

AD189b

**Land at Willowburn,
Whinney Hill Farm,
Northumberland**

Archaeological Evaluation

ADDENDUM



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AD Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Dysart Developments and Arch Development Projects Ltd to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development known as Willowburn on land at Whinney Hill Farm, Choppington, Northumberland. The initial phase of archaeological trenching works in Fields 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, was undertaken between 23rd January and 7th February 2017. This report represents an addendum to the earlier report (AD Archaeology 2017) and contains the results of evaluation trenching within Field 4 (trenches 28-30) undertaken 27th – 28th February 2017.

Field 4 is located in the northwest sector of the proposed development. Geophysical survey had suggested the potential for the presence of archaeological features with anomalies in the western sector of the field. The trenching confirmed the presence of archaeological features, two ditches in trench 29 contained prehistoric pottery with the easternmost ditch corresponding with anomaly 4d. In trench 30 a small pit of uncertain origin was identified as well as a series of post-medieval cuts which are likely to represent sand extraction pits. Two cuts of likely post-medieval or Victorian origin were identified in trench 28. Areas of magnetic disturbance in the field corresponded with spreads of early modern rubbish underlying the topsoil.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

1.1.1 AD Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Dysart Developments and Arch Development Projects Ltd to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development known as Willowburn on land at Whinney Hill Farm, Choppington, Northumberland. The initial phase of archaeological trenching works in Fields 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, was undertaken between 23rd January and 7th February 2017. This report represents an addendum to the earlier report (AD Archaeology 2017) and contains the results of evaluation trenching within Field 4 (trenches 28-30) undertaken 27th – 28th February 2017.

2. RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

Field 4 (Figs 1-4)

2.1 Field 4 is located in the northwest sector of the proposed development. Geophysical survey had suggested the potential for the presence of archaeological features with anomalies in the western sector of the field. The trenching confirmed the presence of archaeological features, two ditches in trench 29 contained prehistoric pottery with the easternmost ditch corresponding with anomaly 4d. In trench 30 a small pit of uncertain origin was identified as well as a series of post-medieval cuts which are likely to represent sand extraction pits. Areas of magnetic disturbance in the field corresponded with spreads of early modern rubbish underlying the topsoil.

2.2 Trench 28 (Fig. 2; Plate 1)

2.2.1 Trench 28 was 50m in length and intersected a curvilinear geophysical anomaly (4e) and a dipolar magnetic response. The natural subsoil (2801) consisting of orange sand was located at a minimum depth of 0.30m (34.18mAOD). Two cuts (2802, 2803) of likely post-medieval origin were identified at the southern end of the trench. Cut 2802 extended beyond the western and southern edges of the trench and was irregular shaped in plan and measured up to 0.25m in depth. Cut 2803 was sub-circular in plan and extended beyond the eastern edge of the trench. Both cuts were filled with a deposit similar in character to the overlying topsoil. Cuts 2802 and 2803 together with the underlying natural subsoil elsewhere was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of dark brown silty loam (2800).

2.3 Trench 29 (Fig. 3; Plate 2)

2.3.1 Trench 29 was shortened to 46.6m in length to avoid a large service that ran alongside the western end of the trench. The natural subsoil (2901) consisting of orange sand was located at a minimum depth of 0.30m (34.13mAOD). In the western half of the trench were two ditches (2904 and 2902), with the westernmost

ditch (2904) appearing to converge towards the neighbouring ditch (2902) presumably joining together immediately south of the trench. Ditch 2902, which corresponded with anomaly 4d, was orientated north-south and measured 2.85m by 0.90m in depth. The base of the ditch had a steep sided channel scoured along the base, and in profile the eastern side of the ditch was stepped and the opposing side was moderately sloped and slightly uneven. It was filled with a homogenous deposit of brown silty sand (2903) from which two small sherds of prehistoric pottery of likely Iron-Age date was recovered. Ditch 2904 was orientated northwest-southeast and measured 2.80m by 0.96m in depth. As with the neighbouring ditch the base of the ditch had a steep sided channel scoured along the base, and in profile the eastern side of the ditch was stepped and the opposing side was moderately sloped. The lower portion of the ditch was filled with iron stained greyish brown sand (2905) overlain by brown silty sand (2906) from which a sherd of prehistoric pottery of likely Iron-Age date was recovered.

