

CONISTON VIEW, ALDINGHAM, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Evaluation



Client: Pure Leisure Ltd

Planning Application Ref.:
SL/2020/0388

NGR:
327442 470223 (centre)

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June 2022



The Site	
Site Name	Coniston View, Aldingham
County	Cumbria
NGR	327442 470223 (centre)

Client	
Client Name	Pure Leisure Ltd

Planning	
Pre-planning?	No
Planning Application No.	SL/2020/0388
Proposed development	Change of use of land to allow the siting of 50 touring caravans, welfare building and associated infrastructure at Doe Wood Lodges (resubmission of SL/2019/1009)
Condition number	6
Local Planning Authority	South Lakeland District Council
Planning Archaeologist	Jeremy Parsons, Cumbria County Council

Archaeological work	
Desk-based assessment done as previous phase of work?	No
Geophysical survey done as previous phase of work?	Yes
Approximate number and dimensions of trenches proposed	Seven trenches 20m long and one trench 30m long

Archiving	
Relevant Record Office(s)/Archive Centre(s)	Barrow-in-Furness
Relevant HER	Cumbria
Relevant Museum	Dock Museum, Barrow-in-Furness

Staffing	
Desk-based assessment	Dan Elsworth
Site work	Dan Elsworth, Tom Mace
Report writing	Dan Elsworth
Report editing	Jo Dawson
Illustrations	Tom Mace
Date(s) site work carried out	17 th – 18 th May 2022

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Contents

Illustrations.....	2
List of Figures.....	2
List of Plates.....	2
Summary.....	3
Acknowledgements.....	3
1. Introduction.....	4
1.1 Circumstances of the Project.....	4
1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography.....	4
2. Methodology.....	6
2.1 Desk-Based Assessment.....	6
2.2 Archaeological Evaluation.....	6
2.3 Finds.....	6
2.4 Environmental Samples.....	6
2.5 Archive.....	7
3. Desk-Based Assessment.....	8
3.1 Introduction.....	8
3.2 Map Regression.....	8
3.3 Site History.....	9
4. Fieldwork Results.....	11
4.1 Trench 1.....	11
4.2 Trench 2.....	11
4.3 Trench 3.....	13
4.4 Trench 4.....	13
4.5 Trench 5.....	14
4.6 Trench 6.....	15
4.7 Trench 7.....	16
4.8 Trench 8.....	17
4.9 Finds.....	21
5. Discussion.....	22
5.1 Results.....	22
5.2 Significance.....	23
6. Bibliography.....	24
6.1 Primary and Cartographic Sources.....	24
6.2 Secondary Sources.....	24
Appendix 1: Project Design.....	26
Appendix 2: Summary Context List.....	32
Appendix 3: Summary Finds List.....	33

Illustrations

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location	5
Figure 2: Trench plan overlaid on interpretation of magnetic gradient data.....	19
Figure 3: Trench plan.....	20

List of Plates

Plate 1 (left): Pre-excavation view of the site from the north-west	4
Plate 2 (right): Pre-excavation view of the site from the north.....	4
Plate 3 (left): Pre-excavation view of the site from the south-west.....	4
Plate 4 (right): Pre-excavation view of the area of Trench 8 from the north-west	4
Plate 5 (left): Extract from the Tithe map of 1846.....	8
Plate 6 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1851	8
Plate 7 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1891.....	9
Plate 8 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913	9
Plate 9 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1933.....	9
Plate 10 (right): Lidar imagery of the site.....	9
Plate 11 (left): Trench 1 viewed from the south-east.....	11
Plate 12 (right): Trench 1 viewed from the north-west.....	11
Plate 13 (left): Trench 2 viewed from the south.....	12
Plate 14 (right): Trench 2 viewed from the north	12
Plate 15: Extension to Trench 2, viewed from the east	12
Plate 16 (left): Trench 3 viewed from the south-west	13
Plate 17 (right): Trench 3 viewed from the north-east	13
Plate 18 (left): Trench 4 viewed from the north	14
Plate 19 (right): Trench 4 viewed from the south.....	14
Plate 20 (left): Trench 5 viewed from the north	15
Plate 21 (right): Trench 5 viewed from the south.....	15
Plate 22 (left): Trench 6 viewed from the north	16
Plate 23 (right): Trench 6 viewed from the south.....	16
Plate 24 (left): Trench 7 viewed from the north	17
Plate 25 (right): Trench 7 viewed from the south.....	17
Plate 26 (left): Trench 8 viewed from the north	18
Plate 27 (right): Trench 8 viewed from the south.....	18
Plate 28 (left): Extant linear earthwork in field to the east of the site	22
Plate 29 (right): Stone bank field boundary to the east side of Area 1	22

