

AD406

**Land to the North of George Pit Lane,
Great Lumley
County Durham**

Archaeological Evaluation



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AD Archaeology was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land to the north of George Pit Lane, Great Lumley prior to the construction of a proposed housing development.

The only archaeological feature located was a post-medieval gully in Trenches 9 & 10 representing a former field boundary, depicted on Ordnance Survey editions 1-4, between 1857-1939.

No significant archaeological features were located in the evaluation. On the basis of these negative results no further archaeological work would be appropriate at the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

1.1.1 AD Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development on land to the north of George Pit Lane, Great Lumley, County Durham. The archaeological works were undertaken in weeks commencing 13th June and 20th June 2022.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located on the southeast periphery of Great Lumley, centred on NGR NZ 3000 4888 and measures 8.2ha in area (Fig 1). The site is bounded to the west by Cocken Lane, and to the south by George Pit Lane. To the north and west of the site is a relatively modern housing estate centred on Stainmore Drive.

1.2.2 The bedrock geology of the site is Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation Sandstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 308 to 314 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. The superficial geology is Devensian glacial till formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2022). The area lies within the Wear Lowlands and the topography in the general area is flat. The site consists of two agricultural fields. The eastern field (Field 2) sloped gently southwards towards a pronounced natural hollow at the southern end of the field. Field 1 (the western field) sloped gently westwards apart from the eastern end of the field where the ground dipped to the east towards the hollow which extended northwest from Field 2.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Prehistoric Period

2.1.1 Great Lumley lies within a landscape of widespread settlement and activity in the prehistoric period. Prehistoric sites have been recognised within the wider area, often through the analysis of cropmarks, identified on aerial photographs, or through the discovery of artefacts from the period. The Durham HER records a collection of flint tools from the prehistoric period found in the vicinity of Great Lumley. In 2017 a burnt mound site of prehistoric date was located at Scorer's Lane, Great Lumley (H6604). There is an increasing awareness of the density of prehistoric activity across the North East of England.

2.2 Romano-British Period

2.2.1 The HER does not record any known features from the Romano-British period within the immediate area of Great Lumley. It is important to note though that the wider area around the site was the location of significant Roman activity, as the nearby town of Chester-le-Street was a Roman settlement with a Roman fort known as Concangis.

2.3 Early-Medieval Period

2.3.1 The HER does not record any known sites from the early-medieval period within the immediate area of the site. In the wider vicinity at Chester-le-Street an eighth-century monastery was established at the same location as the Roman fort indicating significant activity in the area in the early-medieval period.

2.4 Medieval Period

2.4.1 The village of Great Lumley has its origins in the medieval period (H6799), though the exact location of the village is unknown and no significant remains have been excavated. It is probable that the focus of the village lay near to the modern village centre near Christ Church, and as such the proposed development site lies beyond the likely extent of the village itself and could have fallen within the agricultural fields surrounding the village. To the north of the village Lumley Castle, built in the fourteenth century dominates the area and was surrounded by a large deer park in the medieval period. Records also list a medieval chapel which was probably associated with the castle and its estate, though its exact location is unknown.

2.5 Post-medieval to Modern Periods

2.5.1 Large areas of post-medieval ridge and furrow of the narrow rigg type are visible as earthworks and cropmarks in the parish of Framwellgate Moor (H68524)

discovered through the analysis of aerial photography.

2.5.2 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1857 shows the site occupying agricultural land southeast of the village with one large agricultural field to the east and the majority of two fields occupying the western arm of the site. A track/ footpath (depicted as double dashed lines) crossed the eastern portion of the site leading from south of Red House to George Pit Lane, with George Pit itself a short distance further to the south. Lumley Colliery was opened in the 1790's. The pit was served by the Cocken Branch of the Lambton Railway. A short row of three houses are depicted on the 1st edition OS map on the south side of George Pit Lane at the junction with a road leading to the pit immediately south of the east end of the site.

2.5.3 By the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey of 1895 George Pit is marked as "Disused". A row of terrace houses is shown on the western end of George Pit Lane at the junction with Cocken Lane. On the site itself the Ordnance Survey shows the same layout of agricultural fields again with the path marked "F.P". By the third edition Ordnance Survey of 1915 tracks are no longer depicted along the former Cocken Branch of the Lambton Railway, elsewhere it does not show any significant change from the 1895 survey.

2.5.4 By the time of the fourth edition Ordnance Survey of 1939 the field occupying part of the western end of the site is labelled "Allotment Gardens" with a track subdividing the field. An aerial photo from 1945 (Google Earth 2022) shows the field part sub-divided with regularised plots each with a small building presumably representing a wooden shed. The housing closely associated with George Pit had been demolished, although the terrace row labelled Lumley Terrace at the west end of George Pit Lane was still extant (mapping suggests this terrace was demolished in the 1950's).

2.6 Geophysical Survey

2.6.1 Anomalies were identified that relate to modern material/objects, agricultural activity and probable geological/pedological variations. Other than anomalies associated with likely post-medieval and modern agricultural activity no clear archaeological site could be identified from the results of the geophysical survey or the accompanying rapid desk-based archaeological assessment of the site (AD Archaeology 2022). The geophysical survey detected numerous linear magnetic anomalies associated with former field systems of ridge and furrow throughout the site and later agricultural activity including former allotments in the western end of Field 1 (western field). A positive linear anomaly (anomaly 4) in Field 1 corresponds with a field boundary depicted on historic mapping. Near the westernmost edge of Field 1 the geophysical survey detected a large irregular and relatively weak positive linear anomaly (anomaly 3). Although it was thought most likely to have a natural geomorphological origin it was possible that the anomaly may be archaeological and belong to a feature such as a ditch. The anomaly was investigated through trenching to ascertain its origin with certainty.

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 Written Scheme of Investigation.

5 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

Field 1

5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

5.1.1 Trench 1, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located at the western end of Field 1. The natural subsoil (102) consisted of a yellow sandy clay and was located at a depth of 0.60m BGL (70.82mAOD). The natural subsoil (102) was overlain by a 0.19m deep brown sandy clay ploughsoil (101) and a 0.41m deep black loam topsoil (100). One 2.20m wide east-west furrow was located filled with ploughsoils 101.

5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

5.2.1 Trench 2, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located at the western end of Field 1. The natural subsoil (202) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (71.40mAOD). The natural subsoil (202) was overlain by a 0.32m deep black loam topsoil (200) One 0.80m wide east-west furrow filled with a brown sandy clay ploughsoil (201) was located.

5.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 2; Plate 1)

5.3.1 Trench 3, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located at the western end of Field 1. The natural subsoil (302) consisted of a yellow clay with grey lenses and was located at a depth of 0.40m BGL (71.16mAOD), being deeper toward the centre of the trench. The natural subsoil (302) was overlain by a 0.08m deep brown sandy clay ploughsoil (301) and a black loam topsoil (300), 0.32m in depth.