2.3.2 An east-west orientated furrow ran across the eastern end of the trench. There was a layer of coal and ash (2907) at the western end of trench that was overlain by a spread of ash and household rubbish consisting of pottery and glass bottles (2908) that corresponded with an area of dipolar anomalies (anomaly 4c). Deposit 2908 and the natural subsoil elsewhere were overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of dark brown silty loam (2900).

2.4 Trench 30 (Fig. 4; Plate 3)

2.4.1 Trench 30 was shortened to 47.6m in length to avoid tree roots at the southern end of the trench. The natural subsoil (3001) consisting of orange sand was located at a minimum depth of 0.30m (34.08mAOD). In the northern end of the trench was a sub-oval shallow cut (3007) of uncertain origin that measured 0.76m by 0.50m by 0.10m in depth. It was filled with a deposit of red sand and gravel mixed with a black sooty deposit (3008).

2.4.2 Two east-west orientated furrows ran across the northern portion of the trench. A series of four steep/ vertical sided cuts (3002-3005) of varied sizes were recorded at the south end of the trench. The cuts, which are likely to represent sand extraction pits, were predominantly filled with topsoil. One sherd of post-medieval black glazed pottery was recovered from the fill (3009) of cut (3003). The cuts (3002-3005) in the southern end of trench were overlain by a spread of ash and household rubbish consisting of pottery, and glass bottles (3010) which corresponded with an area of strong dipolar anomalies (4b). Deposit 3010 and the natural subsoil elsewhere was overlain by a layer of topsoil consisting of dark brown silty loam (3000).

3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

AD Archaeology 2017 Willowburn, Land at Whinney Hill Farm, Northumberland
Archaeological Evaluation (unpublished client report no. 181)

