

AD423

Land at 51 Stannington Station Road

Northumberland

Archaeological Strip & Record



Author	Jonathan McKelvey
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For further information please contact:

AD Archaeology Ltd

South Shields Business Works,
Henry Robson Way,
South Shields,
NE33 1RF

Office: 0191 603 0377

Email: info@adarchaeology.co.uk

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AD Archaeology was commissioned by Altoria Development Ltd to undertake an archaeological strip and record of land at 51 Stannington Station Road prior to the construction of a proposed housing development.

The strip and record followed on from a trenching exercise in which a north-south gully was located that was suspected to be of prehistoric date, given the high density of known prehistoric settlement activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. When the strip and record area was fully opened it became apparent that the gully exposed in the trenching works was in fact post-medieval in date. A second north-south post-medieval gully was located, running parallel to the first gully for a short distance before the two features diverged.

No features of prehistoric date or features of archaeological significance were located. The strip and record has established that the area of the site lies beyond the limits of a former prehistoric enclosure or focus of settlement. A subsequent watching brief had been planned for other areas of the site. However, in view of the negative results from the strip and record area, following discussions with the Northumberland County Archaeology Team, it was agreed that the watching brief would no longer be required. No further archaeological work is required at the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

1.1.1 AD Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Altoria Development Ltd to undertake an archaeological strip and record in advance of a proposed housing development on land at 51 Stannington Station Road, Northumberland. The archaeological works were undertaken in the week commencing 27th February 2023.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site consists of land at 51 Stannington Station Road. The proposed development consists of the construction of six dwelling and associated garages. There are some existing outbuildings and structures in the southern and central portions of the site. The northern portion of the site is open ground surfaced with hardstanding. The majority of the site is enclosed by a tall hedge. The site is centred on NGR NZ 2184 8170 and is c.0.28ha in size.

1.2.2 The bedrock geology of the site comprises Pennine Lower Coal Measures, formation mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 309 to 312 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. The bedrock is overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian glacial till formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2023).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric and Romano/British Periods

2.1.1 There is a density of known and suspected prehistoric settlements within the immediate area, with a cluster of well-defined rectilinear enclosures centred on an area 350m to the south of the site (HER 11700). These were initially observed by MacLauchlan in 1867. At a distance of 400m south of the level crossing the railway line passes through a rectilinear enclosure, 90m by 70m in size (ID 1A; HER 11700). To the north-east of this are two others (ID 1B and 1C; HER 11700) at 50m and 100m distant, the former is 40m by 40m, the latter 60m by 60m. Due east of the latter at 330m distance is a fourth, 90m square with attached annexe to the east (ID 1D; HER 11700). When these were first observed by MacLauchlan each enclosure had a rampart and ditch. An additional site was identified by Jobey in the 1960s (ID 1E; HER 11700). However, these earthworks have been greatly reduced by ploughing in the 20th Century and now are only partially visible as superficial ditches. The two best preserved enclosures have the sub-rectangular form and general proportions of late prehistoric (Iron Age/ Romano-British) rectilinear enclosures, together with the characteristic east-facing entrance. The other three enclosures are more poorly preserved and less distinct, but it seems reasonable to assume that they are broadly contemporary (probably constructed in the late Iron Age period), and that the complex represents extensive settlement activity in the area. A further rectilinear settlement was identified from aerial photographs 250m to the north (ID 1F; HER 11700), 300m south-east of the proposed development. An L-shaped cropmark (ID 19; HER 28663) has subsequently been identified immediately to the east of ID 1F.

2.1.2 In 2005 a pipeline route was cut in between this complex of enclosures. Subsequent to a desk –based assessment (TWM 2003, ID 24; Event 13242) and an evaluation (TWM 2004, ID 25; Event 13329) a route was determined that would minimise the impact to the grouping of prehistoric enclosures. A number of ditches and gullies associated with the prehistoric activity were identified and recorded probably forming elements of late prehistoric/Romano-British field systems. A stone quern was also recovered from the topsoil dating from the Iron Age/Romano-British period. Subsequently a watching brief was carried out along the pipeline route for the Stannington Water Treatment Works in April 2005 (ID 26; Event 13513). A concentration of archaeological features was identified at the northern end of the route.

2.1.3 Three possible cropmarks have been identified from aerial photography in the vicinity of Moor Farm Estate (ID 4; HER 13866; ID 5; HER 13867 and ID 6; HER 13868=28634) ranging between 200-400m in distance from the site. The cropmark (ID 6; HER 13868=28634) is a rectilinear enclosure visible on aerial photographs 200m north-west of the site, cut by the line of the North East Mainline Railway. The western side and parts of the north and south side can be seen, the eastern part of

the enclosure is likely to have been destroyed during the construction of the railway line.

2.1.4 A rectilinear enclosure with internal round house and a ditch to the south (ID 21; HER 28633) are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs 500m west of the site. These features are located in a field to the immediate south of Stannington Station Road and east of Furrow Grove. The enclosure measures approximately 51 by 49m, the round house gully has a diameter of approximately 9m. An evaluation in 2019 by ASDU found well preserved remains of the enclosure and internal features surviving (ID 37; Event 16731).

2.1.5 A rectilinear enclosure (ID 13; HER 22750) has been identified on the basis of aerial photography 900m south-west of the site. A possible enclosure (ID 22; HER 28867) and circular and linear cropmarks (ID 14; HER 22751) have been identified 400m south-west of the site. Linear cropmarks (ID 12; HER 22747) have been identified 650m west of the site.

2.1.6 A small ditch (ID 23; HER 29085) was discovered during evaluation trenching on land east of 63 Stannington Station Road 200m east of the site (ID 35; Event 16401). It was oriented NNW-SSE and a 5m length was exposed. It measured 1.1m wide with an average depth of 0.45m and had a pale grey fill and is thought likely to be of prehistoric origin.

2.2 Medieval Period

2.2.1 The study site lies 2km north of Stannington village, which was probably the main medieval settlement in the immediate area. At a distance of 600m to the north of the site is the deserted medieval village of Hepscoth (HER 11710). To the east of the site was the medieval village of Twisle, first referred to in the Boldon Book of 1183. In view of this density of medieval settlements it is probable that the study site was under arable usage during this period and not built upon.

2.3 Post-Medieval and Victorian Periods

2.3.1 Armstrong's map (1769) is the first to show the study area in some detail. The site lies to the east of East Moor Farm which is shown in the area of modern Stannington Station. The First Ordnance Survey (1866) shows the area of the site in greater detail. The North-Eastern Railway Line (HER 27519) has been constructed by this time and the railway line runs 300m to the east of the site. The Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey 1961 shows the rapid development of the village of Stannington Station during the mid-twentieth century. Terraces and a range of houses and structures are depicted on either side of Station Road, both to east and west of the railway line.