Summary

Following submission of a planning application to extend Doe Wood Lodges, a luxury lodge park near Ulverston, Cumbria, an archaeological evaluation was carried out by Greenlane Archaeology. This followed on from geophysical survey of the site in March 2022. The evaluation comprised the excavation of eight trenches that targeted possible features of archaeological interest identified by the geophysical survey. The evaluation took place in May 2022.

The site is located within an area of general archaeological interest, with activity from the end of the last Ice Age onwards. A burnt mound of Bronze Age date was found immediately to the west and the Scheduled Aldingham Motte is a short distance to the east. Maps of the area showed that the area has been open fields since at least the mid-19th century and these indicate that it was initially part of a park of probable medieval origin.

The same sequence of thin deposits of topsoil and subsoil above the clay geology was encountered in seven of the eight trenches, the eighth was similar but slightly thicker due to later redeposited material. The natural geological layer was typically around 0.3m below the surface, with only slight variation in the thickness and composition of overlying deposits.

No archaeological features were observed in the locations identified as being of potential interest through interpretation of the geophysical survey data. Variations in the magnetic gradient data may have resulted from slight variations in the underlying natural geology and elsewhere the interpretation of the data may have identified the continuation of a stone bank/field boundary, visible above ground in the field to the east, of which no below ground remains were observed in any of the trenches which targeted this feature.

A small collection of pieces of chert, probably of local origin and perhaps deriving from tool manufacture in the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic, were recovered in three trenches all located close to the crest of the hill. However, the lack of any associated features and the generally shallow nature of deposits means that these are of limited significance and indicative of the sort of general background activity that has been found across the wider area.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Pure Leisure for commissioning the project, in particular David Owen for his information about the site. Special thanks are due to Will Morphet for operating the plant, and Helen Evans at Oxford Archaeology North for providing a useful reference.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 The circumstances of the project are set out in the tables on the inside cover of this report.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site at Coniston View is around 8km south of Ulverston. It is c1km south-west of the village of Aldingham on the A5067 on the coast of Morecambe Bay (Figure 1). The wider area is characterised by undulating farmland of pasture divided by hedgerows (e.g. Countryside Commission 1998, 69). The site is situated at approximately 10m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2005).

1.2.2 The site is on the boundary between an area of Namurian millstone grit to the south-west and Carboniferous limestone to the north-east (Moseley 1978, plate 1), which is typically overlain by glacial deposits of boulder clay, although these have been much affected by inundations caused by changing sea levels (Countryside Commission 1998, 72).

1.2.3 The site itself occupies parts of two fields. Trenches 1 to 7 are located within a large open field used for grazing sheep (Area 1; Plate 1 to Plate 3) and Trench 8 is set within an area, which appeared to have been landscaped, to the east side of the entrance road to Doe Wood Lodges at Colt Park (Area B; Plate 4).



