

AD288

**Land at Dalton Heights,
Seaham,
County Durham**

Archaeological Evaluation



Author	W. Muncaster
Commissioned by	Bellway Homes
Project Number	288
OASIS Number	adarchae1-348451
Date	April 2019

For further information please contact:

AD Archaeology Ltd

South Shields Business Works,

Henry Robson Way,

South Shields,

NE33 1RF

Tel: 0191 603 0377

Email: info@adarchaeology.co.uk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
2. Archaeological and Historical Background	2
3. Aims and Objectives	3
4. Methodology	4
5. Results of the Evaluation	4
6. Discussion	9
7. Bibliography	10

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context List	11
Appendix 2: Written Scheme of Investigation	13

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2	Dalton Heights trench location plan showing geophysical survey
Figure 3	Archaeological features in Trenches 2, 17 & 18
Figure 4	Features in Trench 2
Figure 5	Field boundaries identified in Trenches 5, 7 & 11
Figure 6	Feature in Trench 17
Figure 7	Feature in Trench 18

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1	Trench 2, feature 204, facing south-east
Plate 2	Trench 2, feature 208, facing northeast
Plate 3	Trench 5 overall view, facing southeast
Plate 4	Trench 6 overall view, facing northeast
Plate 5	Trench 7 boundary gullies, facing east
Plate 6	Trench 8 furrow, facing northeast
Plate 7	Trench 11, boundary gully 1104 facing southeast
Plate 8	Trench 14, overall view facing northwest
Plate 9	Trench 17, posthole 1704 facing northeast
Plate 10	Trench 18 facing east
Plate 11	Overall view of site facing northwest

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AD Archaeology was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development on land at Dalton Heights, Seaham. Subsequent to a desk-top assessment and a geophysical survey 21 evaluation trenches were excavated across the site.

Features of archaeological interest were identified in trenches 2, 17 & 18 confined in the southwest corner of the proposed development. Although the purpose of the features and their date remains uncertain it is likely that this concentration of archaeological features is related to settlement activity in this locality. In the absence of dating evidence at least some degree of antiquity is indicated by their position sealed beneath a buried soil horizon.

Further archaeological recording in the form of a targeted excavation known as a strip and record would be appropriate to investigate this small area of archaeological interest confined to the southwest corner of the proposed development. The exact size and scope of the proposed excavations will be agreed in consultation with Durham County Council Archaeology Section and Bellway Homes.

A number of weak geophysical linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey in the south-central area of the site (investigated by Trenches 12, 9 & 10 see Fig. 2) proved not to be archaeological in origin. Other linear geophysical anomalies investigated corresponded with a furrow or relatively late field boundaries depicted on Ordnance Survey maps until the 1950's.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

1.1.1 AD Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed housing development on land at Dalton Heights, Seaham. This trenching follows a desk-top assessment (NAA 2014) and geophysical survey (GSB 2014). The archaeological works were undertaken in the week commencing 25th March 2019.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site consists of part of an arable field at Dalton Heights, Seaham. The field lies immediately south of Dalton Heights and to the northwest of the village of Dalton-le-Dale, between the B1285 (the old A19 road) to the east and the A19 to the west (fig. 1). The western edge of the site lies elevated above the main body of the site on lower lying relatively flat ground, beyond which to the south the field slopes more steeply southwards forming the north side of a small river valley. The site is 5.3ha in size and is centred on NZ 4060 4830.

1.2.2 The bedrock geology of the site comprises Ford Formation (shelf-edge Reef) Dolostone formed approximately 252 to 272 million years ago in the Permian Period. Superficial deposits consist of Diamicton Till from the Devensian formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric & Roman Periods

2.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity is limited within the study area. Whilst concentrations of finds of Mesolithic flint tools appear higher on the coastal strip, only low concentrations have been found on the Magnesian Limestone plateau. A number of prehistoric burial mounds and cairns are recorded on the coastal escarpment; these are typically situated on low crests. Evidence for prehistoric settlement activity from the study area is also sparse. A record of several circular and oval cropmarks recorded from aerial photographs at Westlea, Seaham c.900m to the north-east of the proposed development site, may reflect possible enclosures.

2.2 A number of isolated Roman finds have been made by metal detectorists and other researchers in the Seaham area.

Early Medieval

2.3 It is likely that the settlement at Dalton-le-Dale had its origins in the early medieval period. Prior to the Conquest, Dalton was part of the estate of South Wearmouth and was included in a grant of land by Athelstan (924-939) to the shrine of St Cuthbert. The nature of any settlement at Dalton in this period is uncertain,

however, the remains of an early medieval cross shaft dating to the late 8th/early 9th century are preserved within the fabric of the later medieval church.

Medieval

2.4 The study area contains a single nucleated medieval settlement, which comprises the village of Dalton-le-Dale. With the exception of the Church of St. Andrew, no other medieval structures survive; however, the single row plan of the village is reflected in a later survey of 1781 and to some extent in the present form of the settlement. Dalton was one of Durham Priory's original possessions and the demesne lands were worked by the monks until the 14th century after which they were leased out. The proposed development site lies outside of the village of Dalton-le-Dale in an area which during the medieval period would have formed part of an open field system.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods

2.5 After the Dissolution (1539), the lands of the convent within Dalton Township were granted by Henry VIII to the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral (1541). Thereafter, the lands were leased on 21 year leases (beneficial leases) and this pattern of landholding continued until mid-19th Century.

2.6 The earliest survey plan of lands in the township dates to 1781 and this was accompanied by a written survey which recorded the leases of individual named fields (DCC/E/AA/6/1-2). The 1843 tithe plan and related apportionment record a similar field layout and field names to that shown on the 1781 survey. The main change on the tithe plan was the addition of the Stockton to Sunderland Turnpike constructed through the area sometime after 1821. The turnpike road was constructed on a new alignment through the area and bisected a number of fields to the north-west of the village.

2.7 A windmill is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey within an area that is now covered by housing 500m to the north-east of the development area. A type 22 pillbox is still extant just to the south of the proposed development site above the B1285.

Geophysical Survey

2.8 A geophysical survey identified two former field boundaries, noted on early mapping (GSB 2014). Responses consistent with ridge and furrow cultivation were present throughout the sample block and several anomalies are noted which might represent associated field divisions or headlands. No clear anomalies of archaeological interest were identified.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objective of the evaluation trenching was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological features on the site and to determine their nature, depth, importance and level of preservation.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General Methodology

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in compliance with all the relevant codes of practice by suitably qualified and experienced staff.

4.2 Excavation and Recording

4.2.1 The evaluation trench strategy was agreed with the County Archaeology Officer and was undertaken in accordance with an approved trench plan and written scheme of Investigation (appendix 2).

5 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION (Figs. 2-7)

5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

5.1.1 Trench 1, located in the northwestern corner of the site, was 50m in length (all trenches 1.8m in width) and oriented NW/SE. Natural subsoil consisting of brown silty clay (102) was located at a depth of 0.40m BGL (105.55mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a buried soil layer (101) up to 0.18m in depth that consisted of orangey-brown clayey silt. A Victorian/ modern gully (104) cut through the buried soil at the eastern end of the trench. It was orientated NW-SE and corresponded with the field boundary depicted on OS edition maps. The gully was excavated within trench 11 to the east (see below). Both the gully fill (103) and buried soil (101) were overlain by modern ploughsoil (100).

5.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 2-4; Plates 1-2)

5.2.1 Trench 2, located in the western portion of the site, was 50m in length and oriented NNW/SSE. Natural subsoil consisting of brown sandy clay (202) was located at a depth of 0.59m BGL (101.97mAOD). The natural subsoil (202) was cut by five features of archaeological interest which were all sealed by the buried soil horizon (201) up to 0.32m in depth that consisted of orangey-brown clayey silt (201).

5.2.2 A small liner feature (204) which probably represents a gully lay in a ENE-WSW orientation across the southern end of the trench. The gully was shallow in profile with a flat base and measured 0.39m wide by 0.06m in depth. It was filled with greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small fragments of sandstone (203).

5.2.3 Another shallow feature (206) lay 13.5m north of feature 204. It extended under the eastern edge of the trench and the purpose of the feature could not be determined within the confines of the trench. Feature 206 petered out at its northern end and was orientated NE-SW, approximately perpendicular in direction to feature 204 to the south. It was shallow in profile with concave sides and a

flattish base and measured 0.47m wide by 0.07m in depth. The fill consisted of firm brown silty clay (205).

5.2.4 The trench was extended 1m east for a short distance to further expose gully 208 of which the western terminal was exposed in the trench. The gully lay in a NE orientation, perpendicular to feature 206 which lay 3m to the south. It was relatively shallow in profile with a flat base and measured 0.57m wide by 0.13m in depth. The fill consisted of reddish brown silty clay (207).