5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2; Plate 2)

5.4.1 Trench 4, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located at the western end of Field 1. The natural subsoil (402) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.41m BGL (71.03mAOD). The natural subsoil (402) was overlain by a 0.10m deep brown sandy clay ploughsoil (401) and a black loam topsoil (400), 0.31m in depth. A geophysical anomaly (anomaly 3) running north-east/south-west through Trenches 3 and 4 proved to relate to a natural hollow running through the centre of both trenches. A greater concentration of minerals in the natural clay on the base of this hollow is likely to have produced geophysical anomaly 3.

5.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

5.5.1 Trench 5, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the western half of Field 1. The natural subsoil (501) consisted of a yellow

clay and was located at a depth of 0.20m BGL (72.72mAOD). The natural subsoil (501) was overlain by a 0.20m deep black loam topsoil (500).

5.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

5.6.1 Trench 6, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the western half of Field 1. The natural subsoil (601) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.30m BGL (71.72mAOD). The natural subsoil (601) was overlain by a 0.30m deep black loam topsoil (600). An irregular area of burning c. 1.10m by 1m in size was visible on the surface of the natural clay subsoil, associated with activity relating to the sinking of a mine shaft, which lay 5m to the west of the trench.

5.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 2; Plate 3)

5.7.1 Trench 7, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the western half of Field 1. The natural subsoil (702) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.29m BGL (71.67mAOD). The natural subsoil (702) was overlain by a 0.29m deep black loam topsoil (700). One 1.10m wide north-south furrow was located filled with a brown sandy clay ploughsoil (701), 0.07m in depth.

5.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

5.8.1 Trench 8, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the western half of Field 1. The natural subsoil (801) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.37m BGL (72.21mAOD). The natural subsoil (801) was overlain by a 0.37m deep black loam topsoil (800).

5.9 Trench 9 (Figs. 2-3; Plates 4-5)

5.9.1 Trench 9, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the central area of Field 1. The natural subsoil (906) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.42m BGL (72.45mAOD). The natural subsoil (906) was overlain by a 0.08m deep brown sandy clay ploughsoil (901) and a black loam topsoil (900), 0.34m in depth.

5.9.2 In the central area of the trench was a 1.70m wide field boundary depicted on Ordnance Survey editions 1-4, between 1857-1939. The primary phase of this north-south boundary was a 1.70m wide concave sided flat-based gully (905) filled with a brown sandy clay (904), 0.28m in depth. The primary phase of the gully (905) was recut by a 0.80m wide concave shaped gully (907). This secondary phase of the gully (907) was filled by a 0.30m deep grey silty clay (903) containing modern brick fragments.

5.9.3 At a distance of 2.50m west of gully (905) was a shallow concave north-

south 0.68m wide feature (902). The feature (902) was 0.10m in depth and filled with ploughsoil 901 and represents either the base of a furrow or a feature associated with post-medieval field boundary 905/907.

5.10 Trench 10 (Figs. 2 & 4; Plate 6)

5.10.1 Trench 10, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the central area of Field 1. The natural subsoil (1006) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.42m BGL (72.19mAOD). The natural subsoil (1006) was overlain by a 0.10m deep brown sandy clay ploughsoil (1001) and a black loam topsoil (1000), 0.32m in depth.

5.10.2 In the central area of the trench was a 2.10m wide field boundary (1003=905) depicted on Ordnance Survey plans 1-4 and corresponding to the line of north-south geophysical anomaly 4. The primary phase of this north-south boundary was a 2.10m wide concave sided flat-based gully (1003) filled with a brown sandy clay (1002), 0.32m in depth. The primary phase of the gully (1003) was recut by a 1m wide concave shaped gully (1005). This secondary phase of the gully (1005) was filled by a 0.54m deep grey silty clay and brown clay (1004) containing modern brick fragments.

5.11 Trench 11 (Fig. 2)

5.11.1 Trench 11, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the central area of Field 1. The natural subsoil (1101) consisted of a yellow sandy clay and was located at a depth of 0.26m BGL (73.19mAOD). The natural subsoil (1101) was overlain by a 0.26m deep black loam topsoil (1100).

5.12 Trench 12 (Fig. 2)

5.12.1 Trench 12, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the central area of Field 1. The natural subsoil (1201) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.26m BGL (72.76mAOD). The natural subsoil (1201) was overlain by a 0.26m deep black loam topsoil (1200). One 0.70m wide east-west furrow filled with brown sandy clay ploughsoil (1202) was located.

5.13 Trench 13 (Fig. 2; Plate 7)

5.13.1 Trench 13, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the central area of Field 1. The natural subsoil (1302) consisted of a yellow sandy clay and was located at a depth of 0.26m BGL (72.86mAOD). The natural subsoil (1302) was overlain by a 0.26m deep black loam topsoil (1300). One 1m wide east-west furrow filled with brown sandy clay ploughsoil (1301) was located.

5.14 Trench 14 (Fig. 2; Plate 8)

5.14.1 Trench 14, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the central area of Field 1. The natural subsoil (1402) consisted of a yellow sandy clay and was located at a depth of 0.27m BGL (72.88mAOD). The natural subsoil (1402) was overlain by a 0.04m deep brown sandy clay ploughsoil (1401) and a 0.27m deep black loam topsoil (1400). One 0.50m wide east-west furrow filled with brown sandy clay ploughsoil (1401) was located.

5.15 Trench 15 (Fig. 2)

5.15.1 Trench 15, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the eastern half of Field 1. The natural subsoil (1501) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.25m BGL (72.90mAOD). The natural subsoil (1501) was overlain by a 0.25m deep black loam topsoil (1500).

5.16 Trench 16 (Fig. 2)

5.16.1 Trench 16, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the eastern half of Field 1. The natural subsoil (1601) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.31m BGL (72.90mAOD). The natural subsoil (1601) was overlain by a 0.31m deep black loam topsoil (1600).

5.17 Trench 17 (Fig. 2)

5.17.1 Trench 17, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the eastern half of Field 1. The natural subsoil (1701) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.34m BGL (71.31mAOD). The natural subsoil (1701) was overlain by a 0.34m deep black loam topsoil (1700).

5.18 Trench 18 (Fig. 2; Plate 9)

5.18.1 Trench 18, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the eastern half of Field 1. The natural subsoil (1801) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.25m BGL (72.07mAOD). The natural subsoil (1801) was overlain by a 0.25m deep black loam topsoil (1800).

5.19 Trench 19 (Fig. 2)

5.19.1 Trench 19, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located at the eastern end of Field 1. The natural subsoil (1901) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.25m BGL (69.89mAOD). The natural subsoil (1901) was overlain by a 0.25m deep black loam topsoil (1900).