2.4 Archaeological Evaluation

2.4.1 Four evaluation trenches were undertaken in February 2022 (AD Archaeology 2022). A NNE-SSW gully running through Trenches 3-4, in the northern part of the site was located. No dating evidence was recovered from the fill of this gully, which survived as a natural cut feature overlain by topsoil.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objective of the strip and record was to record archaeological features on the site and recover artefactual and ecofactual evidence.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General Methodology

4.1.1 The strip and record 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 strip and record strategy was agreed with the Northumberland County Archaeology Team and was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 2).

5 RESULTS OF THE STRIP AND RECORD

5.1 The strip and record area (35m by 20m in size) located in the northern sector of the site, was excavated to a depth of 0.35m-0.45m BGL to the level of the natural subsoil (1001), which lay at 57.96m -58.05m AOD. The natural subsoil which consisted of a firm yellow clay (1001), was overlain by a black clayey loam topsoil (1000), up to 0.45m in depth and a gravelled surface.

5.2 Two curvilinear gullies (1003 & 1005) were located running south from the northern limit of the site. The gullies (1003 & 1005) ran parallel, 2.30m apart for a short distance before diverging on curvilinear paths, with gully 1003 curving to the west and gully 1005 to the east.

5.3 Gully 1003 (representing gully 304=404 identified in Trenches 3 and 4 of the evaluation) was traced for a distance of 22m through the site and was 0.60m in width and 0.25m in depth. The gully (1003) had concave sides and base and was filled with mixed deposits of brown-grey sandy clay and black silty clay (1002). Four segments up to 2m in length (including those cut in the evaluation trenches 3 and 4) were excavated through the gully. White painted china pottery and fragments of modern brick were recovered from the fill (1002) of the gully, confirming a post-medieval date for the feature.

5.4 Gully 1005 was traced for a distance of 20m through the site and was 0.52m wide and 0.20m in depth. It had concave sides and base and had mixed fills of brown-grey sandy clay and black silty clay (1004). Three segments up to 2m in length were cut through the gully. Sherds of white painted china pottery were recovered from the fill (1004) of the gully, confirming a post-medieval date for the feature.

5.5 Modern postholes, post-pads and brick foundations were located cut through the topsoil (1000) belonging to a number of small 20th Century structures, representing former outbuildings and animal shelters. A modern cattle or horse burial was located in the south-eastern sector of the site.

5.6 No evidence for prehistoric features was located in the stripped area. The natural subsoil was undisturbed apart from in localised areas where fragmentary remains of 20th Century outbuildings and agricultural structures were sited. There was no evidence for deep modern ploughing that would have impacted on potential archaeological features. This lack of significant disturbance means that if deeply set prehistoric features had once been present they would have survived. On the basis of these results it can be concluded that the area of the site lies beyond the limits of the numerous prehistoric enclosures or foci of settlement that are known to have been situated in the area.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The strip and record followed on from a trenching exercise in which a north-south gully was located that was suspected to be of prehistoric date, given the high density of known prehistoric settlement activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. When the strip and record area was fully opened it became apparent that the gully exposed in the trenching works was in fact post-medieval in date. A second north-south post-medieval gully was located, running parallel to the first gully for a short distance before the two features diverged.

6.2 No features of prehistoric date or features of archaeological significance were located. The strip and record has established that the area of the site lies beyond the limits of a former prehistoric enclosure or focus of settlement. A subsequent watching brief had been planned for other areas of the site. However, in view of the negative results from the strip and record area, following discussions with the Northumberland County Archaeology Team, it was agreed that the watching brief would no longer be required. No further archaeological work is required at the site.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AD Archaeology 2021 (McKelvey, J.) Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at 51 Stannington Station Road

AD Archaeology 2022 (McKelvey, J.) Archaeological Evaluation of land at 51 Stannington Station Road

AD Archaeology 2018 (Muncaster, W.) Evaluation Trenching of Land east of 63 Stannington Station Road

AD Archaeology 2019 (McKelvey, J.) Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to 27 Stannington Station Road

ASDU 2018 Land at 26 Stannington Station Road

ASDU 2019 Evaluation Trenching of Land at Stannington Station Road

BGS 2023 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Depth	Description
1000	0.45m	Topsoil
1001	-	Natural subsoil
1002	0.25m	Fill of gully
1003	0.25m	Gully
1004	0.19m	Fill of gully
1005	0.19m	Gully

**APPENDIX 2 : WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION (STRIP,
MAP & RECORD EXCAVATION & WATCHING BRIEF) ON LAND AT 51 STANNINGTON
STATION ROAD, NORTHUMBERLAND**

Planning ref: 21/00085/OUT

1 Introduction

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) represents a methods statement for archaeological mitigation for a residential development. The mitigation will consist of a strip, map and record excavation (green area on Fig 1) and an accompanying watching brief (red area on Fig 1). The proposed development consists of the construction of six dwellings and associated garages on land at 51 Stannington Station Road.

1.2 The proposed development area has previously been subject to archaeological site investigations. These investigations comprise a desk-top-assessment (AD Archaeology 2021) and evaluation trenching (AD Archaeology 2022).

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. The NPPF National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) provides a full statement of Government policies for the identification and protection of the historic environment (Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment). 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 (NPPF 2021 para 8).

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 Having assessed the potential impact of the development on the archaeological resource, Northumberland Conservation has advised Northumberland County Council (NCC) Development Management Team that a condition should be attached to the permission requiring a programme of archaeological mitigation, comprising a strip, map and record excavation and watching brief. This is consistent with the objectives of NPPF paras 199, 54 and 55.