5.2.5 The trench was again extended 1m east to further expose a linear feature (212) in the northern portion of the trench. Although the full extent of the cut was exposed in the trench its purpose remains uncertain. It measured 2.90m in length by 0.50m wide by 0.20m in depth and was filled with reddish brown silty clay (211). A potential posthole (210) lay alongside the western side of feature 212. The posthole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.32m by 0.40m with vertical sides and a concave base. It was excavated to a depth of 0.45m though it may in fact be slightly shallower and have been over-excavated. The fill (209) was similar in character to the neighbouring feature (212).

5.2.6 The buried soil (201) was cut by several land drains orientated in an ESE direction. The trench was sealed by modern ploughsoil (200) up to a depth of 0.27m.

5.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

5.3.1 Trench 3, located in the northern edge of the site and oriented NNE/SSW. It was shortened to 25m in length and trench 15 to the north was extended by 25m instead. Natural subsoil consisting of stony brown sandy clay (301) was located at a depth of 0.27m BGL (99.41mAOD) directly below the modern plough soil (300).

5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

5.4.1 Trench 4, located in the northern edge of the site, was 50m in length and oriented NNE/SSW. Natural subsoil consisting of brown to yellowish brown sandy clay (402) was located at a minimum depth of 0.57m BGL (96.38mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain up to 0.32m in depth, by a buried soil layer that consisted of orangey-brown clayey silt (401). The buried soil (401) was overlain by modern ploughsoil (400).

5.5 Trench 5 (Figs. 2 & 5; Plate 3)

5.5.1 Trench 5, located in the northern edge of the site, was 50m in length and oriented ESE/WNW. Natural subsoil consisting of brown to yellowish brown sandy clay (502) was located at a minimum depth of 0.90m BGL (95.65mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain up to 0.40m in depth by a buried soil layer that consisted of orangey-brown clayey silt (501). A shallow Victorian/ modern gully (505) cut through the buried soil in the mid-portion of the trench which corresponded with a field boundary depicted on OS edition maps. The gully was orientated NNE-SSW and consisted of a steep cut on its western side with a flat base and an imperceptible

shallow edge along its eastern side. It measured 2.30m by up to 0.21m in depth and was filled with a lower fill (504) that consisted of brown sandy clay and overlain by a greyish brown deposit (503) containing abundant small fragments of coal. Fill (503) and the buried soil (501) were overlain by modern ploughsoil (500).

5.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 2; Plate 4)

5.6.1 Trench 6, located at the eastern edge of the site, was 50m in length and oriented NE/SW. Natural subsoil (601) consisting of brown sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.40m BGL (94.50mAOD). Two furrows orientated NNE-SSW were recorded in the southern portion of the trench spaced at a wavelength of 7m. The natural subsoil and furrows were overlain up to a depth of 0.16m by a buried soil layer that consisted of orangey-brown clayey silt (601) that was in turn sealed by modern ploughsoil (600).

5.7 Trench 7 (Figs. 2 & 5; Plate 5)

5.7.1 Trench 7, located in the east central portion of the site, was 25m in length and oriented ESE/WNW. A buried soil layer that consisted of orangey-brown clayey silt (701) lay beneath a 0.29m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (700). The buried soil layer was cut by a pair of NNE-SSW orientated gullies (704, 706) that corresponded with a geophysical anomaly related to a field boundary depicted on OS edition maps (also recorded in trench 5). The eastern gully (706) was largest measuring 2.24m by 0.09m in depth. A 0.70m gap between the gullies was presumably the area along which ran a hedge or fence line from the boundary of which no trace survived. The western gully (704) measured 0.70m by 0.13m in depth. Both gullies were filled with greyish brown sandy clay with common inclusions of small coal fragments and pebbles (703, 705).

5.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 2; Plate 6)

5.8.1 Trench 8, located at the southern edge of the site, was 25m in length and oriented NNE/SSW. Natural subsoil (802) consisting of yellowish brown sandy clay was located at depth of between depth 0.48m BGL at the north end of the trench and 0.25m BGL, directly beneath the modern ploughsoil (800), at the south end (94.44mAOD). A geophysical anomaly targeted by the trench related to a furrow orientated approximately E-W that measured 3m wide by 0.18m deep. The natural subsoil at the north end of the trench and furrow were overlain by a brown silty sand ploughsoil (801) up to 0.26m in depth and sealed by modern ploughsoil (800) to a depth of 0.25m.

5.9 Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

5.9.1 Trench 9, located in the southern edge of the site, was 25m in length and oriented NNE/SSW. No features were found related to the geophysical linear anomalies targeted by the trench. Natural subsoil (902) consisting of a brown sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.70m BGL (95.10m AOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.50m deep layer of buried soil consisting of brown clayey silt (901), and sealed by modern ploughsoil (900) to a depth of 0.20m.

5.10 Trench 10 (Fig. 2)

5.10.1 Trench 10, located at the southern edge of the site, was 25m in length and oriented NW/SE. No features were found related to the geophysical linear anomalies targeted by the trench. Natural subsoil (1002) consisting of a brown sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.50m BGL (96.50m AOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.28m deep layer of buried soil consisting of brown clayey silt (1001), and sealed by modern ploughsoil (1000) to a depth of 0.22m.

5.11 Trench 11 (Fig. 2 & 5; Plate 7)

5.11.1 Trench 11, located in the south central portion of the site, was 25m in length and oriented NE/SW. Natural subsoil (1102) consisting of brown sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.58m BGL (97.91m AOD). Two furrows orientated ESE-WNE were identified in the trench lying at a wavelength of c.7m apart. The natural subsoil and furrows were overlain by a 0.24m deep layer of buried soil consisting of brown clayey silt (1101), which was cut by a NW-SE orientated gully (1104) that corresponded with a geophysical anomaly related to a field boundary depicted on OS edition maps and was also recorded in trench 1 (see above). The gully (1104) measured 1m wide by 0.12m in depth and had steep concave sides and a flattish base. The ditch fill (1103) consisted of greyish brown silty clay. The gully and buried soil (1101) elsewhere were overlain by modern ploughsoil (1100) to a maximum depth of 0.30m.

5.12 Trench 12 (Fig. 2)

5.12.1 Trench 12, located in the central portion of the site, was 50m in length and oriented ESE/WNW. No features were found related to the geophysical linear anomalies targeted by the trench. Natural subsoil varied from brown silty clay to greyish brown sandy clay (1202) and was located at a minimum depth of 0.58m BGL (97.32mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.50m deep layer of buried soil consisting of brown clayey silt (1201), and sealed by modern ploughsoil (1200) to a depth of 0.28m.

5.13 Trench 13 (Fig. 2)

5.13.1 Trench 13, located in the southeast portion of the site, was 25m in length and oriented NE/SW. Natural subsoil varied from brown silty clay to greyish brown sandy clay (1202) and was located at a minimum depth of 0.50m BGL (92.56m AOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.20m deep layer of buried soil consisting of brown clayey silt (1301), and sealed by modern ploughsoil (1300) to a depth of 0.30m.

5.14 Trench 14 (Fig. 2; Plate 8)

5.14.1 Trench 14, located in the southeast portion of the site, was 25m in length and oriented NNW/SSE. Natural subsoil consisting of brown sandy clay (1402) was located at a depth of 0.40m BGL (92.14m AOD). Two furrows orientated ESE-WNW were identified at a wavelength of 8m apart. The furrows were filled by orangey-

brown clayey silt (1401). The trench was sealed by modern ploughsoil (1400) to a depth of 0.40m.

5.15 Trench 15 (Fig. 2)

5.15.1 Trench 15, located in the northwest edge of the site, was extended by 25m southwards to a total of 50m in length. Natural subsoil consisting of light brown clay (1501) was located at a depth of 0.26m BGL (101.61mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a thin 0.07m deep layer of buried soil (1501). Layer 1501 was overlain by modern ploughsoil (1500) which was 0.26m in depth.

5.16 Trench 16 (Fig. 2)

5.16.1 Trench 16, located in the western edge of the site, was 25m in length and oriented E/W. Natural subsoil consisting of brown sandy clay (1601) was located at a maximum depth of 0.70m BGL (104.50mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a layer up to 0.40m deep of buried soil (1601), which was in turn overlain by modern ploughsoil (1600).

5.17 Trench 17 (Figs. 2 & 6; Plate 9)

5.17.1 Trench 17, located in the western portion of the site, was 25m in length and oriented NE/SW. Natural subsoil consisting of brown sandy clay (1701) was located at a maximum depth of 0.41m BGL (104.79mAOD). The natural subsoil was cut by a posthole (1704) at the southwestern end of the trench. The posthole was oblong shaped in plan with a pointed end on its northeast side; in profile it was shallow with steep concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.46m by 0.30m by 0.07m in depth and was filled with grey silty clay flecked with charcoal (1703). The posthole fill and natural subsoil was overlain up to a depth of 0.09m by a buried soil layer (1701), which was in turn overlain by modern ploughsoil (1700).