Plate 1 (left): Pre-excitation view of the site from the north-west



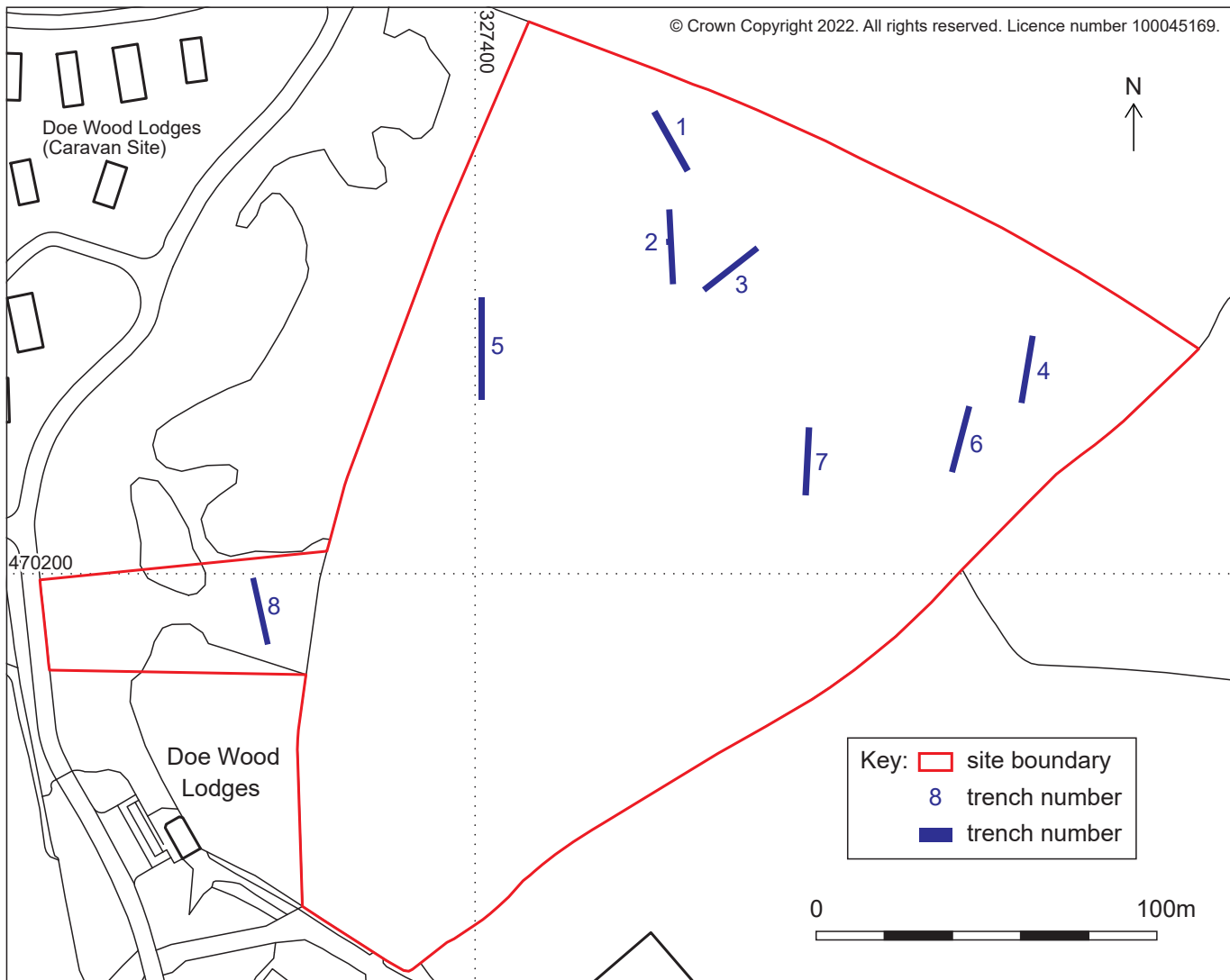