2 Site Location

- 2.1 The site consists of land at 51 Stannington Station Road. The proposed development consists of the construction of six dwellings and associated garages on land at 51 Stannington Station Road. There are currently some existing outbuildings and structures in the southern and central portions of the site. The northern portion of the site is open ground surfaced with hardstanding. The majority of the site is enclosed by a tall hedge. The site is centred on NGR NZ 2184 8170 and is 0.28ha in size.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 A site specific desk top assessment was undertaken to provide contextual information (AD Archaeology 2021) about the site and its environs. There is a notable density of known and suspected prehistoric settlements within the immediate area, with a cluster of well-defined rectilinear enclosures centred on an area 350m to the south of the site (HER 11700). These were initially observed by MacLauchlan in 1867. At a distance of 400m south of the level crossing the railway line passes through a rectilinear enclosure, 90m by 70m in size (HER 11700). To the north-east of this are two others (HER 11700) at 50m and 100m distant, the former is 40m by 40m, the latter 60m by 60m. Due east of the latter at 330m distance is a fourth, 90m square with attached annexe to the east (HER 11700). When these settlements were first observed by MacLauchlan each enclosure had a rampart and ditch. An additional site was identified by Jobey in the 1960s (HER 11700). However, these earthworks have been greatly reduced by ploughing in the 20th Century and now are only partially visible as superficial ditches. The two best preserved enclosures have the sub-rectangular form and general proportions of late prehistoric (Iron Age/ Romano-British) rectilinear enclosures, together with the characteristic east-facing entrance. The other three enclosures are more poorly preserved and less distinct, but it seems reasonable to assume that they are broadly contemporary (probably constructed in the late Iron Age period), and that the complex represents extensive settlement activity in the area. A further rectilinear settlement was identified from aerial photographs 250m to the north (HER 11700), 300m south-east of the proposed development. An L-shaped cropmark (HER 28663) has subsequently been identified immediately to the east of HER 11700.

3.2 In 2005 a pipeline route was cut in between this complex of enclosures. A number of ditches and gullies associated with the prehistoric activity were identified and recorded probably forming elements of late prehistoric/Romano-British field systems. A stone quern was also recovered from the topsoil dating from the Iron Age/Romano-British period. Subsequently a watching brief was carried out along the pipeline route for the Stannington Water Treatment Works in April 2005. A concentration of archaeological features was identified at the northern end of the route.

3.3 Three possible cropmarks have been identified from aerial photography in the vicinity of Moor Farm Estate (HER 13866, HER 13867 and HER 13868=28634) ranging between 200-400m in distance from the site. The cropmark (HER 13868=28634) is a rectilinear enclosure visible on aerial photographs 200m north-west of the site, cut by the line of the North-East Mainline Railway. The western side and parts of the north and south side can be seen, the eastern part of the enclosure is likely to have been destroyed during the construction of the railway line.

3.4 A rectilinear enclosure with internal round house and a ditch to the south (HER 28633) are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs 500m west of the site. These features are located in a field to the immediate south of Stannington Station Road and east of Furrow Grove. The enclosure measures approximately 51 by 49m, the round house gully has a diameter of approximately 9m. An evaluation in 2019 by ASDU found well preserved remains of the enclosure and internal features surviving.

3.5 A rectilinear enclosure (HER 22750) has been identified on the basis of aerial photography 900m south-west of the site. A possible enclosure (HER 28867) and circular and linear cropmarks (HER 22751) have been identified 400m south-west of the site. Linear cropmarks (HER 22747) have been identified 650m west of the site.

3.6 A small ditch (HER 29085) was discovered during evaluation trenching on land east of 63 Stannington Station Road 200m east of the site. It was oriented NNW-SSE and a 5m length was exposed. It measured 1.1m wide with an average depth of 0.45m and had a pale grey fill and is thought likely to be of prehistoric origin.

3.7 The study site lies 2km north of Stannington village, which was probably the main medieval settlement in the immediate area. At a distance of 600m to the north of the site is the deserted medieval village of Hepscott (HER 11710). To the east of the site was the medieval village of Twisle, first referred to in the Boldon Book of 1183. In view of this density of medieval settlements it is probable that the study site was under arable usage during this period and not built upon.

3.8 Armstrong's map (1769) is the first to show the study area in some detail. The site lies to the east of East Moor Farm which is shown in the area of modern Stannington Station. The First Ordnance Survey (1866) shows the area of the site in greater detail. The North-Eastern Railway Line (HER 27519) has been constructed by this time and the railway line runs 300m to the east of the site. The Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey 1961 shows the rapid development of the village of Stannington Station during the mid-twentieth century. Terraces and a range of houses and structures are depicted on either side of Station Road, both to east and west of the railway line.

4 Mitigation Response

4.1. The only feature of archaeological significance located in the evaluation trenching (AD Archaeology 2022) was a 1.05m wide NNE-SSW gully running through Trenches 3-4, in the northern part of the site (projected line shown on Fig 1). No dating evidence was recovered from the fill of this gully, which survived as a natural cut feature overlain by ploughsoils. Given the dense background of prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the site it is most likely that this pre-modern feature is prehistoric in date. It is most probable that the gully represents an external feature lying between settlements, possibly representing a boundary/drainage feature situated in outlying fields. The loss of archaeological features should be mitigated by a programme of investigation and recording in advance of their destruction. This will ensure their 'preservation by record' consistent with the objectives of the NPPF.

4.2 Archaeological excavation and recording in advance of development impact will ensure important archaeological remains are not destroyed without first being adequately recorded.

4.3 Northumberland Conservation has therefore advised that the archaeological mitigation in the vicinity of the linear feature in the northern portion of the site (see Figure 1) should take the form of a programme of 'strip and record' mitigation. A corridor 15m either side of the linear feature (Fig 1) has been defined. This requires that areas of development impact are stripped under archaeological supervision allowing the targeted excavation of a representative sample of archaeological features and deposits.

4.4 Unless otherwise agreed, all archaeological fieldwork on the strip and record area should be completed prior to the commencement of groundworks required for the proposed development. Whilst it may be possible for construction to start on parts of the site where archaeological fieldwork has been completed. This would need to be discussed and agreed with Northumberland Conservation Team.

4.5 Should the strip and record area include areas of modern disturbance which exceed the depth of known natural deposits, Northumberland Conservation will be contacted in order to establish whether the programme of archaeological work need continue in these specific areas.

5 General Standards

5.1 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), will follow the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation and will be in line with the Regional Statement of Good Practice. The archaeological contractor will supply details of appropriate and current insurance to undertake excavations. All staff will be professional archaeologists who are suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. Curriculum vitae will be supplied to the NCCAO for approval on request. 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 aware of the work required under the specification, and must understand the project aims and methodologies.

5.2 Provision will be made for the archaeological contractor to host a short project briefing or 'toolbox talk' prior to any development work on site commencing. The briefing will include a summary of the requirements of the brief and the objectives of the mitigation exercise. Where appropriate reference will be made to the types of archaeological feature / deposits / finds potentially present on site. The objective of the briefing is to ensure that all site operatives understand the scope and purpose of the archaeological mitigation work and the obligations it conveys on the developer and subcontractors. Provision should be made to brief new subcontractors before they commence work on site (or as soon as reasonably possible after they start) and to provide summary updates on the progress of the archaeological work to all site staff at appropriate intervals or following significant discoveries on site.