5.20 Trench 20 (Fig. 2)

5.20.1 Trench 20, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located at the eastern end of Field 1. The natural subsoil (2001) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.27m BGL (70.44mAOD). The natural subsoil (2001) was overlain by a 0.27 deep black loam topsoil (2000).

5.21 Trench 21 (Fig. 2)

5.21.1 Trench 21, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located at the eastern end of Field 1. The natural subsoil (2101) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.27m BGL (71.19mAOD). The natural subsoil (2101) was overlain by a 0.27m deep black loam topsoil (2100).

5.22 Trench 22 (Fig. 2; Plate 10)

5.22.1 Trench 22, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located at the eastern end of Field 1. The natural subsoil (2201) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.35m BGL (70.78mAOD). The natural subsoil (2201) was overlain by a 0.35m deep black loam topsoil (2200).

Field 2

5.23 Trench 23 (Fig. 2)

5.23.1 Trench 23, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located at the southern end of Field 2. The natural subsoil (2301) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.40m BGL (68.81mAOD). The natural subsoil (2301) was overlain by a 0.40m deep black loam topsoil (2300).

5.24 Trench 24 (Fig. 2)

5.24.1 Trench 24, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located at the southern end of Field 2. The natural subsoil (2401) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.62m BGL (67.30mAOD). The natural subsoil (2401) was overlain by a 0.62m deep black loam topsoil (2400).

5.25 Trench 25 (Fig. 2; Plate 11)

5.25.1 Trench 25, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the southern half of Field 2. The natural subsoil (2501) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (68.04mAOD). The natural subsoil (2501) was overlain by a 0.32m deep black loam topsoil (2500).

5.26 Trench 26 (Fig. 2)

5.26.1 Trench 26, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the southern half of Field 2. The natural subsoil (2601) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.22m BGL (69.21mAOD). The natural subsoil (2601) was overlain by a 0.22m deep black loam topsoil (2600).

5.27 Trench 27 (Fig. 2; Plate 12)

5.27.1 Trench 27, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the southern half of Field 2. The natural subsoil (2702) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.30m BGL (68.25mAOD). The natural subsoil (2702) was overlain by a 0.30m deep black loam topsoil (2700). One 1m wide north-south furrow filled with brown sandy clay ploughsoil (2701) was located.

5.28 Trench 28 (Fig. 2; Plate 13)

5.28.1 Trench 28, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the southern half of Field 2. The natural subsoil (2801) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.41m BGL (69.11mAOD). The natural subsoil (2801) was overlain by a 0.41m deep black loam topsoil (2800). One 1m wide north-south furrow filled with brown sandy clay ploughsoil (2802) was located.

5.29 Trench 29 (Fig. 2)

5.29.1 Trench 29, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the southern half of Field 2. The natural subsoil (2901) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.31m BGL (69.07mAOD). The natural subsoil (2901) was overlain by a 0.31m deep black loam topsoil (2900).

5.30 Trench 30 (Fig. 2)

5.30.1 Trench 30, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the central area of Field 2. The natural subsoil (3001) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.25m BGL (69.76mAOD). The natural subsoil (3001) was overlain by a 0.25m deep black loam topsoil (3000).

5.31 Trench 31 (Fig. 2; Plate 14)

5.31.1 Trench 31, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the central area of Field 2. The natural subsoil (3101) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.28m BGL (70.22mAOD). The natural subsoil (3101) was overlain by a 0.28m deep black loam topsoil (3100).

5.32 Trench 32 (Fig. 2)

5.32.1 Trench 32, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the central area of Field 2. The natural subsoil (3201) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.26m BGL (70.13mAOD). The natural subsoil (3201) was overlain by a 0.26m deep black loam topsoil (3200).

5.33 Trench 33 (Fig. 2; Plate 15)

5.33.1 Trench 33, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-west/south-east and located in the northern half of Field 2. The natural subsoil (3301) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.25m BGL (70.42mAOD). The natural subsoil (3301) was overlain by a 0.25m deep black loam topsoil (3300).

5.34 Trench 34 (Fig. 2)

5.34.1 Trench 34, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the northern half of Field 2. The natural subsoil (3401) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.24m BGL (70.53mAOD). The natural subsoil (3401) was overlain by a 0.24m deep black loam topsoil (3400).

5.35 Trench 35 (Fig. 2; Plate 16)

5.35.1 Trench 35, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the northern half of Field 2. The natural subsoil (3501) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.25m BGL (70.46mAOD). The natural subsoil (3501) was overlain by a 0.25m deep black loam topsoil (3500).

5.36 Trench 36 (Fig. 2)

5.36.1 Trench 36, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located at the northern end of Field 2. The natural subsoil (3601) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.26m BGL (70.63mAOD). The natural subsoil (3601) was overlain by a 0.26m deep black loam topsoil (3600).

5.37 Trench 37 (Fig. 2)

5.37.1 Trench 37, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located at the northern end of Field 2. The natural subsoil (3701) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.21m BGL (71.14mAOD). The natural subsoil (3701) was overlain by a 0.21m deep black loam topsoil (3700).

5.38 Trench 38 (Fig. 2; Plate 17)

5.38.1 Trench 38, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located at the northern half of Field 2. The natural subsoil (3801) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.29m BGL (70.55mAOD). The natural subsoil (3801) was overlain by a 0.29m deep black loam topsoil (3800).

5.39 Trench 39 (Fig. 2; Plate 18)

5.39.1 Trench 39, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located at the northern end of Field 2. The natural subsoil (3901) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.34m BGL (70.96mAOD). The natural subsoil (3901) was overlain by a 0.34m deep black loam topsoil (3900). One 1m wide north-south furrow was located filled with a brown sandy clay ploughsoil (3902).

5.40 Trench 40 (Fig. 2)

5.40.1 Trench 40, which was 45m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located at the northern end of Field 2. The natural subsoil (4001) consisted of a yellow clay and was located at a depth of 0.35m BGL (70.61mAOD). The natural subsoil (4001) was overlain by a 0.35m deep black loam topsoil (4000). One 1m wide north-south furrow was located filled with a brown sandy clay ploughsoil (4002).

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The only archaeological feature located in the evaluation was a north-south post-medieval gully in Trenches 9 & 10 representing a former field boundary, depicted on Ordnance Survey editions 1-4, between 1857-1939.