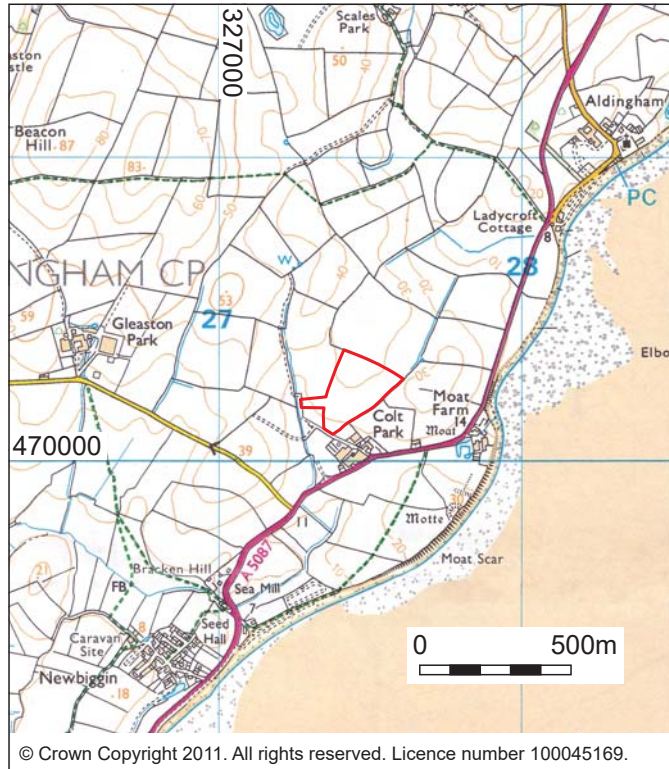
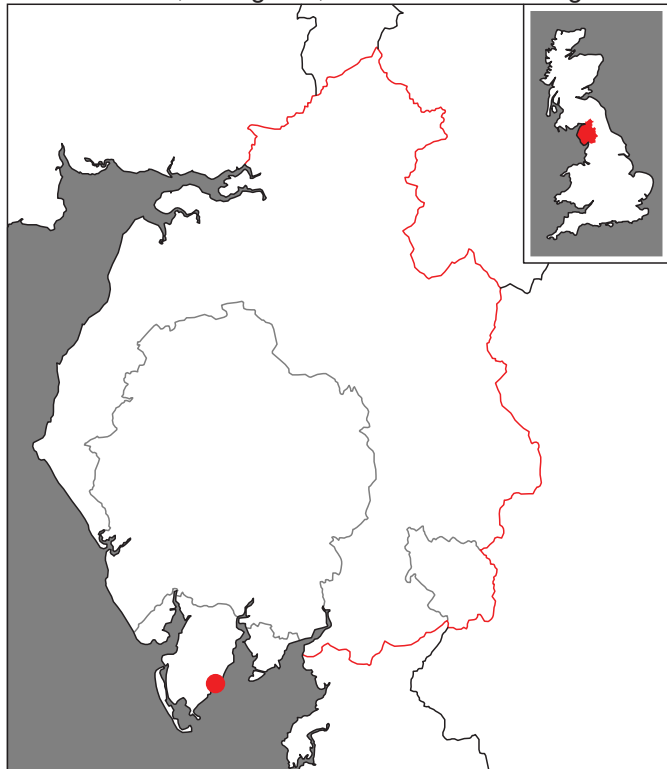
Plate 2 (right): Pre-excitation view of the site from the north