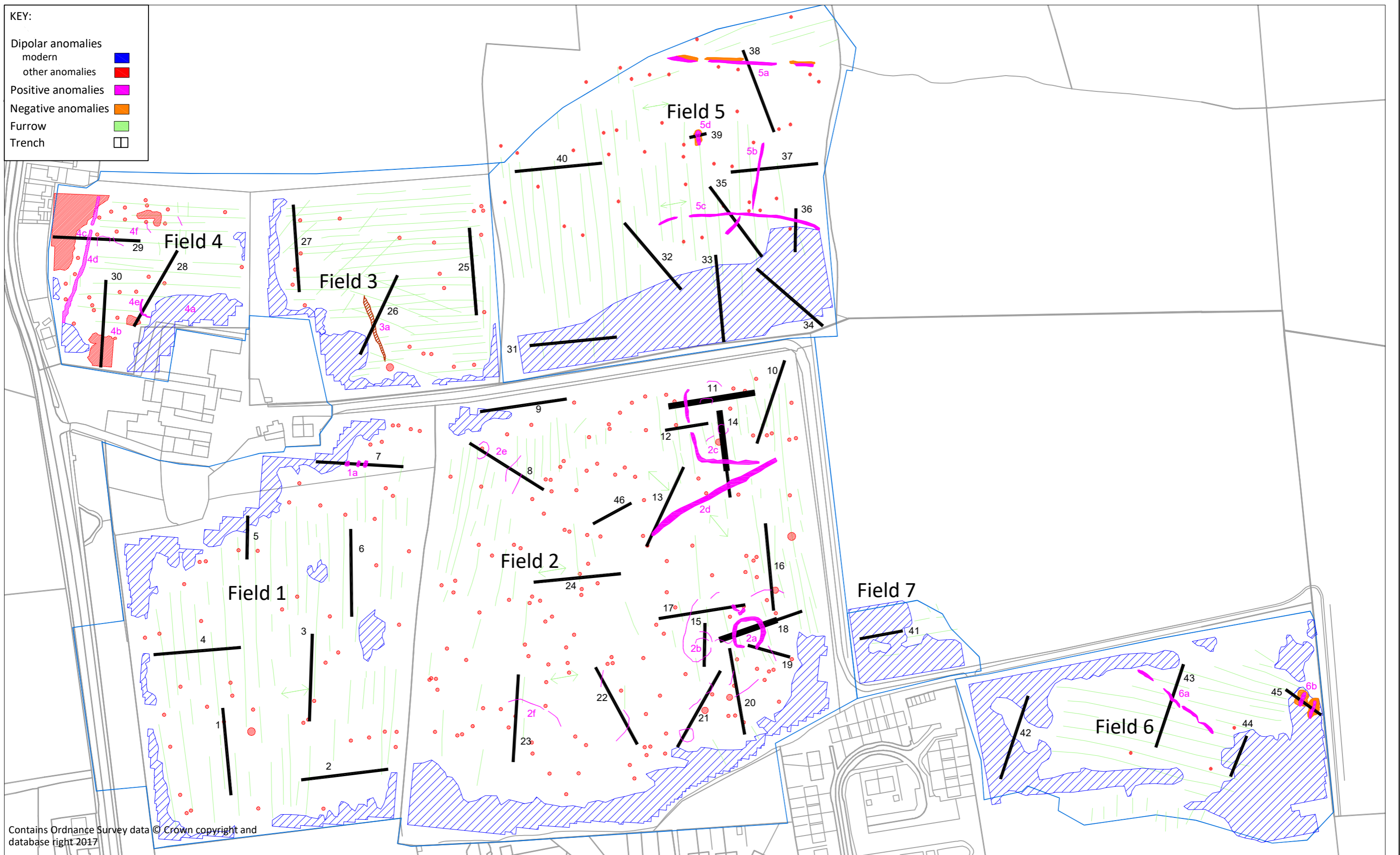
APPENDIX 1 – List of Finds

Context 2903 – (fill of Ditch 2902) - 2 small sherds of prehistoric pottery (Iron-Age?)

Context 2906 (fill of Ditch 2904) - 1 sherd of prehistoric pottery (Iron-Age?)

Context 3009 (fill of cut 3003) - 1 sherd of post-medieval black glazed pottery

- KEY:**
- Dipolar anomalies
 - modern █
 - other anomalies █
 - Positive anomalies █
 - Negative anomalies █
 - Furrow █
 - Trench



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Fig 1: Trench layout plan showing interpretative plan of geophysical survey