6.2 No significant archaeological features were located in the evaluation. On the basis of these negative results no further archaeological work would be appropriate at the site.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bibliography

AD Archaeology 2022 Geophysical Survey of Land to the north of George Pit Lane,
Great Lumley, County Durham

BGS 2022 British Geological Survey (BGS), Geology of Britain viewer

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Depth	Description
100	0.41m	Trench 1 – Topsoil
101	0.19m	Trench 1 – Ploughsoil
102	-	Trench 1 – Natural subsoil
200	0.32m	Trench 2 – Topsoil
201	-	Trench 2 – Ploughsoil
202	-	Trench 2 – Natural subsoil
300	0.32m	Trench 3 – Topsoil
301	0.08m	Trench 3 – Ploughsoil
302	-	Trench 3 – Natural subsoil
400	0.31m	Trench 4 – Topsoil
401	0.10m	Trench 4 – Ploughsoil
402	-	Trench 4 - Natural subsoil
500	0.20m	Trench 5 – Topsoil
501	-	Trench 5 – Natural subsoil
600	0.30m	Trench 6 – Topsoil
601	-	Trench 6 – Natural subsoil
700	0.29m	Trench 7 – Topsoil
701	0.07m	Trench 7 – Ploughsoil
702	-	Trench 7 – Natural subsoil
800	0.37m	Trench 8 – Topsoil
801	-	Trench 8 – Natural subsoil
900	0.34m	Trench 9 – Topsoil
901	0.08m	Trench 9 – Ploughsoil
902	0.10m	Trench 9 – Feature
903	0.30m	Trench 9 – Fill of gully 907
904	0.28m	Trench 9 – Fill of gully 905
905	0.28m	Trench 9 – Gully
906	-	Trench 9 – Natural subsoil
907	0.30m	Trench 9 – Gully recut
1000	0.32m	Trench 10 – Topsoil
1001	0.10m	Trench 10 – Ploughsoil
1002	0.32m	Trench 10 – Fill of gully 1003
1003	0.32m	Trench 10 – Gully
1004	0.54m	Trench 10 – Fill of gully 1005
1005	0.54m	Trench 10 – Gully recut
1006	-	Trench 10 – Natural subsoil
1100	0.26m	Trench 11 – Topsoil
1101	-	Trench 11 – Natural subsoil
1200	0.26m	Trench 12 – Topsoil
1201	-	Trench 12 – Natural subsoil
1202	-	Trench 12 – Ploughsoil

1300	0.26m	Trench 13 – Topsoil
1301	-	Trench 13 – Ploughsoil
1302	-	Trench 13 – Natural subsoil
1400	0.27m	Trench 14 – Topsoil
1401	0.04m	Trench 14 – Ploughsoil
1402	-	Trench 14 – Natural subsoil
1500	0.25m	Trench 15 – Topsoil
1501	-	Trench 15 – Natural subsoil
1600	0.31m	Trench 16 – Topsoil
1601	-	Trench 16 – Natural subsoil
1700	0.34m	Trench 17 – Topsoil
1701	-	Trench 17 – Natural subsoil
1800	0.25m	Trench 18 – Topsoil
1801	-	Trench 18 – Natural subsoil
1900	0.25m	Trench 19 – Topsoil
1901	-	Trench 19 – Natural subsoil
2000	0.27m	Trench 20 – Topsoil
2001	-	Trench 20 – Natural subsoil
2100	0.27m	Trench 21 – Topsoil
2101	-	Trench 21 – Natural subsoil
2200	0.35m	Trench 22 – Topsoil
2201	-	Trench 22 – Natural subsoil
2300	0.40m	Trench 23 – Topsoil
2301	-	Trench 23 – Natural subsoil
2400	0.62m	Trench 24 – Topsoil
2401	-	Trench 24 – Natural subsoil
2500	0.32m	Trench 25 – Topsoil
2501	-	Trench 25 – Natural subsoil
2600	0.22m	Trench 26 – Topsoil
2601	-	Trench 26 – Natural subsoil
2700	0.30m	Trench 27 – Topsoil
2701	-	Trench 27 – Ploughsoil
2702	-	Trench 27 – Natural subsoil
2800	0.41m	Trench 28 – Topsoil
2801	-	Trench 28 – Natural subsoil
2802	-	Trench 28 – Ploughsoil
2900	0.31m	Trench 29 – Topsoil
2901	-	Trench 29 – Natural subsoil
3000	0.25m	Trench 30 – Topsoil
3001	-	Trench 30 – Natural subsoil
3100	0.28m	Trench 31 – Topsoil
3101	-	Trench 31 – Natural subsoil
3200	0.26m	Trench 32 – Topsoil

3201	-	Trench 32 – Natural subsoil
3300	0.25m	Trench 33 – Topsoil
3301	-	Trench 33 – Natural subsoil
3400	0.24m	Trench 34 – Topsoil
3401	-	Trench 34 – Natural subsoil
3500	0.25m	Trench 35 – Topsoil
3501	-	Trench 35 – Natural subsoil
3600	0.26m	Trench 36 – Topsoil
3601	-	Trench 36 – Natural subsoil
3700	0.21m	Trench 37 – Topsoil
3701	-	Trench 37 – Natural subsoil
3800	0.29m	Trench 38 – Topsoil
3801	-	Trench 38 – Natural subsoil
3900	0.34m	Trench 39 – Topsoil
3901	-	Trench 39 – Natural subsoil
3902	-	Trench 39 – Ploughsoil
4000	0.35m	Trench 40 – Topsoil
4001	-	Trench 40 – Natural subsoil
4002	-	Trench 40 – Ploughsoil

Planning Ref: DM/2200584/FPA

APPENDIX 2 -WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND TO THE NORTH OF GEORGE PIT LANE, GREAT LUMLEY, 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 on land to the north of George Pit Lane, Great Lumley, County Durham. The site is located on the southeast periphery of Great Lumley, centred on NGR NZ 3000 4888 and measures 8.2ha in area (Fig 1). The site is bounded to the west by Cocken Lane, and to the south by George Pit Lane. To the north and west of the site is a relatively modern housing estate centred on Stainmore Drive.

1.2 A geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2022) has 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 Adopted County Durham Plan (2020).

Objective 10: Built and Historic Environment- Protect and enhance the significance of County Durham's locally, nationally and internationally important built and historic environment, including its wide range of buildings, sites, archaeology, parks and gardens and other heritage assets (Adopted Plan 2020 page 15).

Policy 44 – Historic Environment (Adopted Plan 2020 pages 203-207).

5.456: Where proposals are likely to affect sites of known importance, sites of significant archaeological potential, or those that become apparent through the development management process, background research followed up by archaeological investigation will be required prior to their determination. This will also be a requirement for greenfield sites of one hectare or more in extent. The findings of this assessment will be a material consideration which informs subsequent mitigation and the determination of the planning application. All resultant information shall be made available in an appropriate form for inclusion in the HER to advance understanding (Adopted Plan 2020 page 206).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Prehistoric Period

2.1.1 Great Lumley lies within a landscape of widespread settlement and activity in the prehistoric period. Prehistoric sites have been recognised within the wider area, often through the analysis of cropmarks, identified on aerial photographs, or through the discovery of artefacts from the period. The Durham HER records a

collection of flint tools lists from the prehistoric period found in the vicinity of Great Lumley. In 2017 a burnt mound site of prehistoric date was located at Scorer's Lane, Great Lumley (H6604). There is an increasing awareness of the density of prehistoric activity across the North East England.