Plate 3 (left): Pre-excitation view of the site from the south-west



Plate 4 (right): Pre-excitation view of the area of Trench 8 from the north-west



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Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a). This principally comprised examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

- **Online Resources:** where available relevant sources were consulted online;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library:** additional secondary sources were examined to provide information for the site background.

2.2 Archaeological Evaluation

2.2.1 The evaluation was carried out according to the standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b) and comprised the excavation of eight evaluation trenches. These targeted features of potential archaeological interest identified by interpretation of the geophysical survey data (Phase Site Investigations Ltd 2022). Each trench was approximately 1.8m wide and 20m long apart from Trench 5, which was c30m long. The area of trenching totalled c315m². Excavation was discontinued once the natural geology was reached, which was typically around 0.3m below the ground surface at a height of between 19m and 38m above sea level.

2.2.2 The topsoil was removed using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket and underlying deposits were cleaned and further investigated by hand. All finds were collected from all deposits, as far as was practical. The following recording techniques were used during the evaluation:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all deposits and features (see *Appendix 2*) were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets, specifically trench record sheets;
- **Photographs:** photographs in colour digital format (both 12 meg JPEG and RAW file format) were taken of the site during the evaluation, including general views of the site, the surrounding landscape, and working shots. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report and the remainder are included in the archive. A written record of all of the photographs was also made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets (Greenlane Archaeology 2007);
- **GPS:** the trenches were located using a Juniper Geode GNS2, which is accurate to below 1m. Levels above Ordnance Datum were also provided using the same GPS, again accurate to below 1m.

2.3 Finds

2.3.1 **Collection:** all of the finds were recovered by hand and stored in self-seal bags with white write-on panels on site before being removed for processing and assessment.

2.3.2 **Processing:** all of the artefacts recovered from the watching brief were washed, with the exception of metal objects, which were dry-brushed. They were then naturally air-dried and packaged appropriately in self-seal bags with white write-on panels.

2.3.3 **Assessment and recording:** the finds were assessed and identified in the first instance by Jo Dawson. The finds were recorded directly into the catalogue produced as part of this report (*Appendix 3*).

2.4 Environmental Samples

2.4.1 No environmental samples were collected as no suitable deposits were encountered during the evaluation.

2.5 Archive

2.5.1 The archive of the project will be deposited with the relevant Record Office or Archive Centre, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report, together with a copy of the report. The archive has been compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014c). In addition, details will be submitted to the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public. A copy of the report will be provided to the client and a digital copy of the report will be provided for the relevant Historic Environment Record, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The desk-based assessment is intended to place the results of the evaluation in their local historical and archaeological context and primarily involved the examination of early maps and consultation of published histories of the area.

3.2 Map Regression

3.2.1 **Introduction:** although there are early, typically county-wide, maps that include the area, they are generally very small scale and so the first useful maps of the area are from the mid-19th century. As a result, it is maps from that date onwards that are discussed below.

3.2.2 **Tithe Plan, 1846:** the site occupies part of a large field (NA IR 30/18/7 1846). The accompanying tithe apportionment records that plot 636, 'Low Park', was owned by the Earl of Burlington and occupied by Thomas Coward Junior (NA IR 29/18/7 1846).

3.2.3 **Ordnance Survey, 1851:** a track is marked along the south-east edge of the site (Plate 6).



Plate 5 (left): Extract from the Tithe map of 1846

Plate 6 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1851

3.2.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1891:** the track shown on the 1851 edition is no longer shown and a pond is marked at the south end of the site (Plate 7; cf. Plate 6).

3.2.5 **Ordnance Survey, 1913:** the site appears unchanged (Plate 8; cf. Plate 7).