5.18 Trench 18 (Fig. 2 & 7; Plate 10)

5.18.1 Trench 18, located in the southwest corner of the site, was altered in shape and size from the planned 25m in length and NW/SE orientation in order to investigate a curvilinear gully (1804) identified in the southern portion of the trench. Natural subsoil consisting of brown sandy clay (1801) was located at a depth of 0.60m BGL (100.15mAOD). The natural subsoil was cut by a curvilinear gully (1804) which formed an arc 6.5m across (with an estimated diameter of 8m if forming a ring gully) the gully was absent in an exploratory trench dug to the SW in an attempt to see an opposing side of the feature. It measured 0.39m in width by 0.15m in depth and was generally u-shaped in profile. The fill (1803) consisted of greyish brown silty clay with few inclusions. The purpose of the feature remains uncertain and despite the absence of a return on its southwestern side it may represent an incomplete small ring gully from a roundhouse of unknown date. The gully fill and natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.28m deep layer of buried soil (1801), which was in turn overlain by a 0.31m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (1800).

5.19 Trench 19 (Fig. 2)

5.19.1 Trench 19, located in the northern edge of the site, was 25m in length and oriented NE/SW. The trench was moved 5m south from its original position to avoid blocking a route way. Natural subsoil consisting of light brown silty clay (1901) was located at a maximum depth of 0.75m BGL (95.88mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a buried soil layer (1901) up to a depth of 0.45m, which was in turn overlain by modern ploughsoil (1900) which was 0.30m in depth.

5.20 Trench 20 (Fig. 2)

5.20.1 Trench 20, located in the northeast corner of the site, was 25m in length and oriented NE/SW. Natural subsoil consisting of light brown sandy clay (2001) was located at a maximum depth of 0.60m BGL (94.45mAOD). A furrow extended along the centre of the trench for much of its length in a NNE-SSW orientation. The natural subsoil and furrow were overlain by a buried soil layer (2001) up to a depth of 0.29m, which was in turn overlain by modern ploughsoil (2000) which was 0.31m in depth.

5.21 Trench 21 (Fig. 2)

5.21.1 Trench 21, located in the northeast corner of the site, was 25m in length and oriented NE/SW. Natural subsoil consisting of light brown sandy clay (2101) was located at a maximum depth of 0.43m BGL (94.09mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a buried soil layer (2101) up to a depth of 0.24m, which was in turn overlain by modern ploughsoil (2100) which was 0.29m in depth.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Features of archaeological interest were identified in trenches 2, 17 & 18 confined in the southwest corner of the proposed development. Although the purpose of the features and their date remains uncertain it is likely that this concentration of archaeological features is related to settlement activity in this locality. In the absence of dating evidence some degree of antiquity is indicated by their position sealed beneath a buried soil horizon. The buried soil horizon found beneath the modern ploughsoil formed a distinctive layer covering much of the site and perhaps surprisingly even the higher ground along the western edge of the site up to a substantial depth of 0.50m in the low lying mid-portion of the side.

6.2 The semi-circular curvilinear gully (1804) identified in trench 18 could potentially represent the incomplete ring gully of a small roundhouse, or alternatively the northern end of a small enclosure. Five features of archaeological interest identified in Trench 2 are difficult to interpret within the confines of the trench. A possible pattern in their layout could be observed with two gullies (208, 204) running parallel and another feature (206) possibly lying perpendicular to them. Two postholes were identified; one (1704) at the southwestern end of the trench 17 which was relatively rich in charcoal, and another posthole (210) in trench 2.

6.3 A number of weak linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (GSB Prospection 2014) in the south-central area of the site (Trenches 12, 9 & 10 see Fig. 2) proved not to be of archaeological origin. The linear geophysical anomaly investigated by trench 8 corresponded with a furrow which probably represented the northern limit of an E-W ridge and furrow system with a N-S orientated system lying to the north of this. Other linear geophysical anomalies investigated corresponded with a furrow or relatively late field boundaries depicted on Ordnance Survey maps until the 1950's (Trenches 7 & 11; and also Trenches 1 and 5 beyond the survey confines).

6.4 Further archaeological recording in the form of a targeted excavation known as strip and record would be appropriate to investigate this small area of archaeological interest confined to the southwest corner of the proposed development. The exact size and scope of the proposed excavations will be agreed in consultation with Durham County Council Archaeology Section and Bellway Homes.

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APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Trench	Context	Depth	Description
1	100	0.27m	Topsoil
1	101	0.18m	Buried soil
1	102	105.55m AOD	Natural subsoil
1	103	-	Fill
1	104	-	Cut of OS boundary gully
2	200	0.27m	Topsoil
2	201	0.32m	Buried soil
2	202	101.97m AOD	Natural subsoil
2	203	0.06m	Fill
2	204	0.06m	Cut of linear feature
2	205	0.07m	Fill
2	206	0.07m	Cut of linear feature
2	207	0.13m	Fill
2	208	0.13m	Cut of linear feature
2	209	0.45m	Fill
2	210	0.45m	Cut of posthole
2	211	0.20m	Fill
2	212	0.20m	Cut of linear feature
3	300	0.27m	Topsoil
3	301	99.41m AOD	Natural subsoil
4	400	0.30m	Topsoil
4	401	0.45m	Buried soil
4	402	96.38m AOD	Natural subsoil
5	500	0.29m	Topsoil
5	501	0.40m	Buried soil
5	502	95.65m AOD	Natural subsoil
5	503	0.11m	Fill
5	503	0.10m	Fill
5	504	0.21m	Cut of OS boundary gully
6	600	0.30m	Topsoil
6	601	0.10m	Buried soil
6	602	94.50m AOD	Natural subsoil
7	700	0.29m	Topsoil
7	701	0.21m	Buried soil
7	702	-	Natural subsoil
7	703	0.13m	Fill
7	704	0.13m	Cut of OS boundary gully
7	705	0.11m	Fill
7	706	0.11m	Cut of OS boundary gully
8	800	0.25m	Topsoil
8	801	0.26m	Buried soil
8	802	94.15m AOD	Natural subsoil
9	900	0.20m	Topsoil
9	901	0.50m	Buried soil
9	902	95.10m AOD	Natural subsoil
10	1000	0.27m	Topsoil
10	1001	0.50m	Buried soil
10	1002	96.50m AOD	Natural subsoil

Trench	Context	Depth	Description
11	1100	0.30m	Topsoil
11	1101	0.24m	Buried soil
11	1102	97.91m AOD	Natural subsoil
11	1103	0.12m	Fill
11	1104	0.12m	Cut of OS boundary gully
12	1200	0.28m	Topsoil
12	1201	0.50m	Buried soil
12	1202	97.32m AOD	Natural subsoil
13	1300	0.30m	Topsoil
13	1301	0.20m	Buried soil
13	1302	92.56m AOD	Natural subsoil
14	1400	0.40m	Topsoil
14	1401	-	Buried soil/ furrow fill
14	1402	92.14m AOD	Natural subsoil
15	1500	0.26m	Topsoil
15	1501	0.07m	Buried soil
15	1502	101.61m AOD	Natural subsoil
16	1600	0.29m	Topsoil
16	1601	0.40m	Buried soil
16	1602	104.50m AOD	Natural subsoil
17	1700	0.32m	Topsoil
17	1701	0.09m	Buried soil
17	1702	101.97m AOD	Natural subsoil
17	1703	0.07m	Fill
17	1704	0.07m	Cut of posthole
18	1800	0.32m	Topsoil
18	1801	0.28m	Buried soil
18	1802	100.15m AOD	Natural subsoil
18	1803	0.15m	Fill
18	1804	0.15m	Cut of gully
19	1900	0.30m	Topsoil
19	1901	0.45m	Buried soil
19	1902	95.88m AOD	Natural subsoil
20	2000	0.31m	Topsoil
20	2101	0.29m	Buried soil
20	2102	94.45m AOD	Natural subsoil
21	2200	0.29m	Topsoil
21	2201	0.24m	Buried soil
21	2102	94.09m AOD	Natural subsoil

APPENDIX 2- WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND AT DALTON HEIGHTS, SEAHAM, COUNTY DURHAM

1 Introduction

1.1 This written scheme of investigation represents a methods statement for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed housing development of land at Dalton Heights, Seaham. The survey area is located at Dalton Heights, to the west of Dalton-le-Dale. It consists of a single field of agricultural land located to the west of the B1285 and to the east of the A19. The site is 5.3ha in size and is centred on NZ 4060 4830. Within the application area, the land slopes down from north (c.108m AOD) to south (74m AOD).

1.2 A desk-top assessment (NAA 2015) and a Geophysical Survey (GSB 2014) have been undertaken in advance of the proposed development.

1.3 Policy relating to the assessment and mitigation of impacts to the heritage resource within the planning system is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF2012). The Framework identifies that the planning system should perform 'an environmental role', contributing to and protecting the built and historic environment and that the pursuit of 'sustainable development' includes seeking improvements to the built, natural and historic environment.

1.4 The Framework further clarifies that, in circumstances where heritage assets will be damaged or lost as a result of development, Local Planning Authorities should require developers to record and advance the understanding of the asset to be lost in a manner appropriate to the significance of the asset. The evidence (and any archive) generated as part of the plan making process should be made publically accessible; copies of the evidence generated should be deposited with the relevant Historic Environment Record and archives with the relevant museum.