2.2 Romano-British Period

2.2.1 The HER does not record any known features from the Romano-British period within the immediate area of Great Lumley. It is important to note though that the wider area around the site was the location of significant Roman activity, as the nearby town of Chester-le-Street was a Roman settlement with a Roman fort known as Concangis.

2.3 Early-Medieval Period

2.3.1 The HER does not record any known sites from the early-medieval period within the immediate area of the site. In the wider vicinity at Chester-le-Street an eighth-century monastery was established at the same location as the Roman fort indicating significant activity in the area in the early-medieval period.

2.4 Medieval Period

2.4.1 The village of Great Lumley has its origins in the medieval period (H6799), though the exact location of the village is unknown and no significant remains have been excavated. It is probable that the focus of the village lay near to the modern village centre near Christ Church, and as such the proposed development site probably lies beyond the extents of the village itself and could have fallen within the agricultural fields surrounding the village. To the north of the village Lumley Castle, built in the fourteenth century dominates the area and was surrounded by a large deer park in the medieval period. Records also list a medieval chapel which was probably associated with the castle and its estate, though its exact location is unknown.

2.5 Post-medieval to Modern Periods

2.5.1 Large areas of post-medieval ridge and furrow of the narrow rigg type are visible as earthworks and cropmarks in the parish of Framwellgate Moor (H68524) discovered through the analysis of aerial photography.

2.5.2 The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1857 shows the site occupying agricultural land southeast of the village with one large agricultural field to the east and most of two fields along the western arm of the site. A track/ footpath (depicted as double dashed line) crossed the eastern portion of the site leading from south of Red House to George Pit Lane with George Pit itself a short distance further to the south. Lumley Colliery was opened in the 1790's. The pit was served by the Cocken Branch of the Lambton Railway. A short row of three houses are depicted

on the first edition OS map on the south side of George Pit Lane at the junction with the road leading to the pit immediately south of the east end of the site.

2.5.3 By the time of the second edition Ordnance Survey of 1895 George Pit is marked as Disused. A row of terrace houses is shown on the western end of George Pit Lane at the junction with Cocken Lane. On the site itself the Ordnance Survey shows the same layout of agricultural fields again with the path marked F.P. By the third edition Ordnance Survey of 1915 tracks are no longer depicted along the former Cocken Branch of the Lambton Railway, elsewhere it does not show any significant change from the 1895 survey.

2.5.4 By the time of the fourth edition Ordnance Survey of 1939 the field occupying part of the western end of the site is labelled Allotment Gardens with a track subdividing the field. An aerial photo from 1945 (Google Earth 2022) shows the field part sub-divided with regularised plots each with a small building presumably representing a wooden shed. The housing closely associated with George Pit had been demolished, although the terrace row labelled Lumley Terrace at the west end of George Pit Lane was still extant (mapping suggests this terrace was demolished in the 1950's).

2.6 Geophysical Survey

2.6.1 Anomalies were identified that relate to modern material/objects, agricultural activity and probable geological/pedological variations. Other than anomalies associated with likely post-medieval and modern agricultural activity no clear archaeological site could be identified from the results of the geophysical survey or the accompanying rapid desk-based archaeological assessment of the site (AD Archaeology 2022). The geophysical survey detected numerous linear magnetic anomalies associated with former field systems of ridge and furrow throughout the site and later agricultural activity including former allotments in the western end of Field 1 (western field). A positive linear anomaly (anomaly 4) in Field 1 corresponds with a field boundary depicted on historic mapping. Near the westernmost edge of Field 1 the geophysical survey detected a large irregular and relatively weak positive linear anomaly (anomaly 3). Although it is most likely to have a natural geomorphological origin it remains possible that the anomaly may be archaeological and belong to a feature such as a ditch. The anomaly would need to be investigated through trenching during a subsequent archaeological evaluation to ascertain its origin with certainty. A very strong response was detected from a service in the eastern portion of Field 1.

3 Preservation of Archaeological Remains

3.1 The bedrock geology of the site is Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation Sandstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 308 to 314 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. The superficial geology is Devensian glacial till formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2021). The area lies within the Wear Lowlands and the topography in the general area is flat. The site consists of two agricultural fields. The eastern field (Field 2) sloped gently

southwards towards a pronounced natural hollow at the southern end of the field. Field 1 sloped gently westwards apart from the eastern end of the field where the ground dipped in a different direction towards the hollow which extended northwest from Field 2.

3.2 Deposits of any archaeological features encountered 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 DCCAS. The site is for the most part well drained and it is unlikely that any waterlogged deposits will be encountered at the site.

3.3 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.

3.4 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).

4 Aims and Recommended Course of Action

4.1 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.

4.2 Historic England guidance 'Preserving Archaeological Remains: Decision-taking for sites under development' (Historic England 2016) emphasises the need to characterise not only the types of remains, but also to understand their significance. The document '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.

4.3 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).

4.4 A trenching strategy consisting of 40 trenches equating to 3240 square metres (40 45 x1.8m trenches) representing a 4% sample of the 8.1ha area of the entire site. 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.

4.5 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 can only be moved with the approval of the Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS).

4.6 Contingency will be allowed for the excavation of up to an additional 1% of the site (above and beyond the 40 trenches indicated on the accompanying trench plan). The implementing of contingency would require approval by DCCAS and the client.

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 7 below) will be followed.

6 Fieldwork

6.1 All work will be carried out to the standards set by DCCAS as detailed in Standards for All Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington (DCCAS 2021), the latest version is available at

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2006/Development-management-advice> .

6.2 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. If further additional trench expansion is required, this should be carried out following discussions with DCCAS and the client.

6.3 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.

6.4 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.

7 Environmental Sampling and Scientific Dating Strategy

7.1 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:

- 30 litre 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 The selection of suitable deposits for sampling will be confirmed at site meetings with DCCAS . 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.

8 Monitoring

8.1 The DCCAS 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).

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

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

8.4 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.

- Pottery and ceramic building material (Rob Young; Alex Croom; Paul Bidwell; Andy Sage)
- Bone (Louisa Gidney)
- Flint (Rob Young)
- Metal work (David Dungworth)
- Industrial debris (David Dungworth)
- Environmental micro and macro fossils (Charlotte O'Brien ASDU)
- Residue analysis (ASDU)
- Radio carbon dating (ASDU/SUERRC)
- Any other analysis identified as necessary during the fieldwork or post excavation work

9 Post Excavation Work, Archive, and Report Preparation

9.1 Finds

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

9.1.2 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.