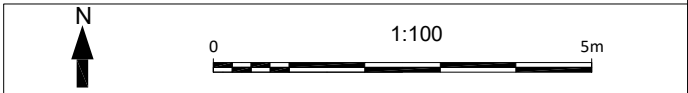
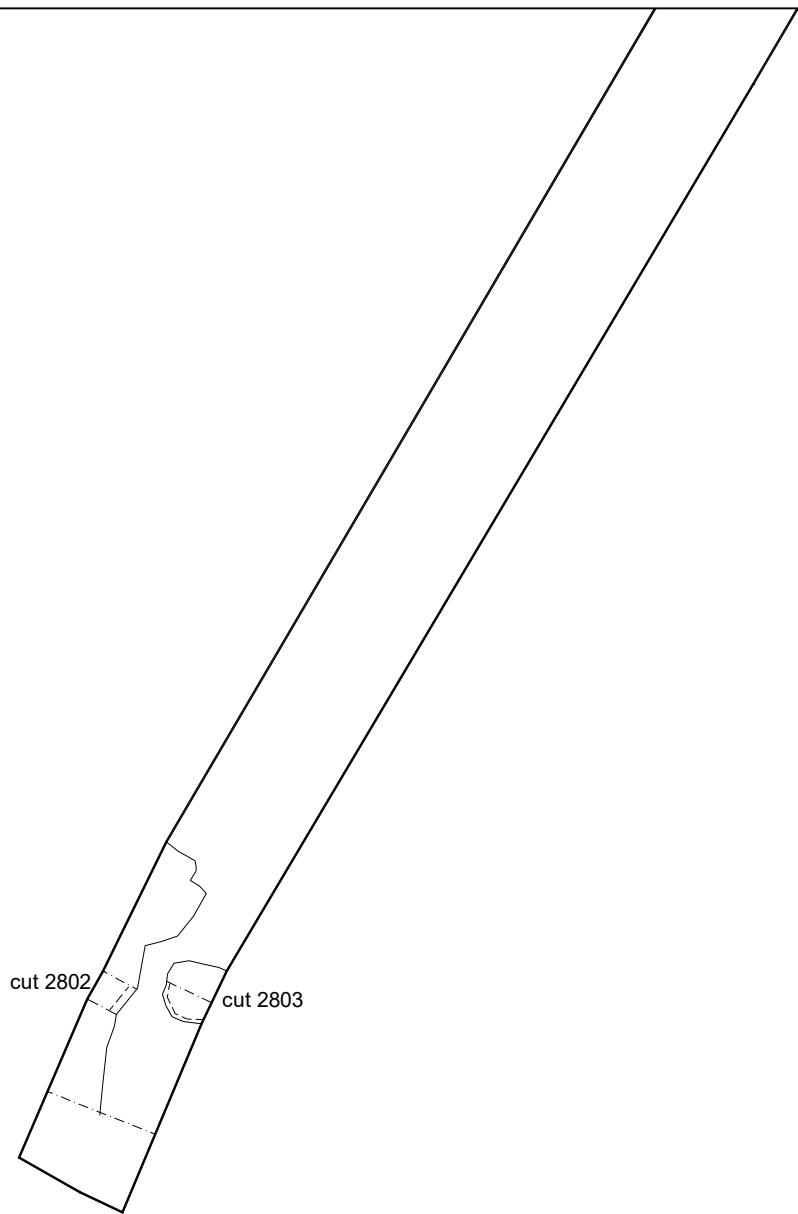
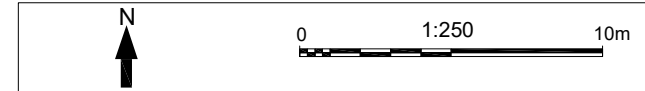


Figure 2: Plan of trench 28



overall view of trench



west end of trench

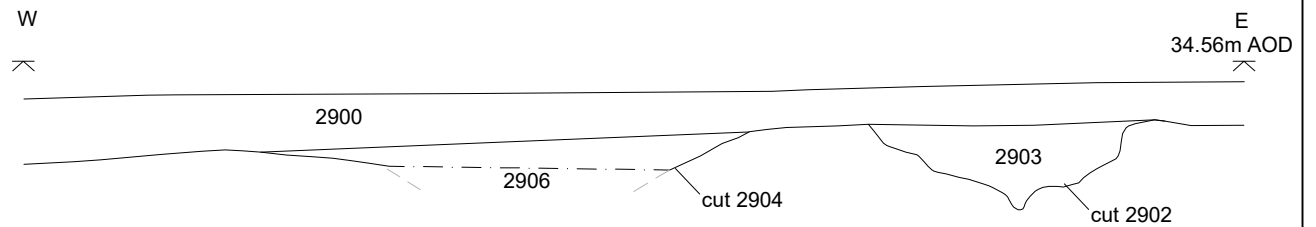
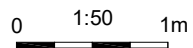
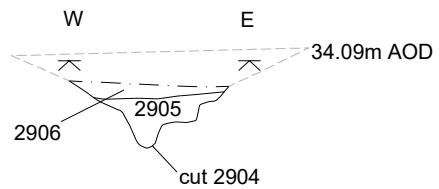
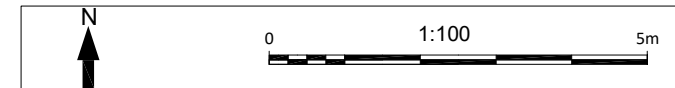
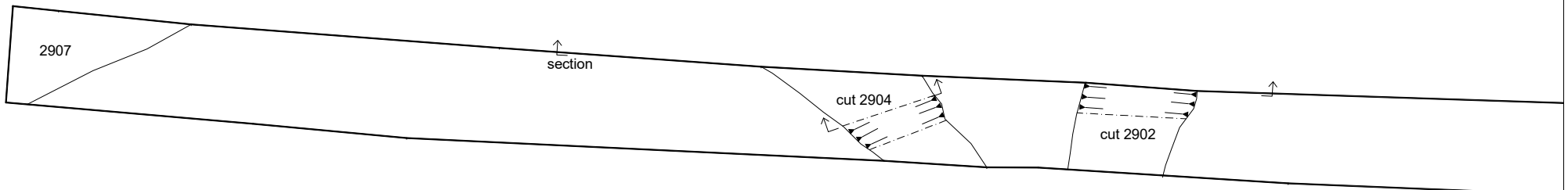
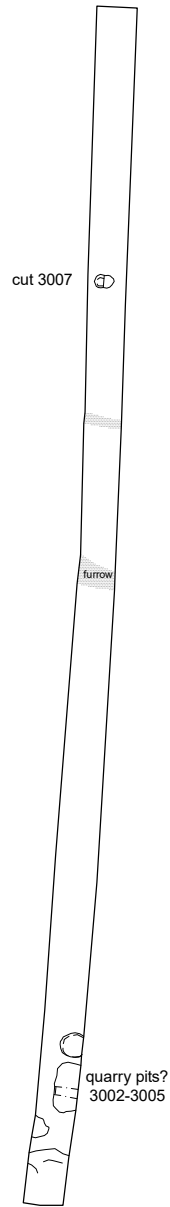