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework states that "Where a site on which a development proposal includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation" NPPF page 128. This Written Scheme of Investigation relates to the field evaluation stage of the project.

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1. An archaeological and cultural heritage constraints report was undertaken for the site by NAA in 2015.

2.2 Prehistoric Period

Prehistoric

2.2.1 Evidence for prehistoric activity is limited within the study area. Whilst concentrations of finds of Mesolithic flint tools appear higher on the coastal strip, only low concentrations have been found on the Magnesian Limestone plateau. A number of prehistoric burial mounds and cairns are recorded on the coastal escarpment, these are typically situated on low crests which are visible from some distance. The closest recorded example is the barrow on Batter Law Hill to the south-west of Cold Hesleden (NZ 40604600), some 2.3km to the south of the development site. Some 2km to the east of the study area, four possible cairns were recorded during work associated with the Fox Cover Industrial Estate (NZ 42604760), east of Hazel Dene, and earlier finds of fragments of human bone and flint from this area may be related.

2.2.2 Evidence for prehistoric settlement activity from the study area is also sparse. A record of several circular and oval marks recorded from aerial photographs at Westlea, Seaham some 900m to the north-east of the proposed development site, may reflect possible enclosures.

Roman

2.2.3 A number of isolated Roman finds have been made by metal detectorists and other researchers in the Seaham area. A Roman coin was found in 1964 from the area of Everton Drive, Seaham, some 600m to the north of the development area. Querns and Roman pottery are also recorded as having been found to the east of the study area during works to extend the cemetery on Princes Road (NZ 42404880) in 1900.

Early Medieval

2.2.4 It is likely that the settlement at Dalton-le-Dale may have had its origins in the Early Medieval period. Prior to the Conquest, Dalton was part of the estate of South Wearmouth and was included in a grant of land by Athelstan (924-939) to the shrine of St Cuthbert. The nature of any settlement at Dalton in this period is uncertain, however, the remains of an Early Medieval cross shaft dating to the late 8th/early 9th century are preserved within the fabric of the later medieval church. On the basis of the existing information, the Early Medieval focus is likely to have been close to the present church and therefore outwith the proposed development area

Medieval

2.2.5 The study area contains a single nucleated medieval settlement, which comprises the village of Dalton-le-Dale. With the exception of the Church of St Andrew, no other medieval structures survive, however, the single row plan of the village is reflected in a later survey of 1781 and to some extent in the present form of the settlement. Dalton was one of Durham Priory's original possessions and the demesne lands were worked by the monks until the 14th century after which they were leased out. The manor of Dalden, which lies immediately to the east of Dalton-le-Dale, was a separate landholding which by the 12th century was in the possession of the Escolland family. The core of this landholding was a fortified medieval manor house, now known as Dalden Tower, which lies immediately to the east of the study area (NZ 42014873). The proposed development site lies outside of the village of Dalton-le-Dale in an area which during the medieval period would have formed part of the open fields.

Post-Medieval and Modern

2.2.6 After the Dissolution (1539), the lands of the convent within Dalton Township were granted by Henry VIII to the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral (1541). Thereafter, the lands were leased on 21 year leases (beneficial leases) and this pattern of landholding continued until mid-19th.

2.2.7 The earliest survey plan of lands in the township dates to 1781 and this was accompanied by a written survey which recorded the lessees of individual named fields (DCC/E/AA/6/1-2). The 1843 tithe plan and related apportionment record a similar field layout and field names to that shown on the 1781 survey. The main change was the addition of the Stockton to Sunderland Turnpike which was constructed through the area sometime after 1821 having been promoted by Rowland Burdon. The turnpike road was constructed on a new alignment through the area and bisected a number of fields to the north-west of the village. The arrangement of fields and the roads are similar on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1860.

2.2.8 A windmill is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey within an area that is now covered by housing 500m to the north-east of the development area. The windmill is shown as a detail on the northern border of the 1781 survey map although its location is shown only approximately. A type 22 pillbox is still extant just to the south of the proposed development site above the B1285. The construction of the A19 on the western boundary of the development area and the housing on Dalton Heights to the north have created new field boundaries delimiting these sides of the development site. The eastern boundary was formed sometime after 1821 when the turnpike road was built.

2.3 Geophysical Survey

2.3.1 A geophysical survey identified two former field boundaries, noted on early mapping (GSB 2014). Responses consistent with ridge and furrow cultivation

are present throughout the sample block and several anomalies are noted which might represent associated field divisions or headlands. No clear anomalies of archaeological interest have been identified.

3 Aims and Recommended Course of Action

3.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of significant archaeological features and/or deposits. Should significant deposits and/or features be located the aim of the evaluation is to determine the nature, extent, date and state of preservation of the deposits in order to inform potential subsequent stages of mitigation.

3.2 'Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment' by David Petts with Christopher Gerrard, 2006 notes the importance of research questions as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past allowing commercial contractors to demonstrate how their fieldwork relates to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment. The aim of NERRF is to ensure that all fieldwork is carried out in a secure research context and that commercial contractors ensure that their investigations ask the right questions.

3.3 Whilst there are no known archaeological features on the site, there is a growing awareness of the density of prehistoric settlement activity. In recent years development control-led archaeological investigation in the area has contributed significantly to our knowledge of the density of settlement and activity in this area during the prehistoric period (North East Regional Research Framework, Petts & Gerrard, 2006).

Recent excavations have begun to challenge established models of prehistoric settlement morphology. It is therefore important for any evidence of prehistoric settlement to be studied in order to establish more firm chronologies. Also needed is the study of site function and the social role of settlements in the landscape (NERRF Research Priority Iii). Evidence of prehistoric burial activity would also be of importance (NERRF Research Priority NBiii).

3.4 A trenching strategy consisting of 7 trenches 50m by 1.8m and 14 trenches 25m by 1.8m in size has been designed to test for the presence/absence of archaeological features, representing a 4% sample (1260m²) of the area to be disturbed by housing (Trenches 1-12, 15-21) and SUDS (Trs 13-14) measuring 3.14 ha. The trench plan is designed to investigate geophysical anomalies and give a representative sample of trenching across the site in case there are archaeological features present that have not been detected by the survey.

3.5 During the course of the trenching it may become apparent that variation is required, dependent on the nature, extent and importance of archaeological remains uncovered. It also may become apparent during the course of the operation that some areas where trenches have been sited are inappropriate for potential archaeological activity (for instance lying entirely within the line of a furrow) or due to logistical or practical reasons trenches may be moved slightly.

3.6 Contingency will be allowed for the excavation of up to an additional 1% of the site (above and beyond the 21 trenches indicated on the accompanying trench plan). The implementing of contingency would require approval by DCC Archaeology Section and the client. If contingency trenches are proposed a clear rationale must be set out which demonstrates how any additional trenches would help to define the extent, nature and purpose of archaeological features encountered in the initial trenches. The rationale must clearly set out the purpose and aims of additional trenching and describe how this would make a positive and effective contribution to the mitigation process. The benefits of undertaking any contingency trenches in terms of progressing the development must be clearly set out by DCC Archaeology Section.

4 General Standards

4.1 All work will be carried out to the standards set by the DCC Archaeology Section as detailed in <http://www.durham.gov.uk/media/22749/Standards-for-Archaeological-Work-in-County-Durham-and-Darlington/pdf/StandardsForArchaeologicalWorkInCountyDurhamAndDarlington.pdf>. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists CfA (2014a) and will follow the CfA (2014b) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. All work will be in compliance with the Regional Statement of Good Practice (Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East 2009).

5 Pre-Site Work Preparation

5.1 All staff will familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff will be briefed in the work required under the specification and the project aims and methodologies.

5.2 An environmental sampling strategy in accordance with the previous advice of the Historic England Science Advisor (see 8 below) will be followed.

6 Fieldwork

6.1 Each evaluation trench will be accurately surveyed and related to the National Grid, using a Total Station Theodolite or GPS system, and located on a map of the area at an appropriate scale.

6.2 Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. This machine stripping will be carried out under continuous archaeological supervision.

6.3 The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil, whichever is encountered first.

6.4 All faces of the trenches that require examination or recording will be cleaned sufficiently to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains, particularly the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil. All subsequent deposits will be hand-excavated.

6.5 In the event that small discrete archaeological features are revealed including but not limited to postholes and pits, during machining or subsequent cleaning of the trench, the trench will be expanded either side of the feature by a machine bucket width as standard.

6.6 The archaeology will be investigated sufficiently to establish its nature, extent and date, unless it is deemed of sufficient importance to require total preservation in situ. This will be achieved by excavation of the following samples of all exposed features.

- 50% of every discrete feature (e.g. pits, post-holes)
- 25% of the area of linear/curvilinear features (e.g. ditches, gullies) with a non-uniform fill
- 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features (e.g. ditches, gullies) with a uniform fill
- 100% of feature intersections will be examined

6.7 Within the constraints of the site, the excavations will be maintained in a manner that allows quick and easy inspection without any requirement for additional cleaning.