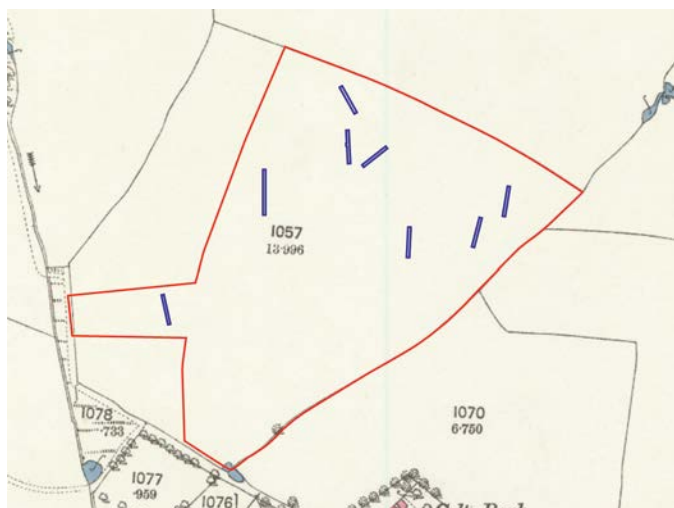


Plate 7 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1891

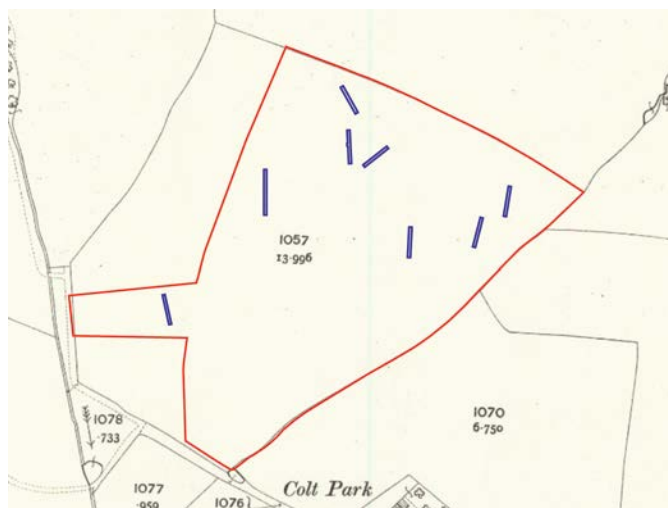


Plate 8 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913

3.2.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1933:** the site appears unchanged (Plate 9; cf. Plate 8).

3.2.7 **Lidar:** lidar imagery of the site shows parallel lines of ridge and furrow across the site (houseprices.io 2022; Plate 10).

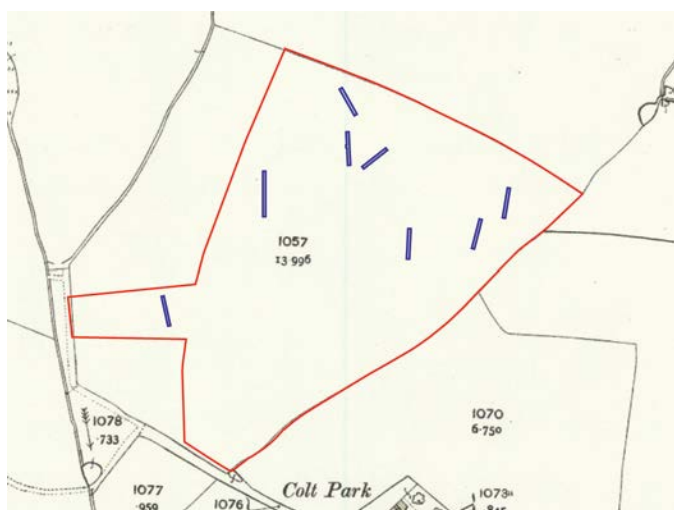


Plate 9 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1933



Plate 10 (right): Lidar imagery of the site

3.3 Site History

3.3.1 **Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1st century AD):** the area is rich in archaeological remains and some of the earliest recorded in the county, dating to the period immediately after the last Ice Age, has been recorded in caves near Scales (Young 2002). Probable prehistoric urn burials, perhaps of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, are known to have been found near Aldingham in the early 19th century (Close in West 1805, 392; these are thought to have been discovered close to Colt Park Farm (HER No. 2612). A recent evaluation nearby for a previous element of the same site failed to find any evidence for such deposits (Headland Archaeology 2006), but did subsequently discover a burnt mound, a pile of fire-cracked stones thought to be used for cooking or as a form of 'sauna', dated to Bronze Age (Headland Archaeology 2008). At about the same time another burnt mound, was excavated on the edge of the village (Morecambe Bay Archaeological Society 2006). In addition, it has been reported that during installation of a silage tank at Moat Farm a 'wall of deer skulls' was discovered; this is likely to be the result of natural phenomena whereby animal remains are deposited in water and gather at certain points,

but research on such collections has shown that they are often of great antiquity (Turner *et al* 2002). Remains from the following Iron Age are less common, although a 'hillfort' at Skelmore Heads that was partially excavated in the 1950s (Powell 1963) probably belongs to this period. There were perhaps several more such enclosures in the local area and one has possibly been identified on Hoad near Ulverston (Elsworth 2005).

