Methods

2.1 General

2.1.1 Ecus is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Registered Organisation (ClfA).

2.1.2 All work was undertaken by experienced Ecus staff who are personally accredited members of ClfA or who demonstrably work to an equivalent standard for fieldwork.

2.2 Standards and guidelines

2.2.1 The methodology contained in this report is based upon the following published standards and guidelines of practice:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015a);
- *Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2021);
- *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020a);
- *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020b); and
- *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (Chartered Institute of Archaeologists 2020c).

2.3 Aims and objectives

2.3.1 The aims and objectives for the evaluation trenching were outlined in the WSI. The aims were:

- identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the identified areas of interest;
- determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any exposed archaeological remains;
- recover artefacts disturbed by the site works;
- prepare a comprehensive record of and report on archaeological observations during the site work; and
- identify mitigation strategies to ensure the recording, preservation or management of archaeological remains within the Site.

In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:

- to test the results of the geophysical survey (Magnitude 2020);
- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified areas;
- to establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- provide evidence to address relevant research topics within the North West Regional Research Framework;
- to place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and,
- to make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

2.4 Evaluation trenching methodology

2.4.1 The trench was located using survey-grade GPS and accurately located on the latest Ordnance Survey map.

Soil stripping

2.4.2 Mechanical stripping of topsoil and subsoil from the trench was carried out in accordance with the ClfA guidelines laid out in “*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*” (2020a).

2.4.3 Topsoil and subsoil were stacked separately to aid reinstatement. Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand excavation was visually scanned for finds retrieval.

2.4.4 Following investigation, the trench was signed off by the Archaeological Advisor for Lancashire County Council prior to backfilling under archaeological supervision. Arisings were returned to the trench in the correct order and tracked in.

Hand excavation

2.4.5 Following initial stripping of the trench, a measured survey of all visible archaeological features was made and a sample of the archaeological features and deposits identified were hand excavated, enough to address the aims of the evaluation.

Recording

2.4.6 All archaeological deposits were recorded using a continuous numbered context system on a pro-forma recording system in accordance with industry standards. The written record is hierarchically

based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully describes the location, extent, composition, and relationships of the subject and will be cross-referenced to other, relevant assigned records. Written recording is in a digital format using the DiggIt application (<https://www.diggitar archaeology.com>). A drawn record of all archaeological features was made at an appropriate scale. Sections/profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10, the trench was planned via dGPS trench survey.

2.4.7 A photographic record of the site was taken using digital photography at a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels and included a clearly visible, graduated metric scale, site code and context feature number(s) where appropriate. A register of all photographs was maintained and all digital photography was performed in accordance with national guidance (Historic England 2015c).

3. Trench Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The following section presents the results of the archaeological evaluation. The context descriptions for recorded archaeological features are reproduced in Appendix 1.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 measured 30m x 1.8m and was orientated north-west-west to south-east-east. The trench was located between the A681 Haslingden Road to the north and the A56 Haslingden Bypass to the south in a field set to pasture. The ground sloped downwards to the east (Plate 1).

3.2.2 The natural orange clay (**1003**) was encountered at a depth of 0.5m across the trench. A single linear ditch (**1004**) was recorded cutting through the natural clay, approximately 2m from the north western end of the trench and running along a north to south alignment (Plate 2, Figure 2). Ditch **1004** was 0.9m wide and 0.11m deep and was filled by a sterile deposit of mid brownish-grey sandy clay (**1005**). Wet weather conditions and contamination by a modern land drain, cutting across ditch **1004** on a north-west to south-east alignment, meant that retrieving secure environmental samples from fill **1005** was unviable and no diagnostic material was recovered.

3.2.3 The features within Trench 1 were sealed by a 0.1m thick subsoil horizon (**1002**), which extended across the trench and was succeeded by a 0.25m thick layer of topsoil (**1001**).

3.2.4 The anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey crossing the centre and south eastern end of the trench could not be identified (Plate 3).