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

9.2 Site Archive

9.2.1 The final location for the site archive is County Durham Archaeological Archives.

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

9.2.3 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 Report

10.1 The results from the evaluation will be produced in a report

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

11 Post-Excavation Assessment Report

11.1 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 DCCAS for comment and approval prior to any further analysis or publication work commencing.

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

11.3 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 DCCAS 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.

12 OASIS

12.1 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.

12.2 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.

WSI compiled by J.McKelvey who has completed the MORPHE training course (see Appendix 1)

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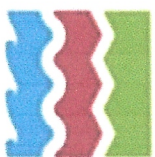
National Planning Policy Framework 2021

Petts D., Gerrard C., 2006 SHARED VISIONS: the North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment

UKIC ,1993 Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites

Wilkinson, D. & Neal, V. 2001 First Aid for Finds

APPENDIX 1 – MoRPHE Training Certificate



Historic England

Certificate of Completion

This is to certify that

Jonathan Mckelvey

has completed the following Historic England training course:

Using MORPHE

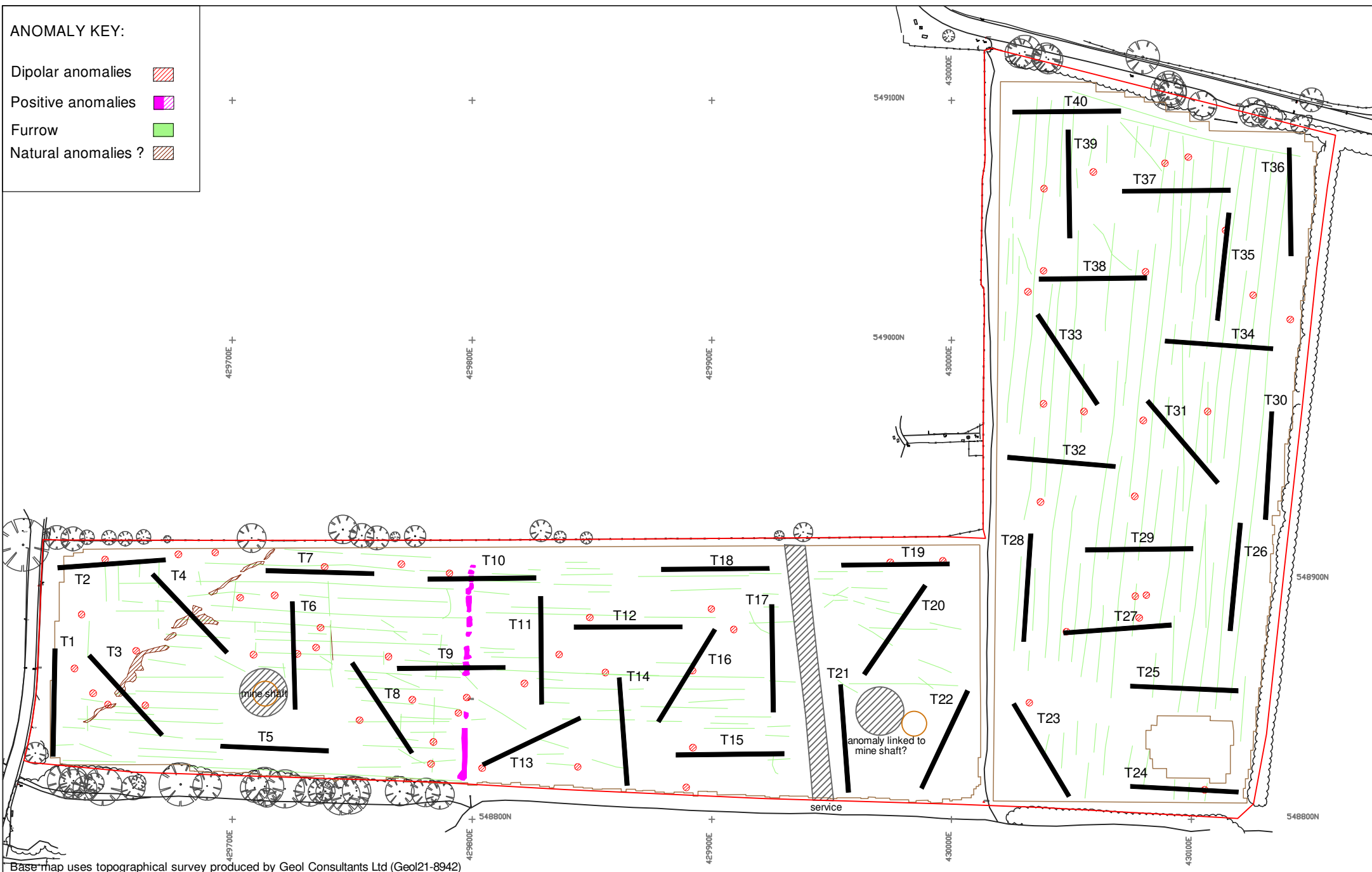
Awarded on 12/04/2021

Edmund Lee, Knowledge Transfer Manager, Historic England

This course can count towards CPD requirements for members of professional bodies body (e.g. CIFA, IHBC, RTPJ). Please check with your organisation.

ANOMALY KEY:

- Dipolar anomalies
- Positive anomalies
- Furrow
- Natural anomalies ?



Base map uses topographical survey produced by Geol Consultants Ltd (Geol21-8942)