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6 Strip and Record

6.1 Soil stripping

6.1.1 Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically by machine using a back-acting **wide toothless ditching bucket**, under continuous archaeological supervision.

6.1.2 Should archaeological remains continue outside the area shown in the figure attached further machining will be required so that the full extent of archaeological remains are exposed as per the excavation and Strip, Map and Record contingencies.

6.1.3 The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits.

6.1.4 The full nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits will be exposed.

6.1.5 No machinery will track over areas that have previously been stripped.

6.1.6 The whole area should be cleaned using appropriate hand tools in order to expose the full nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits

6.2 Recording and Excavation

6.2.1 All features exposed will be fully mapped and a site plan prepared before

decisions are made regarding the appropriate level of excavation. The level of excavation and recording required will be agreed with the NCCAO following the initial topsoil strip. The aim of the mitigation is to record all and any archaeological features present on the site and to undertake sufficient intrusive excavation to enable the date, character, form and stratigraphic relationships of archaeological features to be understood. This process will typically involve significantly less intrusive excavation than would be required under full excavation conditions and potentially less than would be required for a strip and record. All excavation will be by hand. All features exposed should be sample excavated. This process will typically require, as a maximum, the following level of sampling:

- 50-100% of every discrete feature and features of particular interest
- 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill
- 5% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill
- All archaeological features and deposits must be excavated by hand
- Additional targeted excavation may also be required in certain locations in the event that stratigraphic relationships or artefactual dating evidence cannot be recovered from archaeological features via the initial sampling process. A contingency allowance will be made for any additional work required under these circumstances.

6.2.2 This work will involve the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified.

6.2.3 In the event of human burials being discovered, they should be left in situ, and covered. If removal is essential, a license will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice and work will be carried out under appropriate environmental health regulations.

6.2.4 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.

6.2.5 During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts and environmental samples will be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this should include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).

6.2.6 The area will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area.

6.2.7 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.

6.2.8 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with an above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

6.2.9 A digital photographic record of all contexts will be taken in digital format. All photographs will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. The photographic record will be sent to ADS York in an approved format to be stored as part of their electronic archive.

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

6.2.11 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for providing environmental or dating evidence. Sampling will be in line with the strategy agreed with English Heritage's Regional Scientific Advisor and NCCAO (Section 8). Any variation from this scheme must be approved by Don O'Meara, NCCAO and representatives of the developer.

7 Contingency arrangements

7.1 In the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of a greater number or extent than anticipated, work will cease and Northumberland Conservation and a representative of the developer will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the remains and any provision for their recording or preservation in situ as appropriate.

7.2 If significant archaeological remains continue beyond the area of the 'strip, map and record' area shown in Figure 1, an assessment should be made of their relative significance as part of a site meeting or monitoring visit. Up to 1 additional days of machine stripping should be allowed to extend the area of the 'strip, map and record' mitigation.

7.3 In the event that such remains require full archaeological 'excavation' (as opposed to rapid excavation and recording as part of the 'strip and record' works), a contingency resource should be allocated to allow this phase of mitigation works. The contingency for this project has been set at up to 10 person-days

7.4 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens (of whatever period, date or function) are identified during the watching brief, provision should be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings sites a minimum of one per building identified). Where applicable, samples are to be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes. In the event that such deposits or structures are identified, NCCAO should be contacted to discuss the appropriate response. This specific aspect of the sampling strategy should also be discussed in advance with English Heritage as per 'General Standards' above.

8 Environmental Sampling

8.1 A broad environmental sampling strategy will be agreed with Don O'Meara (English Heritage Scientific Regional Advisor). After the topsoil stripping and production of a site plan a detailed sampling strategy will then be discussed with the NCCAO and the EH Scientific Regional Advisor.

8.2 The objective of the sampling strategy will be to determine the date and duration of occupation of a site if located and the nature of crops being used.

8.3 Flotation samples will be taken from the complete range of contexts but with the expectation that a subsequent processing strategy be adopted once the plan is finalised, i.e. many more samples should be taken than processed. This marks a reduction from the standard process where there is an expectation to assess all samples taken. In the current case it may not be obvious during excavation which contexts will be suitable to address the questions under consideration. Priority will 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). Charcoal should be appropriately sampled and stored for radiocarbon dating.

8.4 Regarding scientific work on the site, the prime aim, due to the truncation of archaeological deposits, will be to retrieve material which would date any sites located. This can be achieved by taking 30-litre samples of whole earth from secure albeit shallow contexts and processing by flotation to retrieve charred material – either cereal grains or wood charcoal from short-lived material (twigs and the like). The samples will need careful selection subsequent to excavation to ensure their provenance is from areas remote from inter-cutting features risking contamination.

8.5 Other targeted samples can potentially address the question regarding species of wheat or other details regarding the cereal economy of the site. Such contexts could include the butt ends of gullies and ditches where material regularly seems to have been deposited as well as any pits or surviving remnants of occupation layers.

8.6 Bulk sample residues will 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 pollen cores or Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating will be considered, although this type of sampling would normally be undertaken in consultation with the Regional Scientific Advisor.

8.7 Given the clay-rich nature of the sediments, which will require considerable time to process the material adequately, it should be acceptable to process and assess 10-litre sub-samples from a larger number of samples in the first instance but a minimum volume of 30-litre samples must be taken wherever possible. This will allow for further potential processing (costs for which would need including in

subsequent analytical stages) in order to produce statistically significant data sets post-analysis. Any remaining samples should be kept until the completion of the project in case they prove to be useful in answering questions that may arise during the post-excavation process.

8.8 The selection of suitable deposits for sampling will be confirmed at site meetings with the NCCAO. 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 Watching Brief

9.1 The watching brief (red on Fig. 1) involves archaeological monitoring of the groundworks required for the proposed development beyond the area of the strip and record.

9.2 This observation shall involve the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, deposits, fabric, and artefacts identified

9.3 If archaeological remains or historic features are uncovered, the archaeologist should be given the opportunity of investigating/ excavating and recording the remains before they are destroyed or removed

9.4 Provision should be made within the project timetable to excavate and record any archaeological features exposed by the demolition work which would otherwise be destroyed by the demolition programme.

9.5 Soil stripping by machine during the watching brief will be undertaken as per section 6.1 above. Excavation and recording during the watching brief will be undertaken to the same standards as set out in section 6.2 above, with the proviso that less intrusive excavation than would be required under the watching brief than that required for the strip and record area. Environmental sampling will be undertaken as per section 8 above.

9.6 All work will be carried out in compliance with the Regional Statement of Good Practice and codes of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and will follow the IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

10 Post excavation work, report production and archive

10.1 Finds

10.1.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds must be carried out in compliance with the CiFA Guidelines and submitted in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment.