4. Conclusions

- 4.1.1 The geophysical survey showed a rectilinear anomaly crossing the centre of the trench from east to west, before returning to the south to again cross the trench at its south eastern end (Magnitude Surveys 2020; Fig. 2). This anomaly was not identified at either location within the trench. Instead, the evaluation identified a single ditch **1004** crossing the north west end of the trench running from north east to south west. Unfortunately, due to weather conditions and truncation of ditch **1004** by a modern land drain, no diagnostic material was recovered to enable dating or further interpretation of the feature.
- 4.1.2 The results of the evaluation suggest that the anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey does not represent an archaeological feature. However, the presence of ditch **1004** demonstrates the potential presence of archaeological features not identified by the geophysical survey. The absence of artefacts within ditch **1004** suggests that it was a field boundary located away from significant settlement activity and its importance alone is negligible. On this basis, the risk of significant negative impact of compound construction upon the archaeological resource is considered to be low.

Archiving

4.2 Physical Archive

4.2.1 No physical archive was created during the current phase of work.

4.3 Digital Archive

4.3.1 The digital archive is currently held at Ecus's office in Barnard Castle under the project code 21075, and will be deposited with LCC following completion of all archaeological work for the scheme and approvals by LCC of all associated reporting.

4.3.2 LCCMS does not have the facilities to curate digital archives in the long term, and the digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and made publicly accessible. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS (Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity 2011; Archaeology Data Service 2020) and the LCCMS.

4.3.3 An OASIS form (OASIS ID: ecusltd1-516489) has been created and copy of the final, approved version of this report will be uploaded to the ADS via the OASIS form.

5. Copyright

5.1 Paper and Digital Archive

5.1.1 The copyright and ownership of the paper and digital archive from the archaeological work will rest with Ecus Ltd. On completion of the contracted works, Ecus will deposit the material with Lancashire County Council, to whom they will transfer title and/or licence the use of the records.

5.2 Report

5.2.1 Full copyright of each report shall be retained by Ecus Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that the Developer will be licensed:

- to use each report in all matters directly relating to the scheme; and
- to make each report available for public dissemination as part of the dissemination measures.