6.8 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for providing environmental or dating evidence. Sampling will be in line with the strategy agreed with Historic England Science Advisor and the County Archaeologist.

6.9 In the event of human burials being discovered, they will be left in situ, covered and protected and the coroners' office will be informed. If removal is essential, work will comply with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations.

6.10 Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.

6.11 The drawn record from the site will include a representative selection of long sections from the excavations that clearly allow the nature and depth and any significant changes in the deposits recorded to be demonstrated. If there is any uncertainty, advice will be sought from the County Archaeologist as to which sections may be appropriate for inclusion within the site record.

6.12 During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts will be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material. All finds work will be undertaken in line with the standards set out "A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds" (English Heritage 1995); "First Aid for Finds" (Wilkinson & Neal 2001); and "Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites"(UKIC 1993). Any object found and identified as treasure under the conditions set out in the 1996 Treasure Act, will be reported to the local Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

7 Archaeological Recording

7.1 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate.

7.2 The stratigraphy of all trenches will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

7.3 All archaeological deposits and features, the current ground level and base of each trench will be recorded with an above ordnance datum (AOD) level.

7.4 A photographic record of all archaeological features will be taken, both in detail and in a wider context.

7.5 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled

8 Environmental Sampling and Scientific Dating Strategy

8.1 This sampling strategy is intended to provide sufficient data to characterise the nature and informative potential of deposits and features identified during the works. Because this is the first stage of intrusive works and there is a possibility that a wide range of features may be encountered, this strategy is best set out as a series of principles.

These are:

- 30l samples will be taken from structural, occupational and industrial features, as well as pits and ditch fills. Other features should be sampled to help to characterise the deposits on the site. Priority should be given to processing samples from identifiable, dated features, or to those undated features which have potential for other forms of dating (e.g. radiocarbon dating).
- Bulk sample residues should be checked for the presence of industrial waste (e.g. slags, hammerscale) and small faunal remains (e.g. fishbones, small mammal/avian bones) as well as for plant material.
- The potential of buried soils and ditch fills to provide dated (using radiocarbon dating) pollen cores or Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating of sediments should be considered, although this type of sampling will be undertaken in consultation with the Historic England's Regional Scientific Advisor.

8.2 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens are identified, provision will be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings a minimum of one per building identified). Where applicable, samples to be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes.

8.3 The selection of suitable deposits for sampling will be confirmed at site meetings with the County Archaeologist. In principle palaeo-environmental samples will be taken from deposits which have clear stratigraphic relationships. Particular attention will be paid to the recovery of samples from any waterlogged samples that may be present.

9 Monitoring

9.1 The County Archaeologist will be informed on the start date and timetable for the evaluation in advance of work commencing (ideally 2 weeks' notice but as a minimum 48 hours before commencement).

9.2 Reasonable access to the site will be afforded to the County Archaeologists or his/her nominee at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation.

9.3 Regular communication between the archaeological contractor, the County Archaeologist and other interested parties will be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

9.4 If appropriate, specialists will be contacted and allowed access to the site to help inform any detailed study / information retrieval depending upon the nature of the archaeological features being revealed.

10 Post Excavation Work, Archive, and Report Preparation

10.1 Finds

10.1.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the ClfA Guidelines for Finds Work (2014c) and those set by UKIC.

10.1.2 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum prior to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts, adequate provision will be made for recording them. Details of land ownership will be provided by the developer.

10.1.3 All retained artefacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

10.2 Site Archive

10.2.1 The final location for the site archive will be agreed when it is ready for deposition.

10.2.2 Archiving work will be carried out compliance with the ClfA Guidelines for Archiving (2014d).

10.2.3 Before fieldwork, contact will be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership will be provided by the developer.

10.3 Report

10.3.1 The HER requires one bound paper copy and one digital copy (in PDF/A compliant format) of the report.

10.3.2 The report will include the following as a minimum:

Each page and paragraph will be numbered within the report and illustrations cross referenced within the text.

The report will include the following as a minimum:

- OASIS reference numbers and an 8 figure grid reference
- The nature and extent of the proposed development and client information
- A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
- A location plan showing trench locations within the site. This will be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Historic Environment Record
- Plans and sections of main trench axes and excavated features located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
- Period based discussion of the known and potential archaeological sites within the proposed development area
- A summary statement of the results
- A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
- A description of the geology on the site
- Discussion of the physical impact of the proposed development on known and potential archaeological sites

10.3.4 Any variation to the above requirements will be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted

10.3.5 Post-Excavation Assessment Report

10.3.6 Should a significant archaeological site be located a post-excavation assessment report will include all the information necessary to make decisions about the future direction of the project in line with Historic England's Guidelines on the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015). The report will be submitted to the Durham County Archaeologist for comment and approval prior to any further analysis or publication work commencing.

10.3.7 This document will be submitted within six months of the end of fieldwork unless previously agreed with all relevant parties.

10.3.8 The archaeological contractor will submit an updated specification for full analysis and publication in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. An appropriate level of publication will then be agreed with Durham County Archaeologist and will be prepared in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. A short report of the work will be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

10.4 OASIS

10.4.1 The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.

10.4.2 The archaeological contractor will therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. A pdf copy of the report will be uploaded to Oasis within 3 months of its production.

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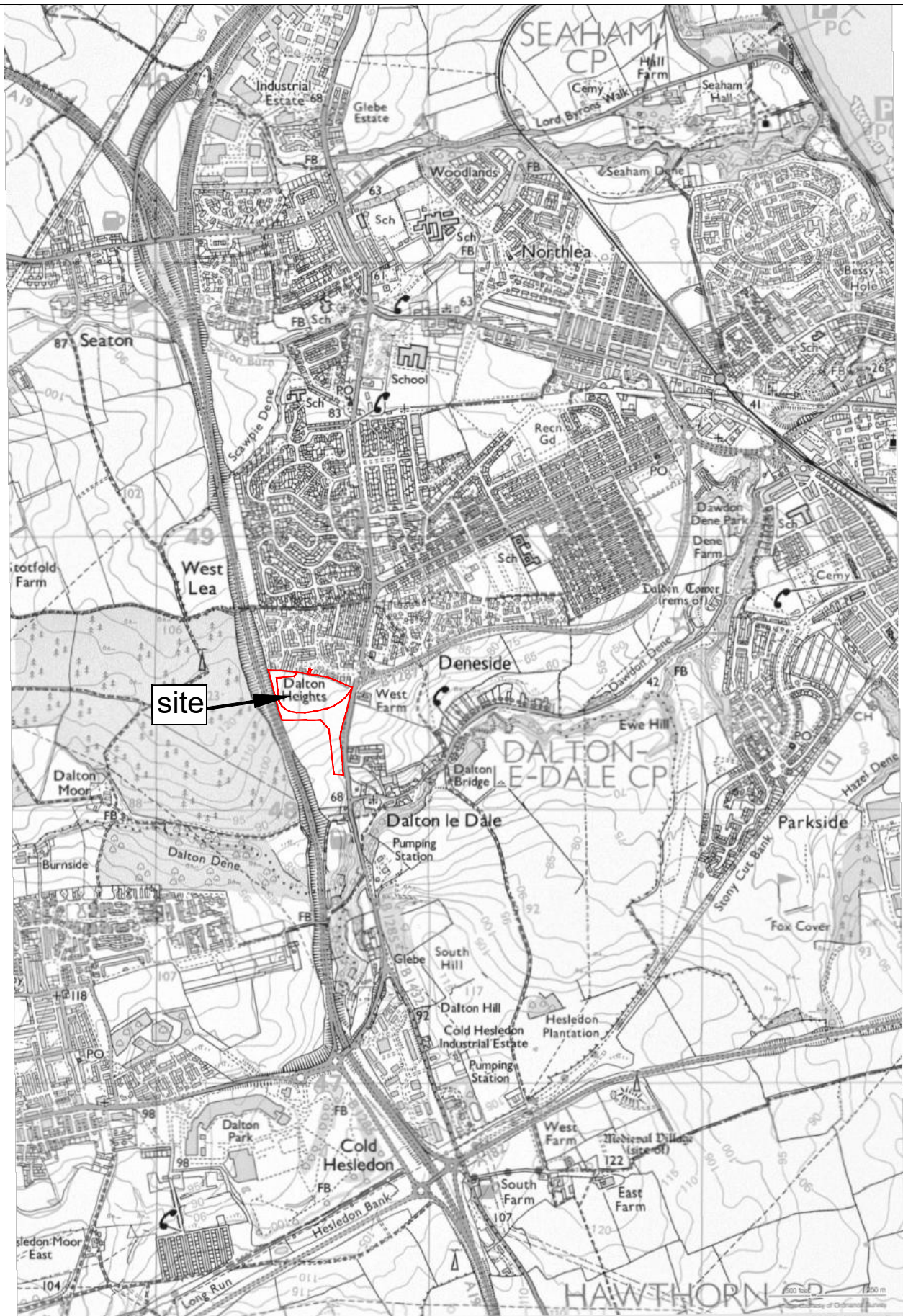
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0 1:20,000 at A4 1km