Figure 3: Plans and sections of trench 29

Overall view of trench 30



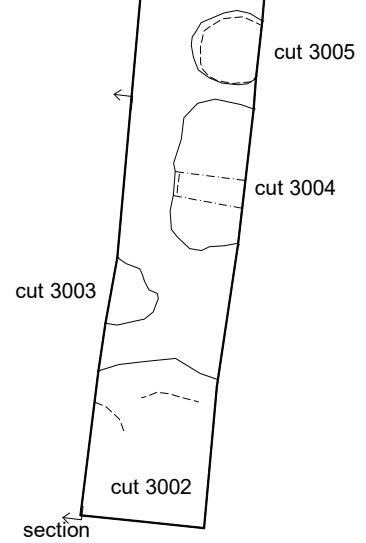
north end of trench 30



cut 3007

furrow

south end of trench 30



cut 3005

cut 3004

cut 3003

cut 3002

section

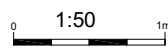
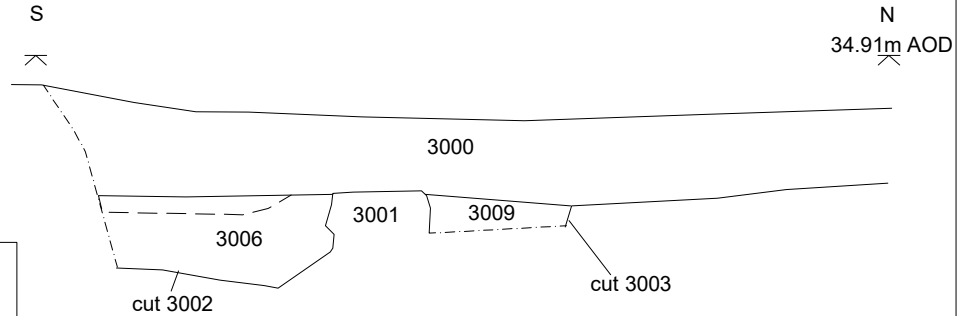
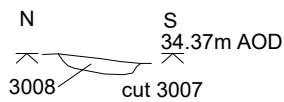
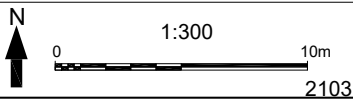


Figure 4: Plan and sections of trench 30





Plate 1: Overall view of trench 28, facing northeast



Plate 2: Ditches in trench 29 facing northwest



Plate 3: South end of trench 30, facing northwest



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