6. References

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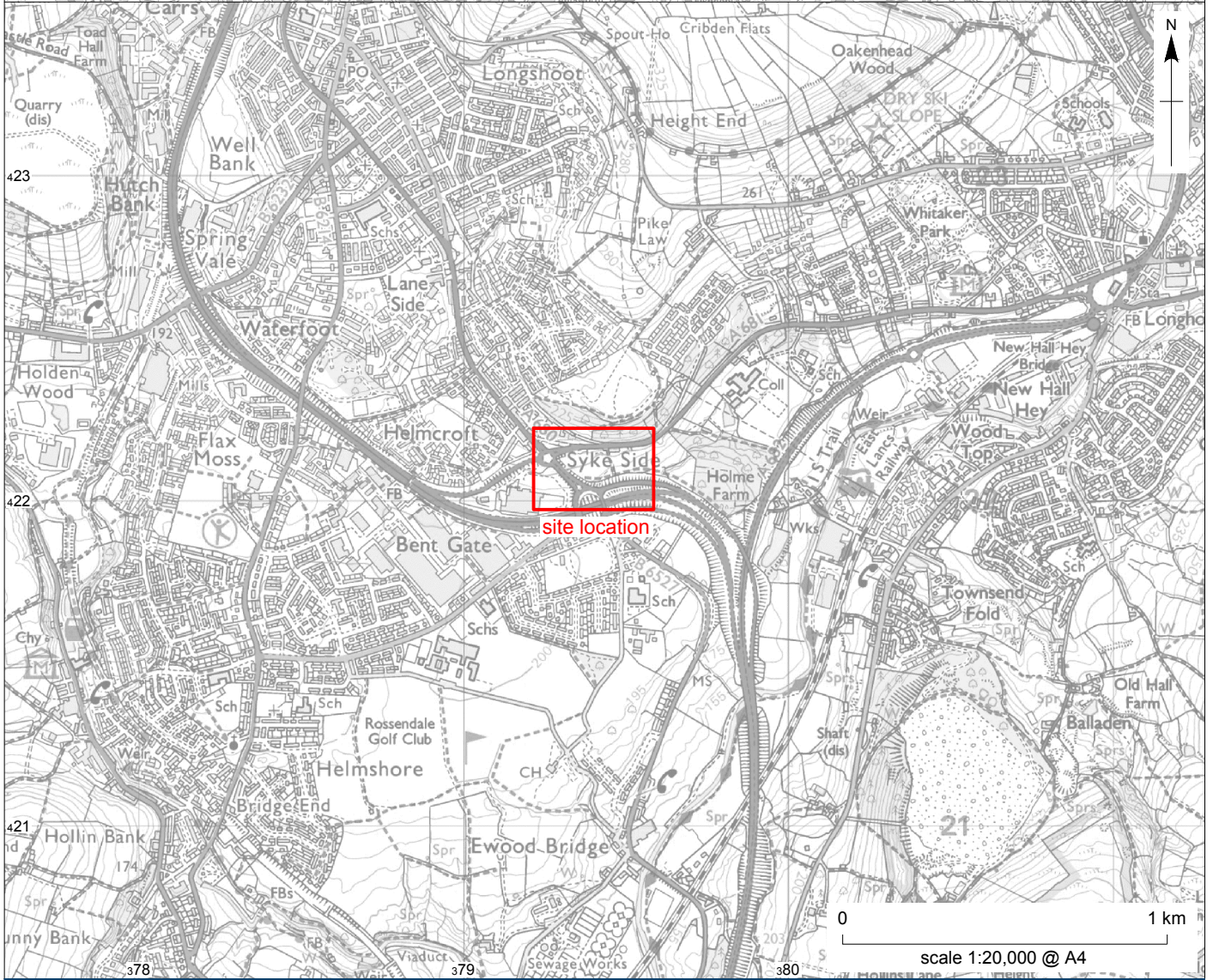
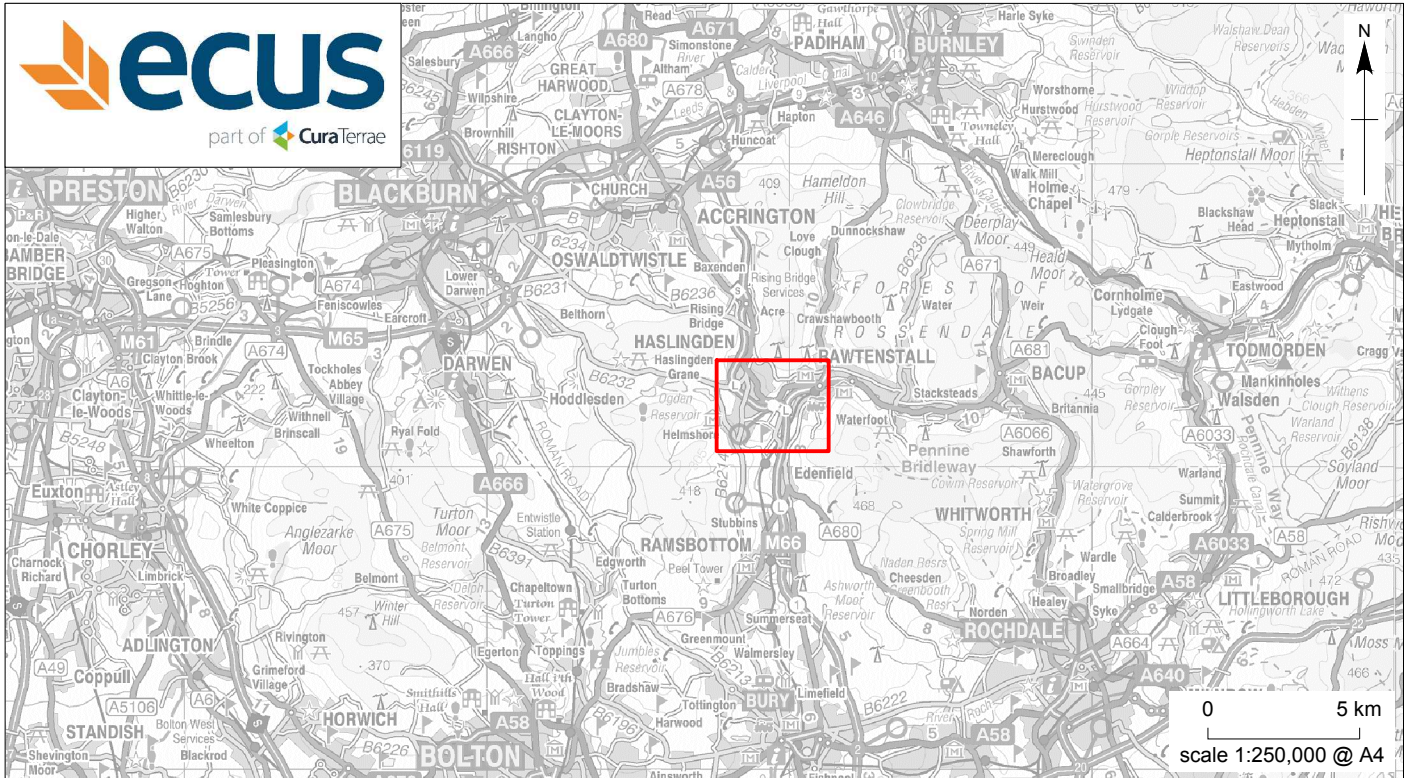
Magnitude Surveys. (2020). *Geophysical Survey of Haslingden Road Compound, Lancashire*. Ref: MSSD778