Figure 1: Location of site



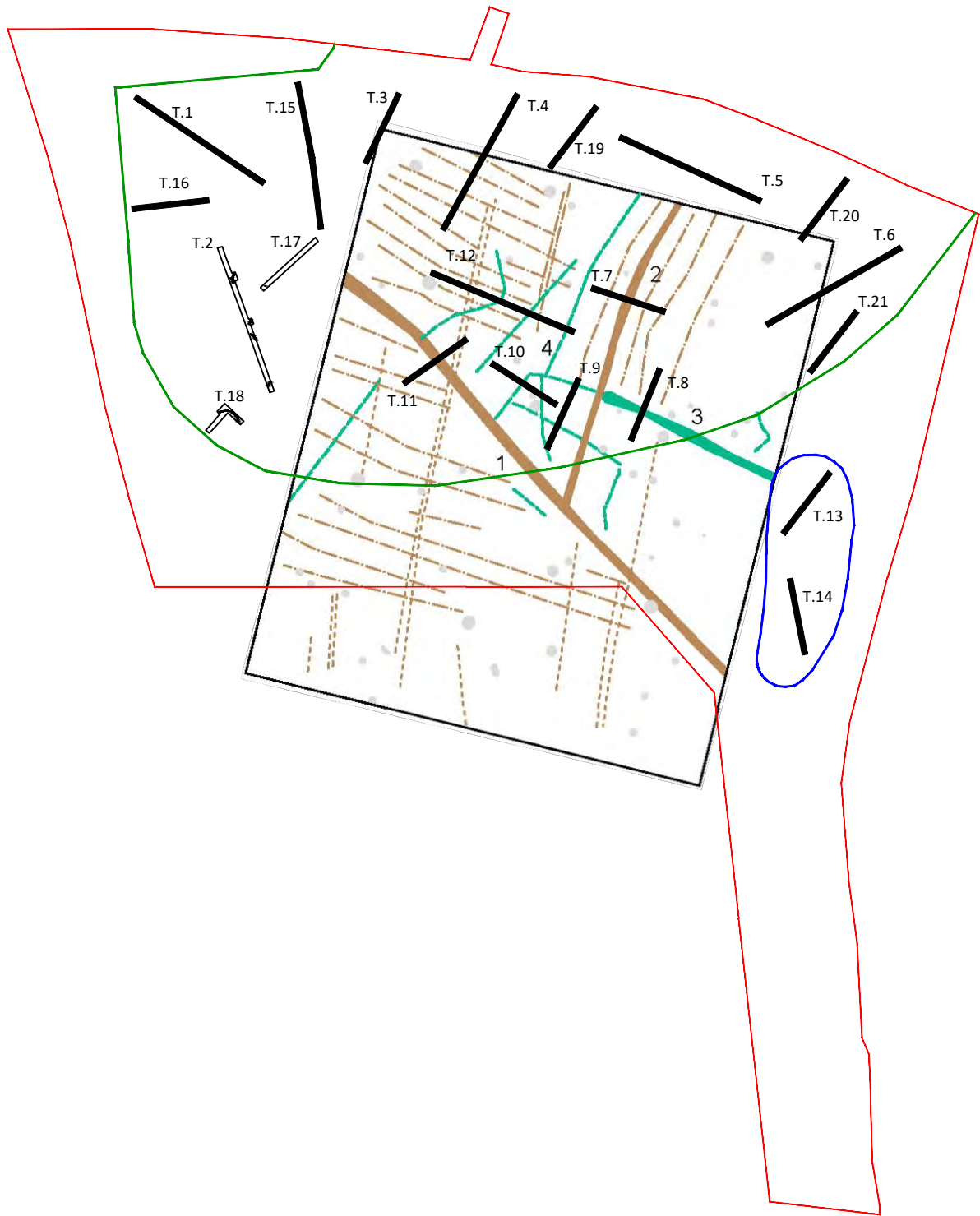
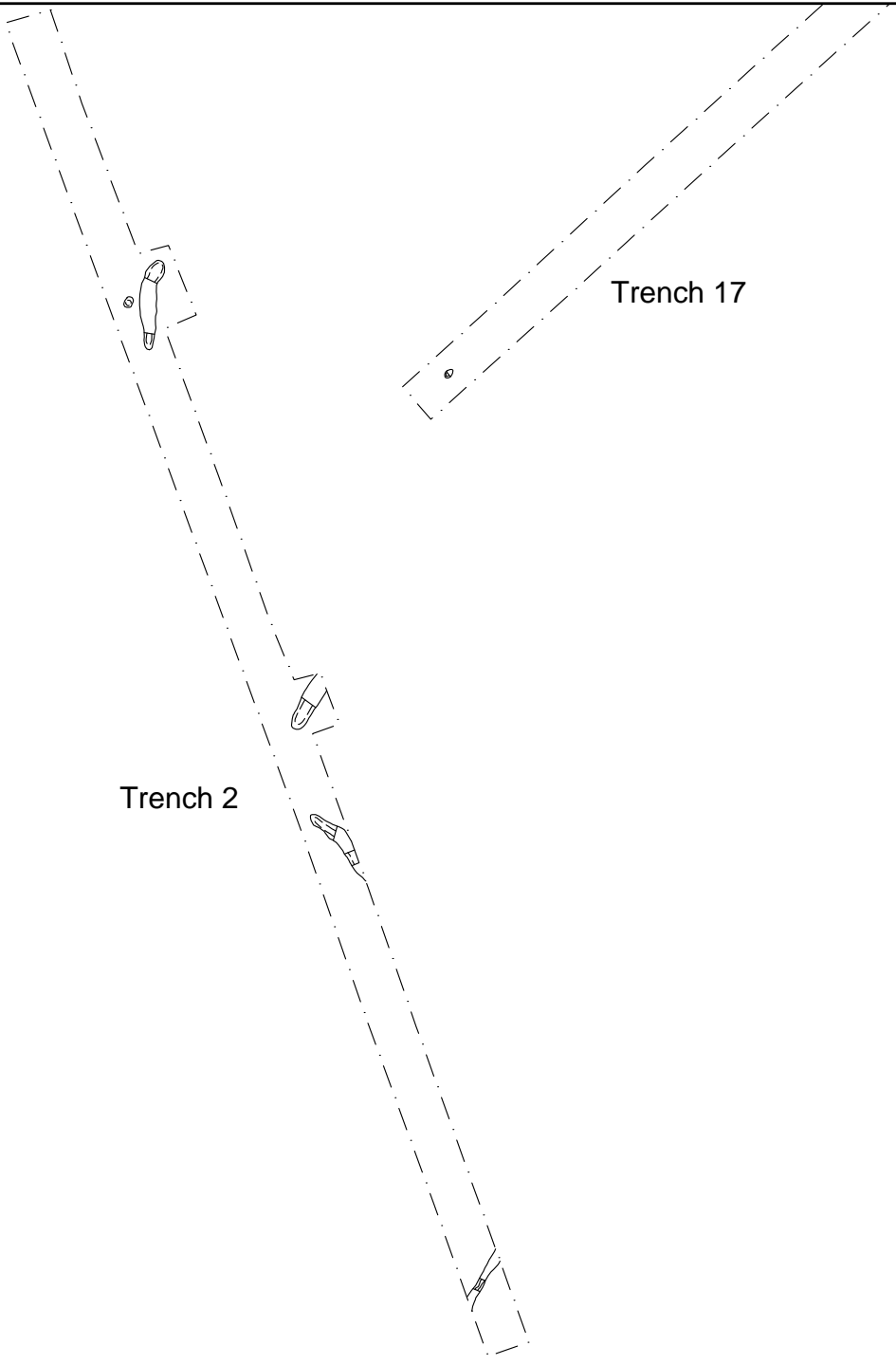


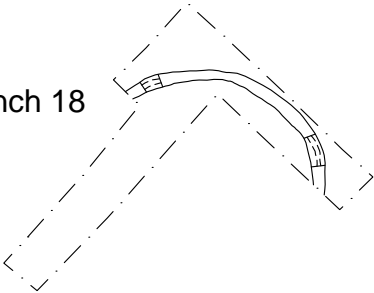
Figure 2: Dalton Heights trench plan showing geophysical survey