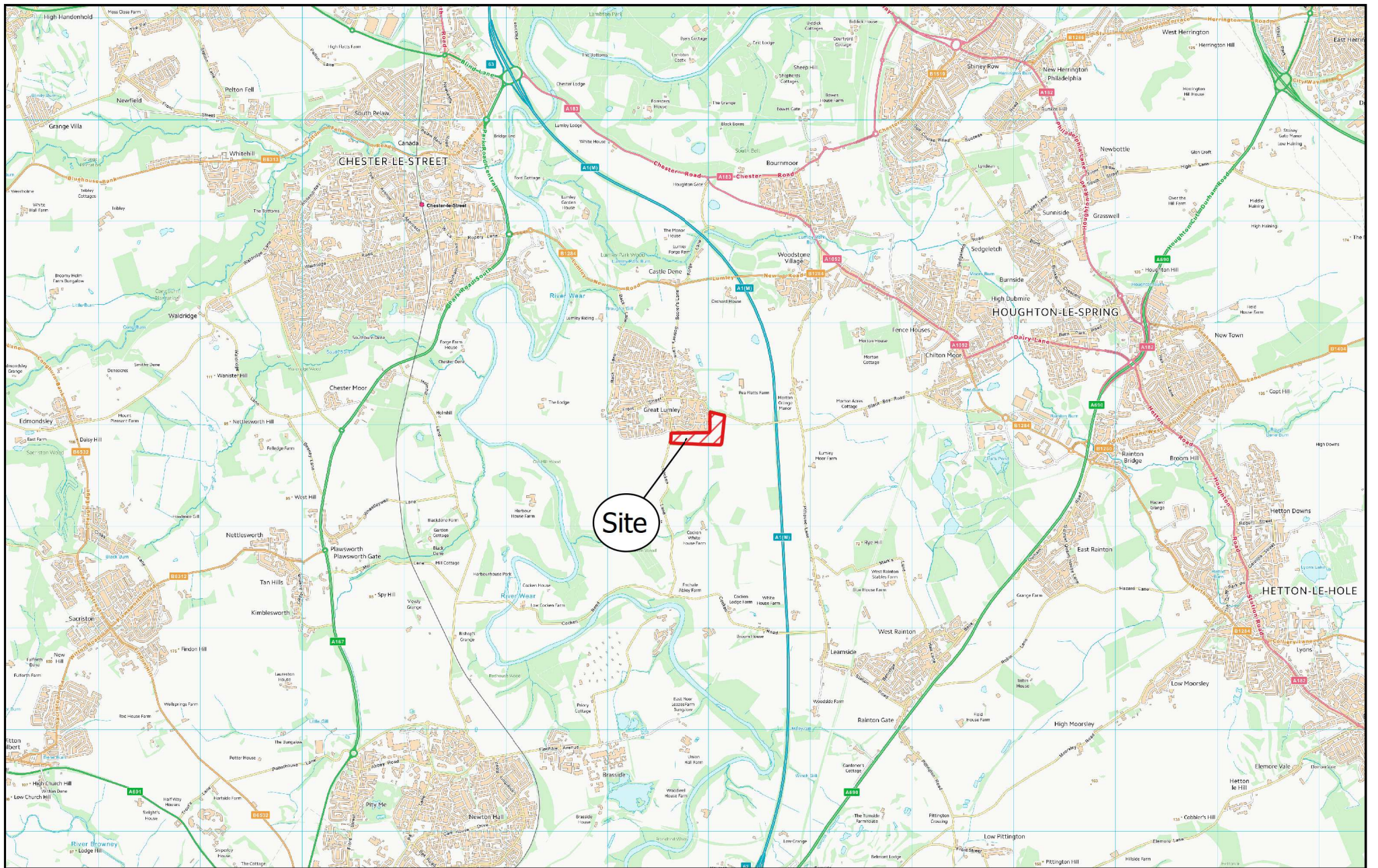


AD Archaeology Ltd

1:2000 at A4

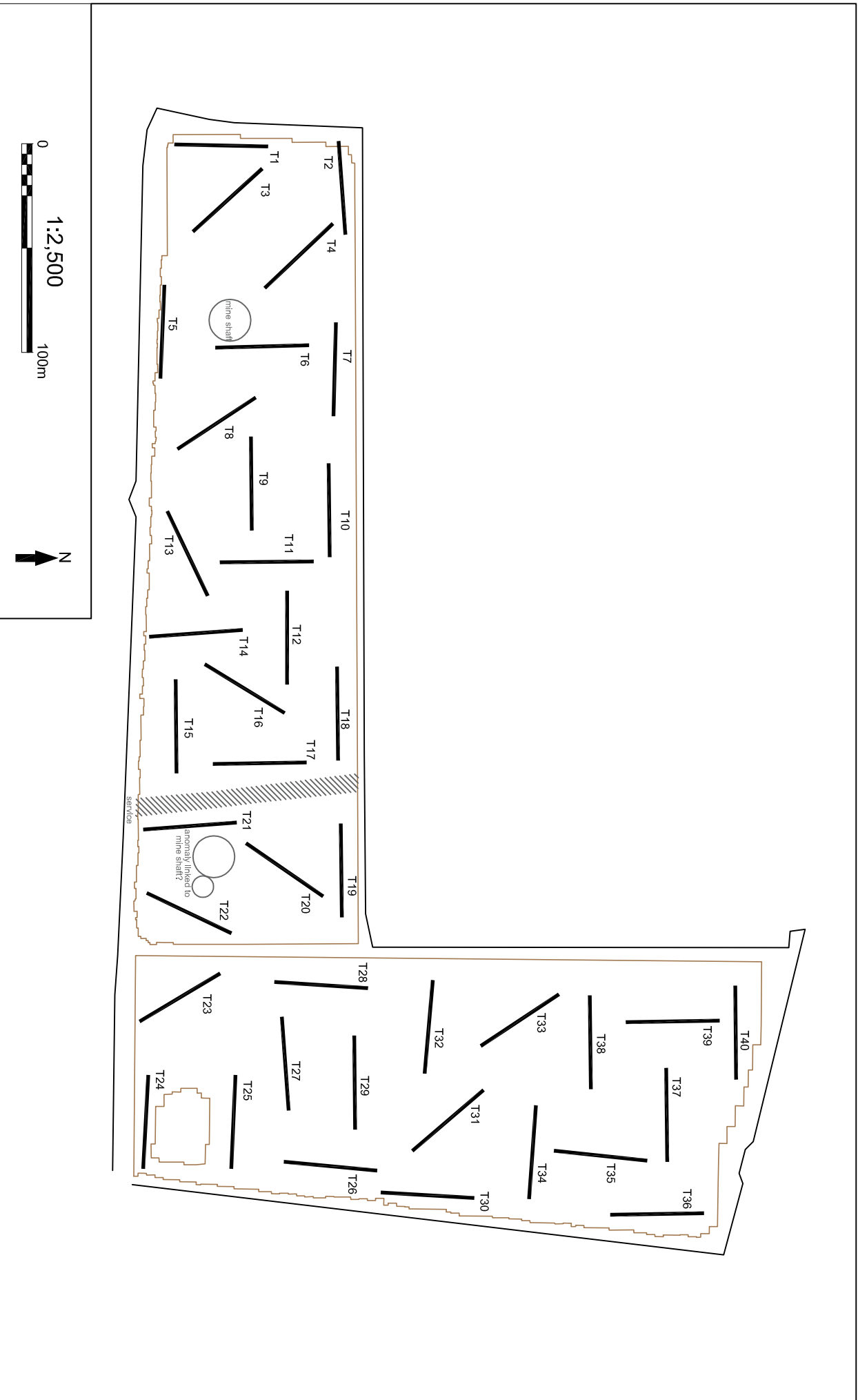
Great Lumley, Archaeological Evaluation Dwg.24/05/2022

Figure 1: Trench plan also showing geophysical survey interpretation



Site

Figure 1: Site Location



Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2022. All rights reserved. Licence number: 100055020.