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) *National Planning Policy Framework* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

The North West England Regional Research Framework. <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>

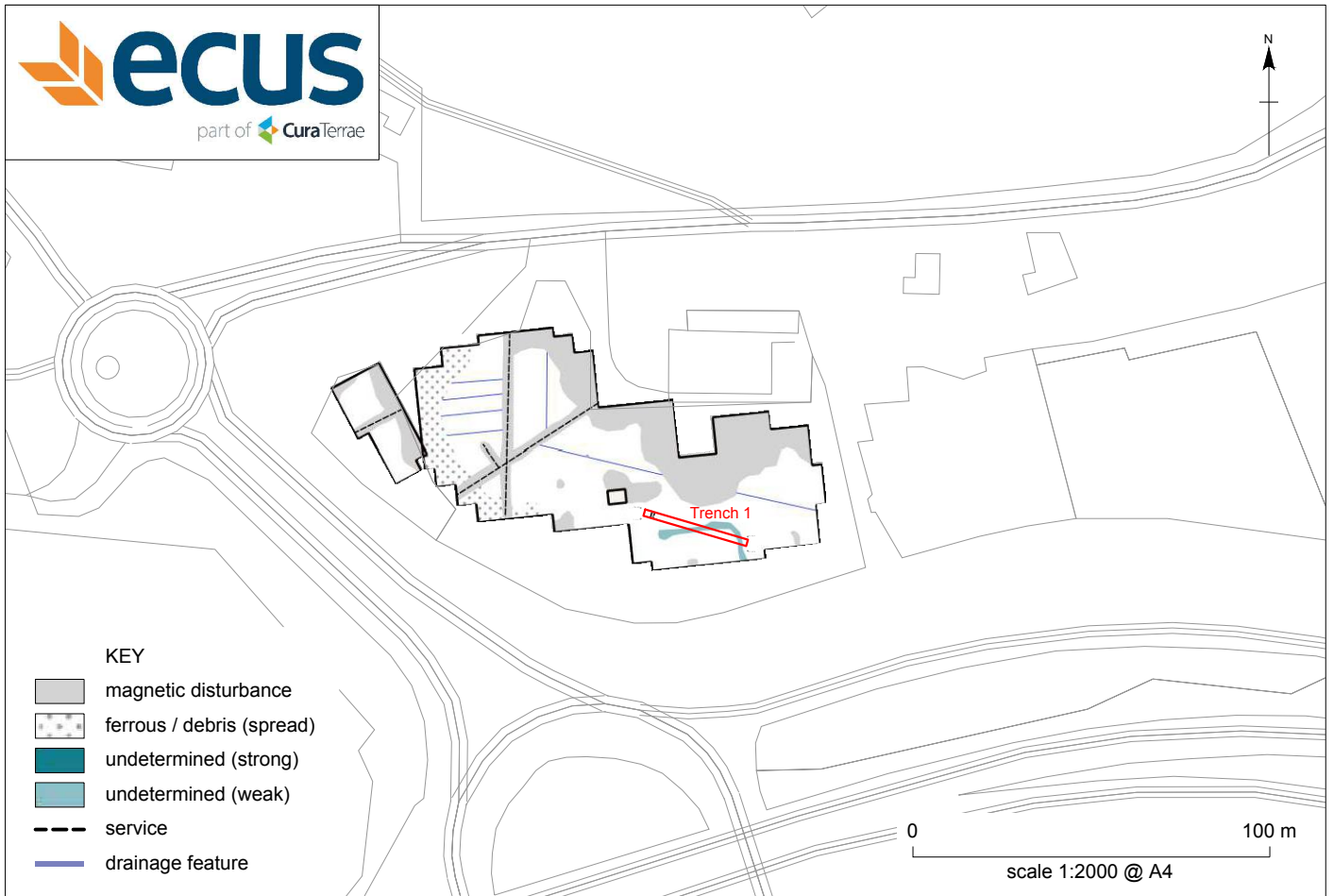
Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