10.1.2 The deposition and disposal of artefacts must be agreed with the legal owner and the Great North Museum prior to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts adequate provision must be made for recording them. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer. The site archive and the finds and the research archive must be deposited in the Great North museum or archive, within 6 months of completion of the post-excavation work

10.1.3 All retained artefacts must be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the Great North Museum.

10.1.4 All finds and environmental samples should be processed and subsequently analysed by appropriate specialists as part of the post-excavation assessment.

10.1.5 The Specialist identification and analysis should include as a minimum and where appropriate.

- Pottery and ceramic building material
- Bone
- Flint
- Metal work
- Industrial debris
- Environmental micro and macro fossils
- Residue analysis
- Radiocarbon dating
- Any other analysis identified as necessary during the fieldwork or post-excavation work

10.1.6 In order to avoid unnecessary sample processing, NCC Conservation Team and the Historic England Regional Science Adviser should be contacted to agree the sample processing strategy. In the majority of cases, the whole environmental sample should be processed. Sub-sampling should only be carried out following discussions with and the agreement of the Historic England Science Adviser.

10.2 Reporting

10.2.1 A post-excavation archive report will be prepared to the following standards:

Three digital copies will be submitted:

- one copy to the commissioning client
- one for the planning authority (Northumberland County Council) which must be formally submitted by the developer with the appropriate fee
- one for deposition in the County HER to the NCCAO.

10.2.2 The report will have each page and paragraph numbered and illustrations cross referenced within the text. All drawn work should be to publication standard.

The report will include as a minimum the following:

- OASIS reference number and an 8 figure grid reference.
- An executive summary
- A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
- A location plan of the extent of the works within the site. This will be at a suitable scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Sites and Monuments Record
- Plans and sections of archaeology located
- A site narrative – interpretative, structural and stratigraphic history of the site
- A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
- Photographs of the site, showing the location of groundworks in context and any archaeological features that are revealed.
- Contractor’s details, including dates the work was carried out, the nature and extent of the work.
- Description of the site location and geology
- Artefact reports – full text, descriptions and illustrations of finds
- Laboratory reports and summaries of dating and environmental data, with collection methodology
- A consideration of the results of the field work within the wider research

context (ref. NERRF)

- Recommendations for analysis of finds or environmental samples
- Copy of this Project Design
- Any variation to the above requirements will be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted

10.2.3 Northumberland Conservation will need to approve the report before discharging the condition on the planning permission.

10.2.4 Dependent on the results of the fieldwork a Post-Excavation Assessment Report and Updated Project Design for full analysis and publication may be required. These would only be required if it was decided appropriate by the Northumberland County Archaeologist. If these reports became necessary the archaeological contractor would submit an updated specification for full analysis and publication in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment.

11 Publication

11.1 If the results of the archaeological mitigation are of sufficient interest an appropriate level of publication will be agreed with the Northumberland Conservation Team and will be prepared in line with the approved project design and Sections 7 and 8 and Appendix 7 in English Heritage's Guidelines on the Management of Archaeological Projects.

11.2 The publication article would be submitted within one year of the approval of the Updated Project Design for full analysis and publication, unless previously agreed with all relevant parties. A summary will also be prepared for "Archaeology in Northumberland".

11.3 Northumberland Conservation Team will require confirmation that the publication report has been submitted in a satisfactory form to an appropriate journal before recommending to the local planning authority that the condition should be fully discharged.

12 OASIS

12.1 Northumberland Conservation Team supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. 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 contractor will therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> and will contact Northumberland HER prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Northumberland HER will validate the OASIS form

thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

13 Monitoring

13.1 Northumberland Conservation Team will be informed on the start date and timetable for the watching brief in advance of work commencing. Reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme will be afforded to the Northumberland Conservation Team or his/her nominee at all times. Regular communication between the contractor, the Northumberland Conservation Team and other interested parties will be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

14 Bibliography

AD Archaeology 2021 (McKelvey, J.) Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at 51 Stannington Station Road

AD Archaeology 2021 (McKelvey, J.) Archaeological Evaluation of land at 51 Stannington Station Road

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation

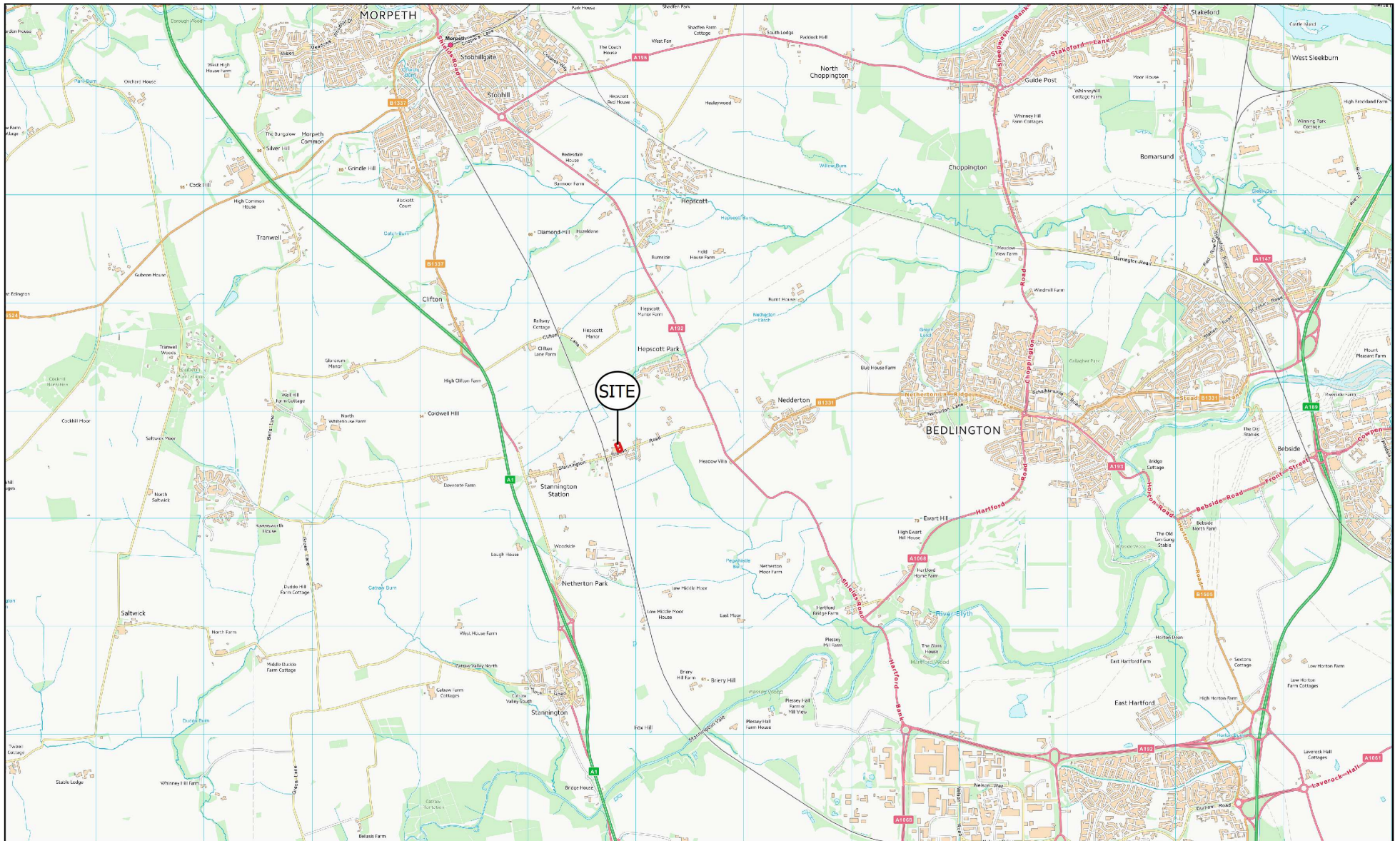
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014c, Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials


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Department for Communities and Local Government: National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), March 2012.

Historic England, 2015. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process (25 November 2009)



 <p>AD Archaeology Ltd</p>	<p>0 1 2 km</p> <p>scale: 1:50,000</p> <p>Contains OS data © Crown copyright 2022</p>	<p>Figure 1: General location of site</p>
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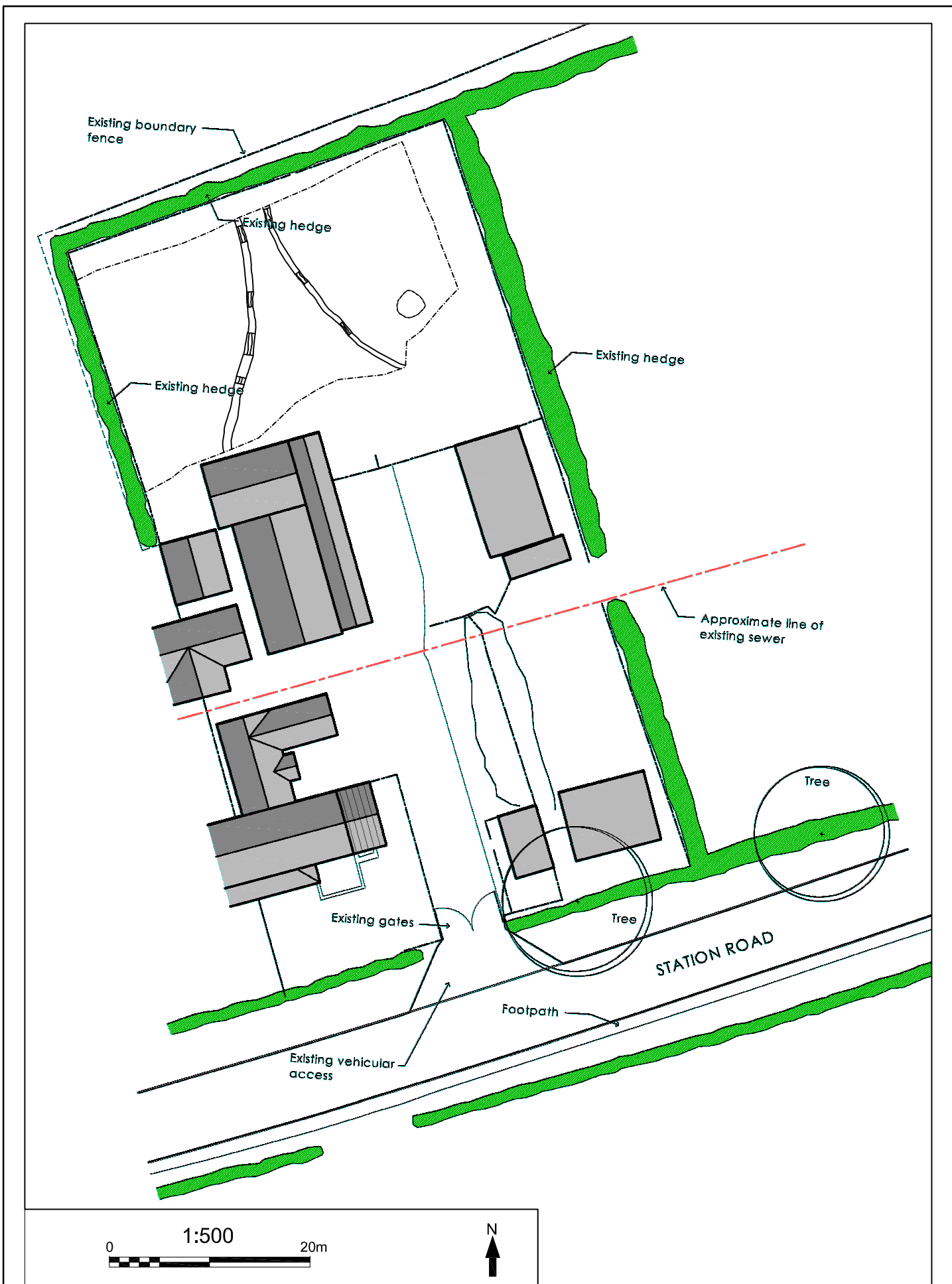