Figure 2: Trench location plan

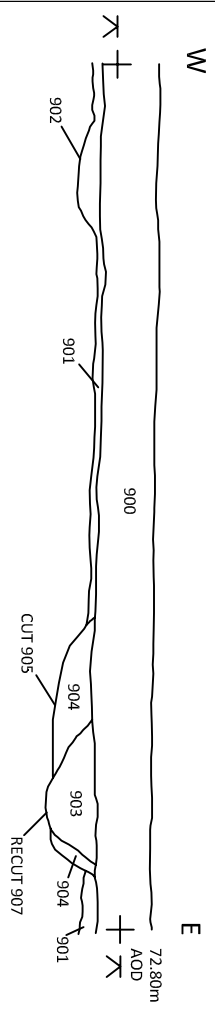
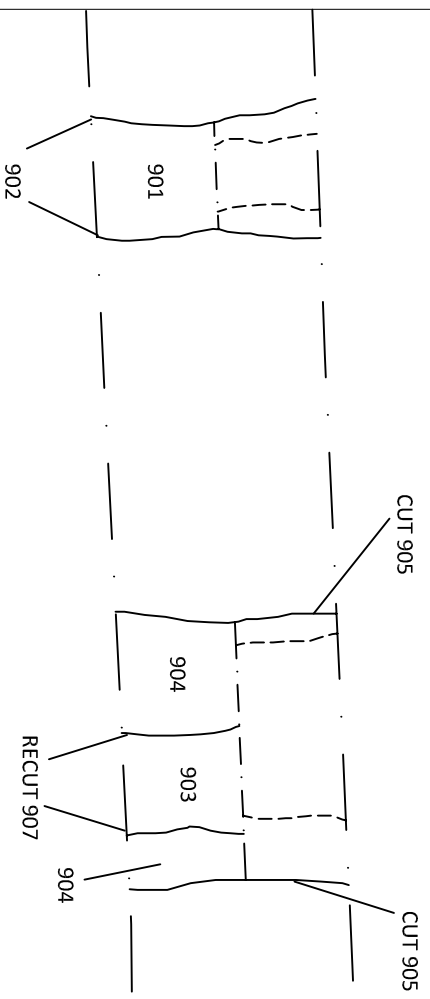
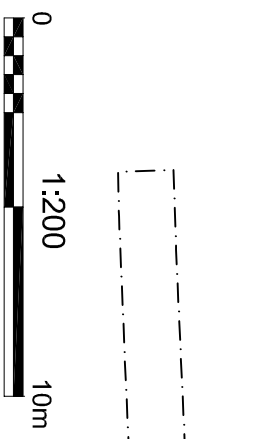


Figure 3: Trench 9

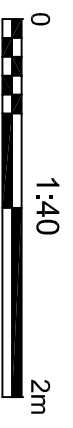
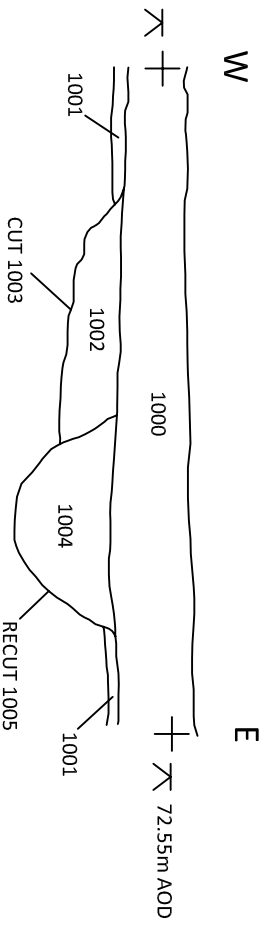
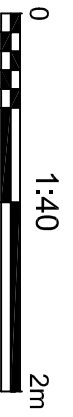
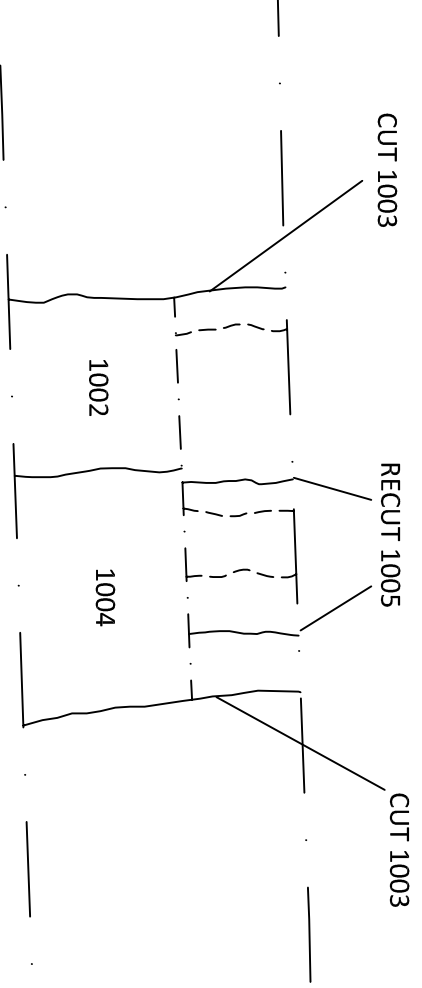
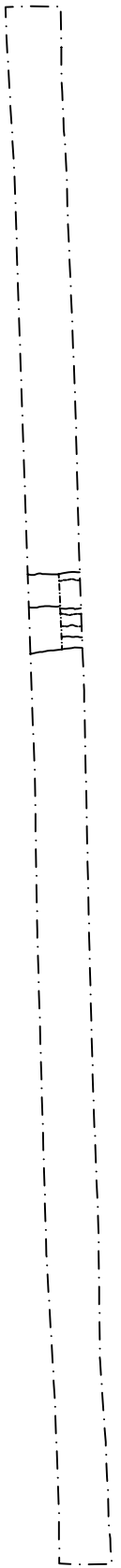


Figure 4: Trench 10



Plate 1: Trench 3 looking north-west



Plate 2: Trench 4 looking north-west



Plate 3 Trench 7 looking east



Plate 4 Trench 9 Gully 905 and recut 907 looking north-east



Plate 5 Trench 9 Gully 905 and Feature 902 looking east



Plate 6 Trench 10 Gully 1003 & recut 1005 looking north-east



Plate 7 Trench 13 looking north-east



Plate 8 Trench 14 looking north



Plate 9 Trench 18 looking east



Plate 10 Trench 22 looking north-east



Plate 11 Trench 25 looking east



Plate 12 Trench 27 looking east



Plate 13 Trench 28 looking south



Plate 14 Trench 31 looking north-west



Plate 15 Trench 33 looking north-west



Plate 16 Trench 35 looking south



Plate 17 Trench 38 looking west



Plate 18 Trench 39 looking north