Context no.	Type	Feature	Cut no.	Trench	Description
1001	Layer			1	Topsoil. Loose, dark blackish grey clayey loam.
1002	Layer			1	Subsoil. Firm, mid yellowish grey silty clay.
1003	Layer			1	Natural.. Firm light orangey grey clay.
1004	Cut	Ditch		1	Cut of N-S linear ditch. Gradual break at top, shallow, concave sides, gradual break of slope to an uneven base.
1005	Fill	Ditch	1004	1	Fill of ditch [1004]. Friable, light brownish grey sandy clay.

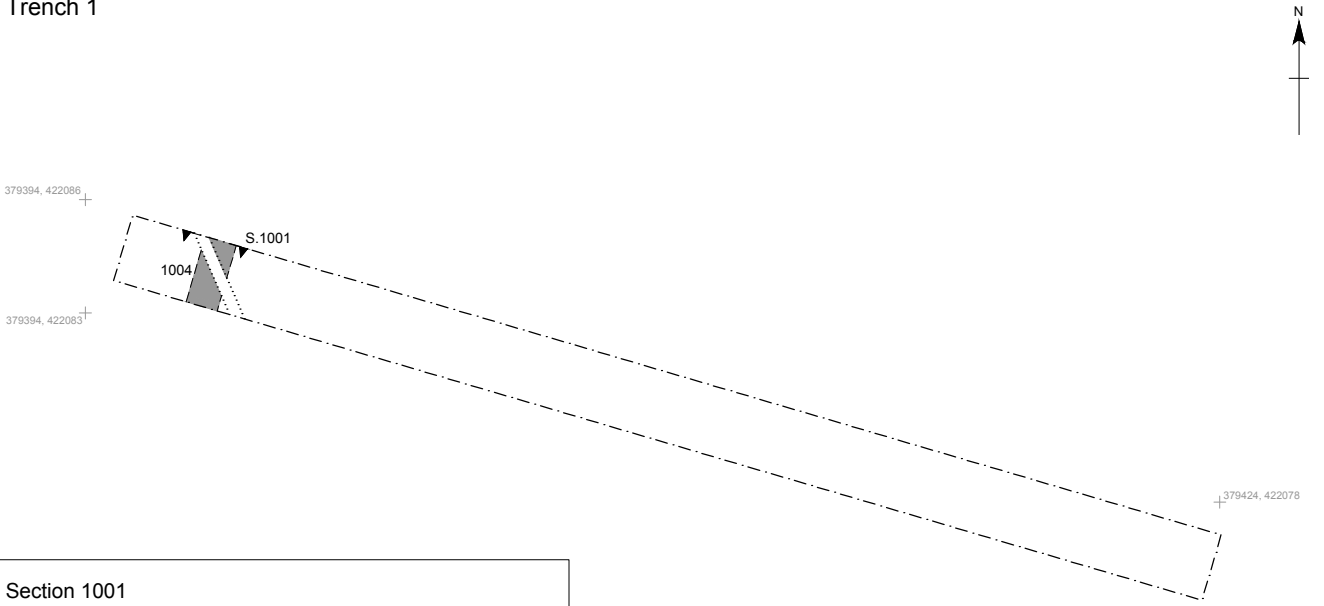


Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme Haslingden Road, Lancashire: site location

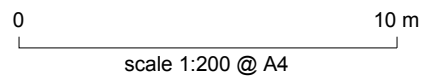
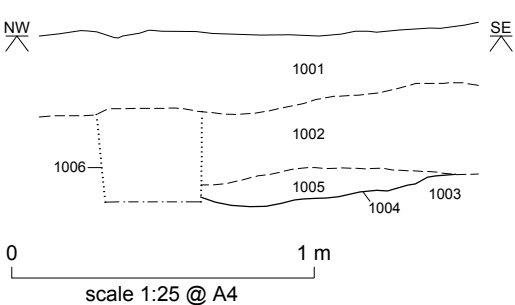
Figure 1



Trench 1



Section 1001





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Trench 1: overview of trench,
facing south east

Plate 1



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Trench 1: south west facing section of ditch 1004

Plate 2



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Trench 1: overview of trench,
facing north west

Plate 3