Figure 2: Detailed location of works

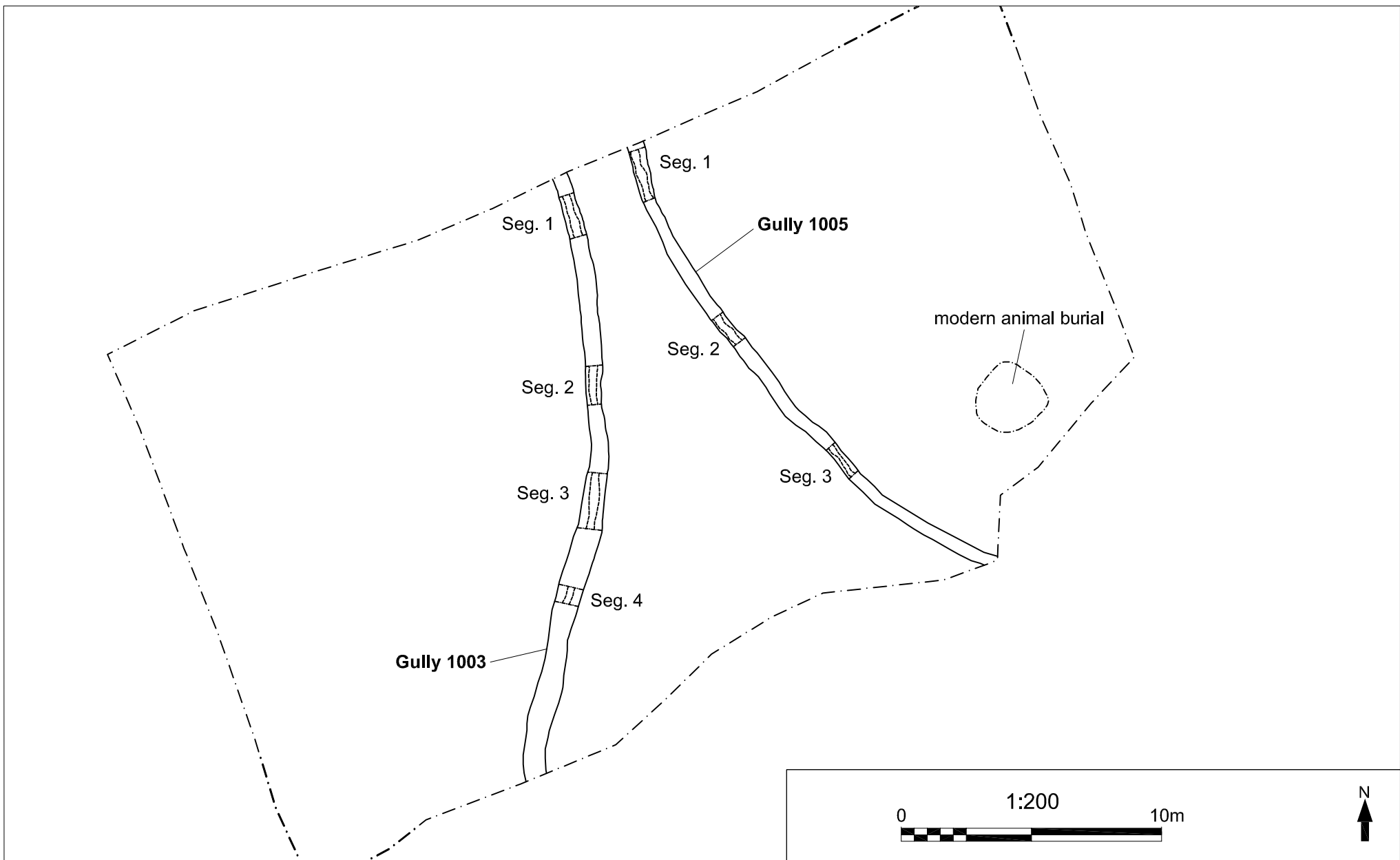


Figure 3: Plan of Strip & Record area



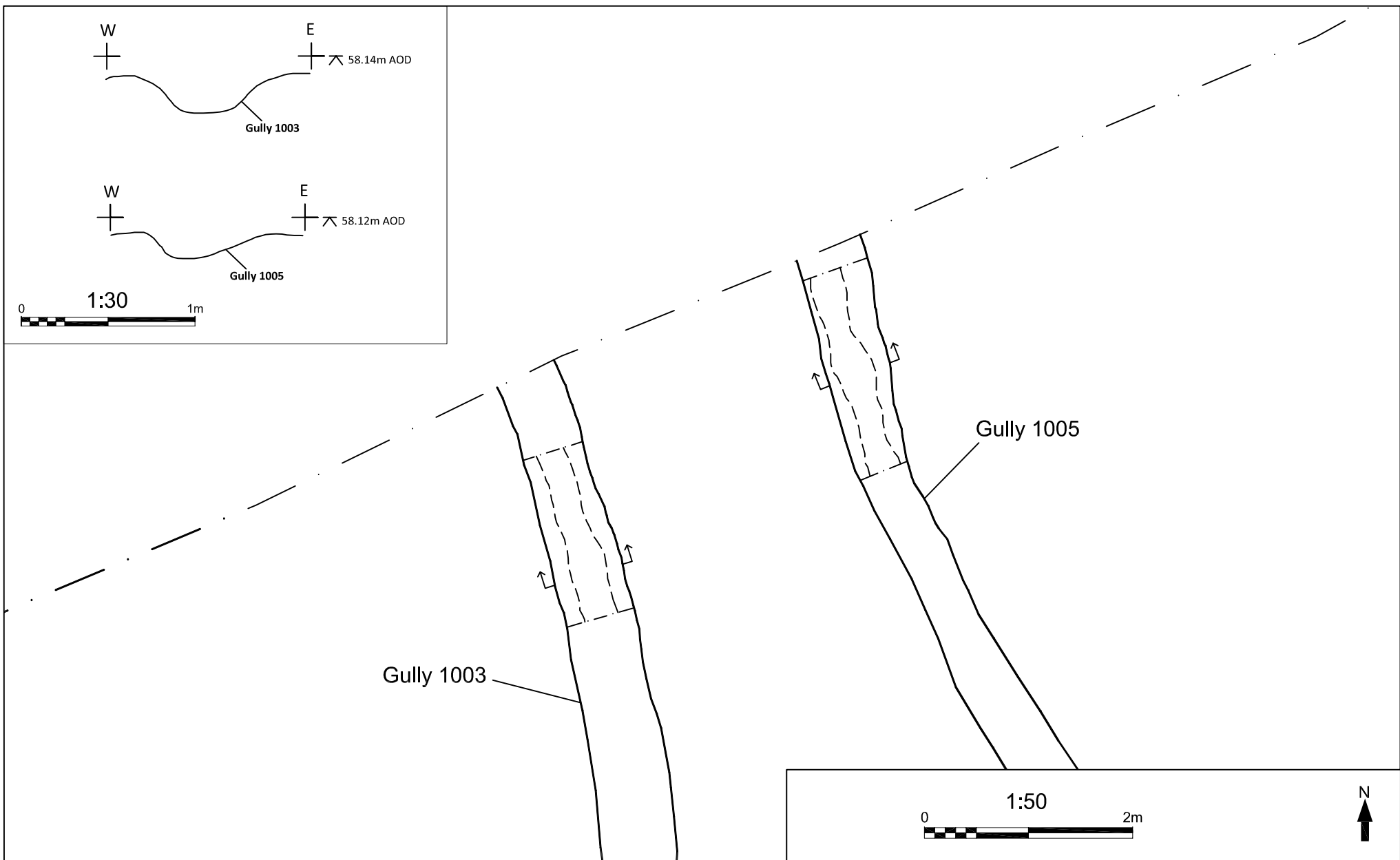


Figure 4: Detail of Segments 1 excavated through Gullies (1003) and (1005)