Trench 17

Trench 2

Trench 18



1:250

0 10m

Figure 3: Archaeological features in Trenches 2, 17 & 18



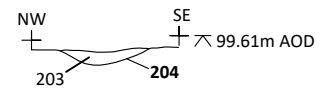
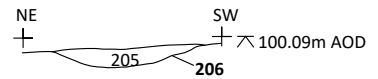
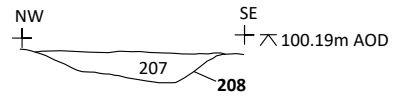
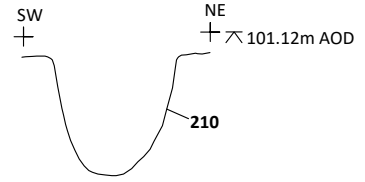
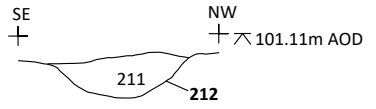
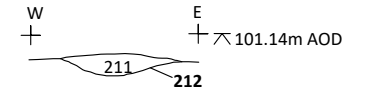
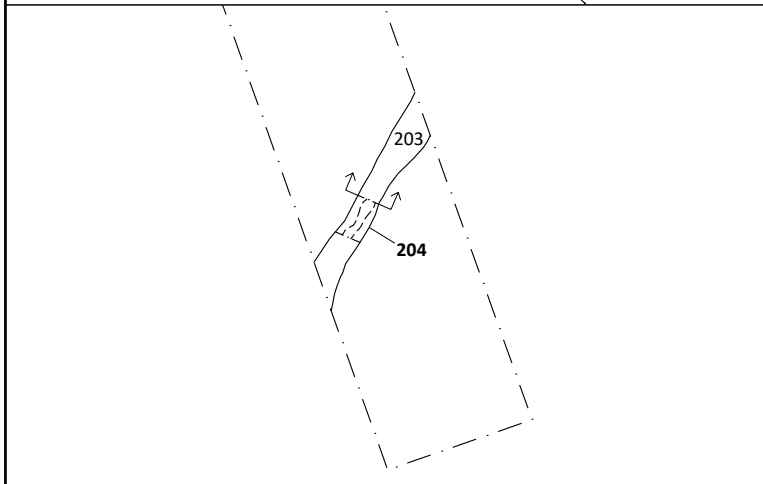
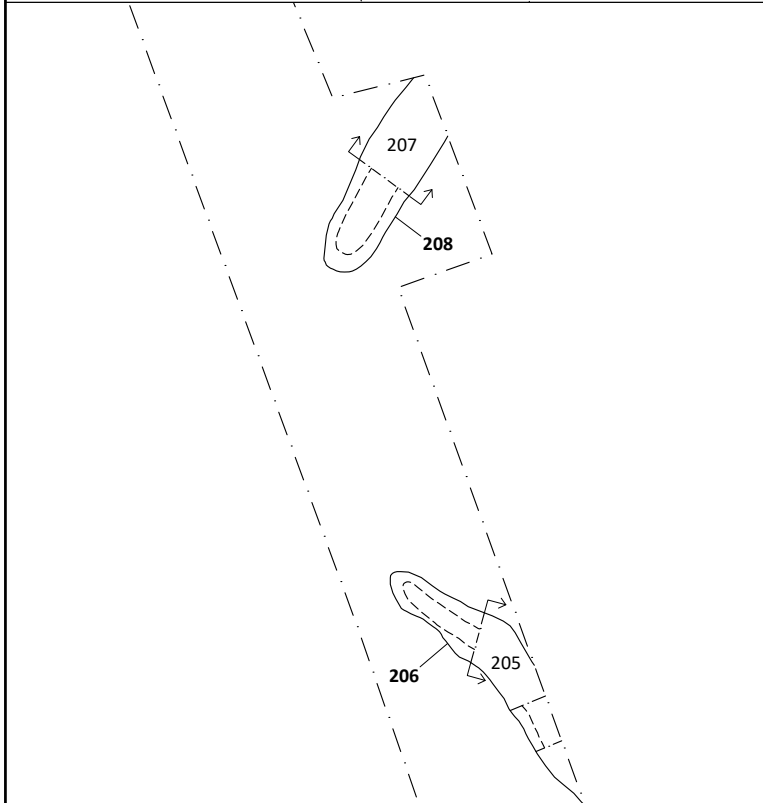
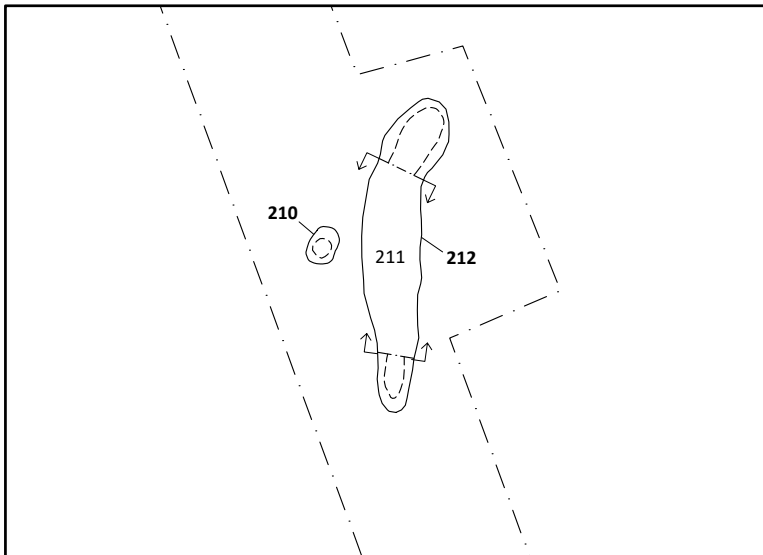
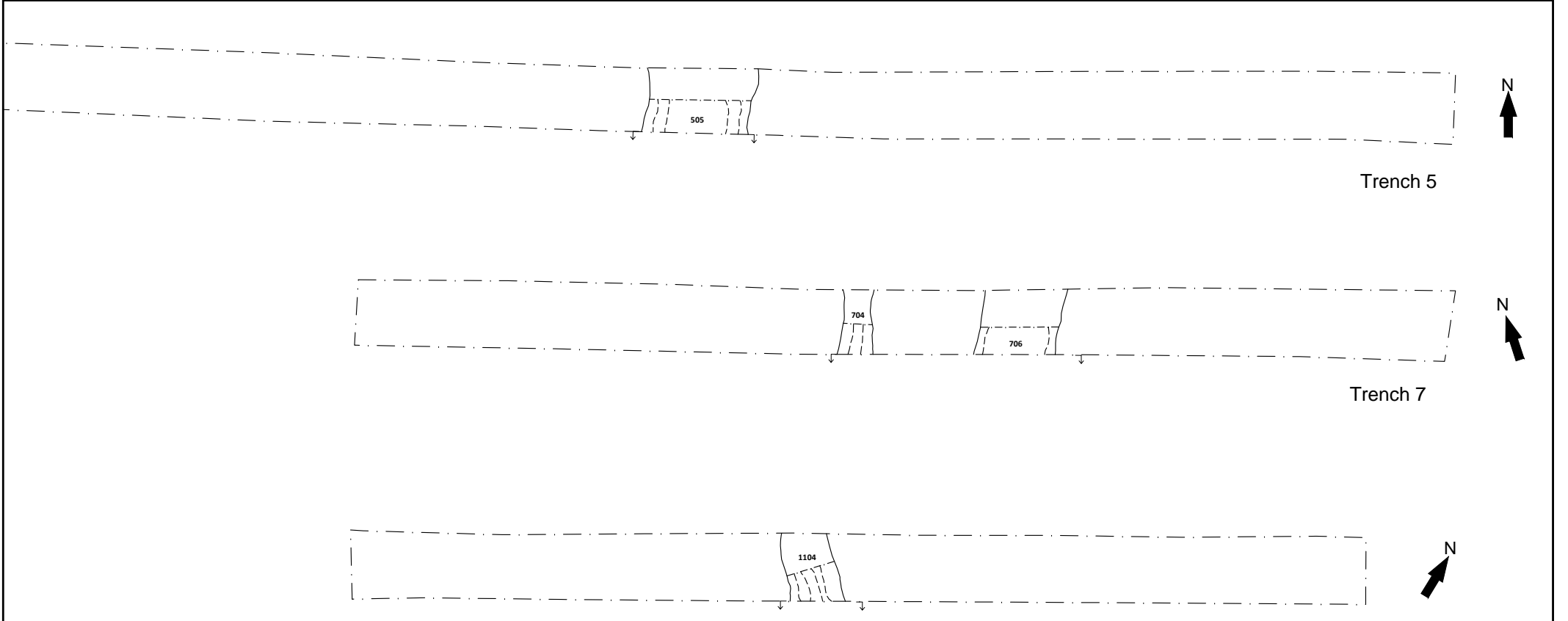
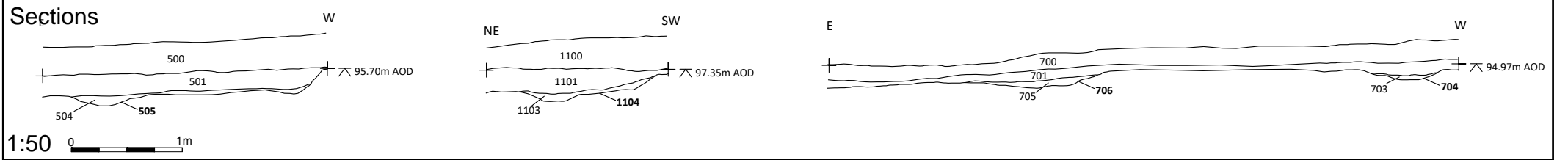