Plate 1: Gully 1003 Segment 1 looking south



Plate 2: Gully 1005 Segment 1 looking south

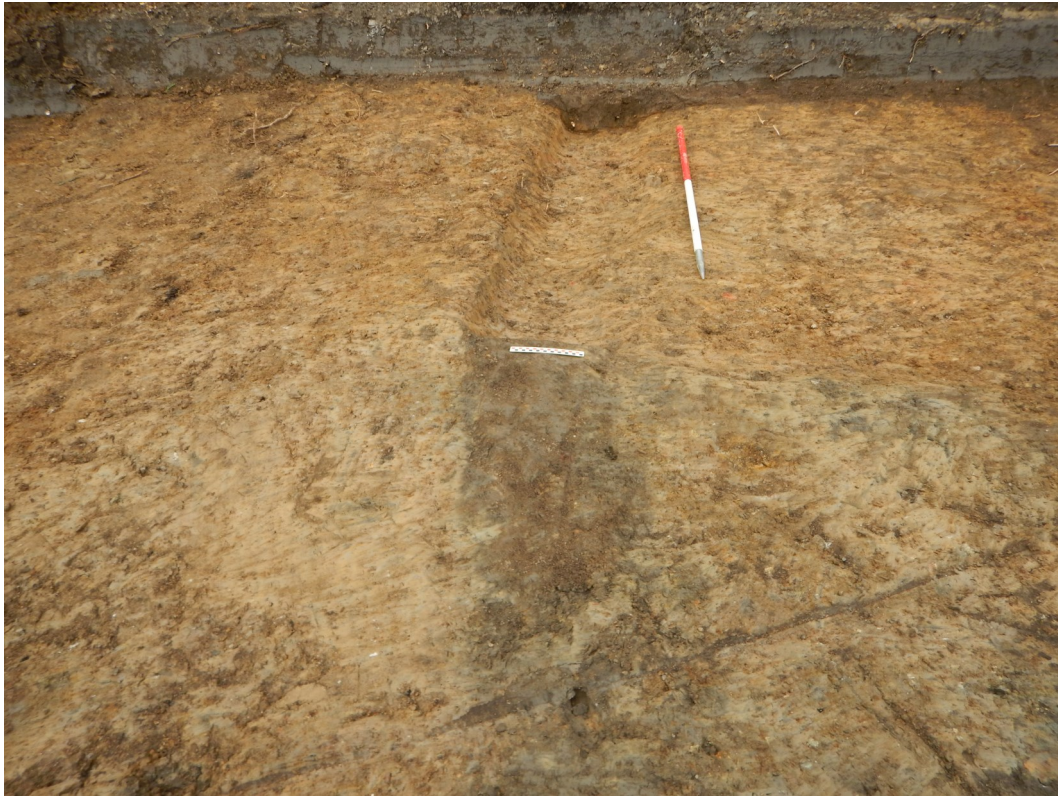


Plate 3 Gully 1005 Segment 1 looking north

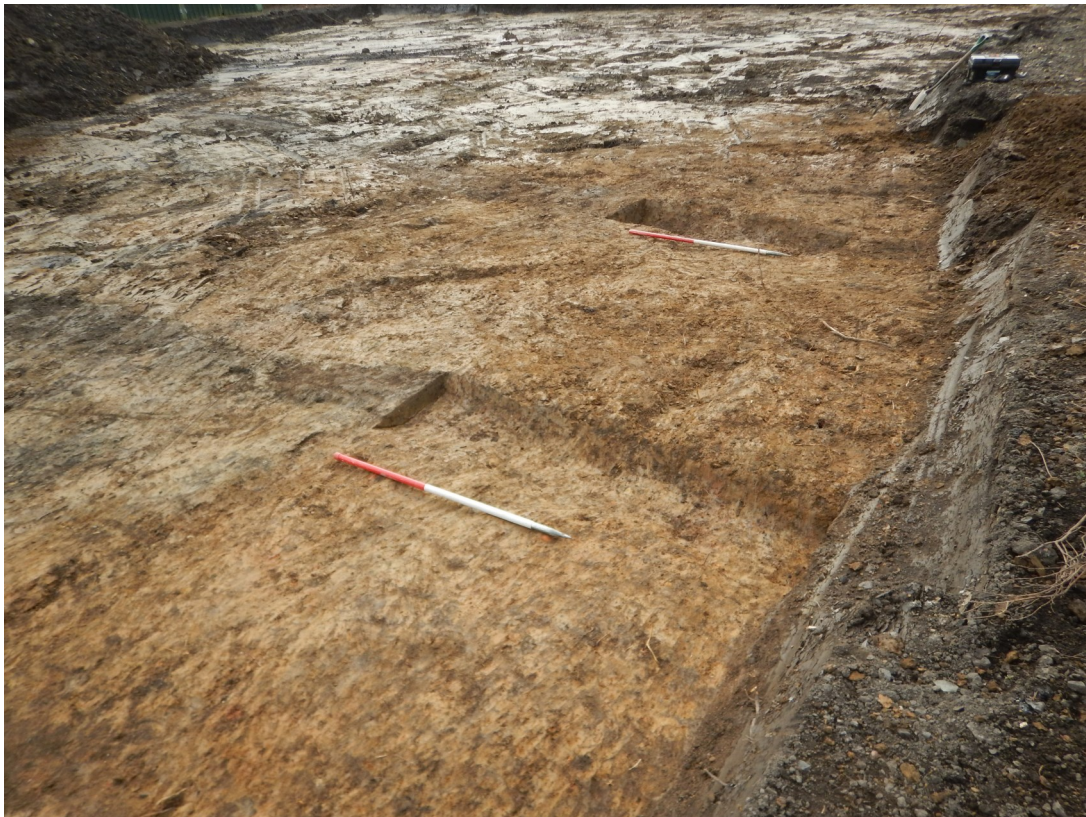


Plate 4 Gullies 1005 & 1003 Segments 1 looking south-west



Plate 5 Gullies 1003 & 1005 Segments 1 looking south-east



Plate 6 Gullies 1003 & 1005 looking north



Plate 7 Gully 1005 looking south



Plate 8 Gully 1003 looking north



Plate 9 Strip & Record Area looking south-east



Plate 10 Strip & Record Area looking south-west