Figure 4: Features in Trench 2





Plans

1:125



Figure 5: Field boundaries identified in Trenches 5, 7 & 11



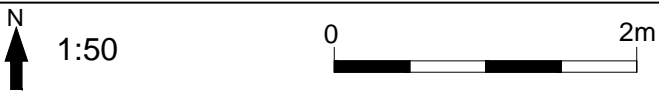
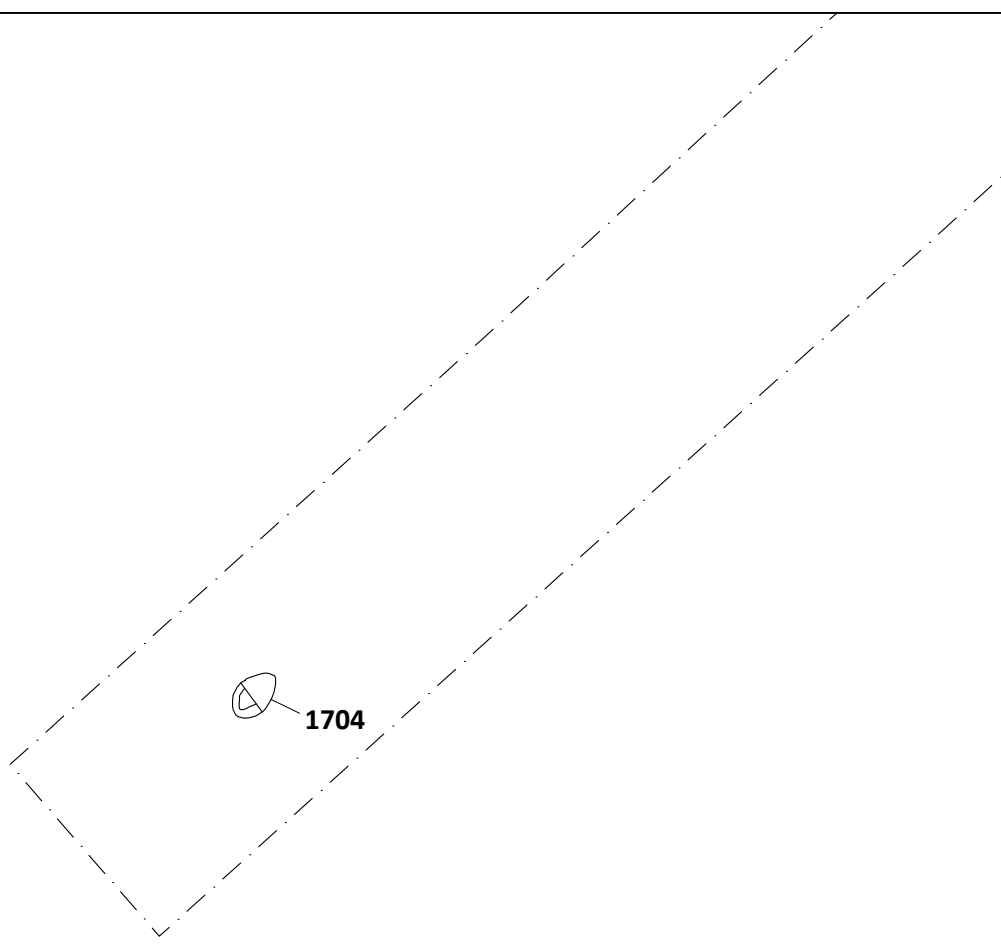
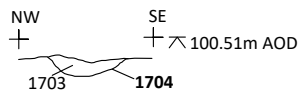
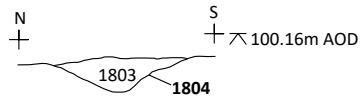
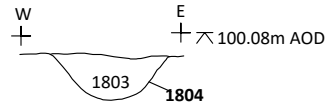


Figure 6: Feature in Trench 17





section A



section B

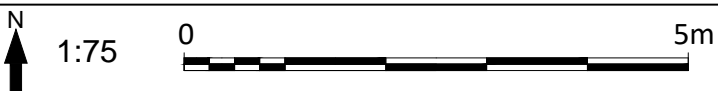
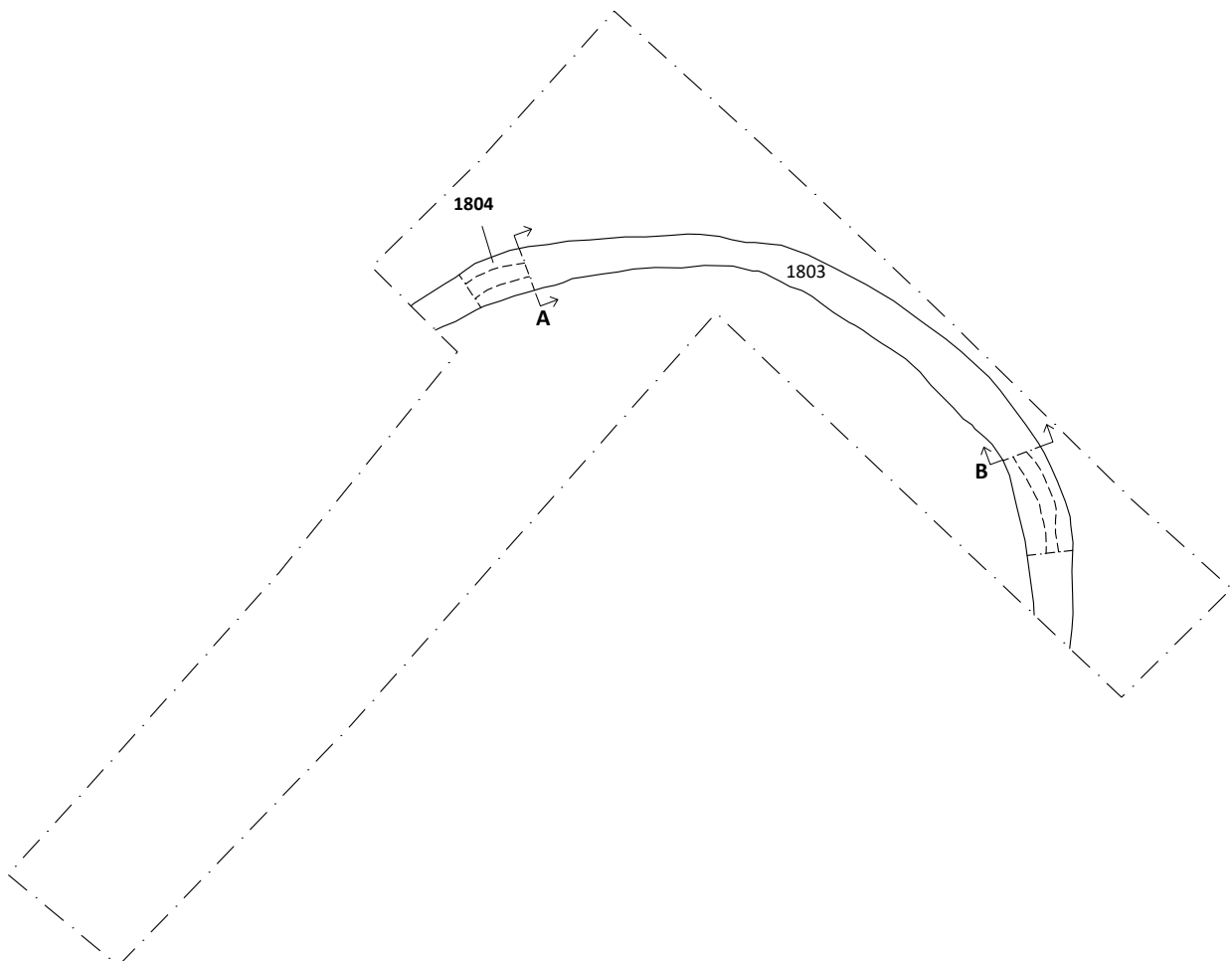
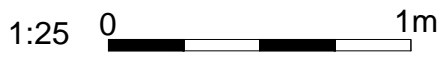


Figure 7: Feature in Trench 18





Plate 1: Trench 2,feature 704, facing north



Plate 2: Trench 2,feature 708, facing northeast



Plate 3: Trench 5 overall view, facing southwest



Plate 4: Trench 6 overall view, facing northeast



Plate 5: Trench 7 boundary gullys, facing west



Plate 6: Trench 8 furrow, facing northeast



Plate 7: Trench 11 boundary gully 1104, facing southeast



Plate 8: Trench 14, overall view facing northwest



Plate 9: Trench 17, posthole 1704 facing northeast



Plate 10: Trench 18-gully 1804, facing southeast



Plate 11: Overall view of site facing northwest



AD Archaeology Ltd
South Shields Business Works,
Henry Robson Way,
South Shields,
NE33 1RF
Tel: 0191 603 0377
info@adarchaeology.co.uk