3.3.2 Romano-British to Early Medieval Period (1st century AD – 11th century AD): there have been occasional finds of Roman coins and other items from the general area that indicate a considerable degree of contact following the conquest (Shotter 1995), but evidence has yet to be confirmed of settlement in the area from the period. There has been discussion about the likelihood of Roman military occupation in the Cartmel and Furness Peninsulas for some time (Elsworth 2007), and while there is some evidence it is not entirely convincing.

3.3.3 The early medieval period is not well represented in the area in terms of physical archaeological remains, which is a common situation throughout the county. The local area as a whole has a complex mixture of place-names of Brittonic, Anglian (Old English), and Norse type, suggesting that the early medieval period was a time of dynamic and rapid population change (Edmonds 2013). Again, physical evidence for settlement of this date is very limited. The place-name evidence also indicates the same range of influences, with Aldingham first recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 (Ekwall 1922, 208).

3.3.4 Medieval Period (11th century AD – 16th century AD): the village of Aldingham is known to have at least medieval origins and is mentioned in the Domesday Book (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 321), although the exact extent of the village at this time is uncertain. However, the closest significant site of medieval date to the site is a motte less than 0.5km to the east, associated with which is what is thought to be a slightly later moated manor house site, both of which are Scheduled Monuments, and between which are other earthworks. The moat was traditionally thought to have originated in the 11th century as a result of the le Fleming family being granted land in the area following the Norman Conquest (Kelly 1924, 276-277; Stewart 1969; Anon 1968; Higham 1991). They seem to have abandoned it during the 12th or 13th century and established a new home at the moated manor house (*ibid*). This too was ultimately abandoned as the family's descendants eventually moved to a stone castle at Gleaston Castle (Kelly 1924, 277). A recent reassessment of the archive produced during excavations in the late 1960s has confirmed that it primarily dates to the 12th century, but with possible evidence for earlier activity (Elsworth and Mace 2015).

3.3.5 Throughout the medieval period, and no doubt before, Aldingham has had a difficult relationship with the sea, and flooding has led to the loss of a great deal of the village. Legend has it that a large part of the village was washed away, and that the church originally stood near its centre. There is some historical evidence for this being the case, as on several occasions during the 1550s Aldingham was severely damaged by the sea, to the extent that the wall surrounding the churchyard was washed away in 1555 and 1558. This seems to have been part of a more widespread period of flooding, which caused considerable damage to the coasts of Furness and Walney Island at this time. At least one midden comprising fish bones and shells thought to be of medieval date has been exposed on the shore to the north of Moat Farm (Appley 2015), and this may add credence to the suggestion that much of the village was lost to the sea.

3.3.6 The only other medieval remains recorded in the vicinity of the site are part of an arch built into a granary at Colt Park Farm (HER No. 2336), although it is thought to have come from Furness Abbey and is therefore not in its original location (Anon 1948, 12). The name of the Colt Park Farm and the field in which the evaluation took place, 'Low Park' (see *Section 3.2.2* above), indicates that the area formed part of a park of presumably medieval origin. It is recorded that Furness Abbey held Colt Park in 1512 but it is not clear who first established a park there, the manor of Aldingham being an important local land holding in its own right (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 302).

3.3.7 Post-medieval Period (16th century AD – present): agriculture remained the chief industry of the parish during this period, with some fishing for cockles and mussels in Morecambe Bay (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 256). One of the major additions since the medieval period was the construction of Aldingham Hall in the early 19th century by the Rector, John Stonard (Greenlane Archaeology 2006, 15). This was originally intended to be for his retirement; however, following an incident crossing the sands of

Morecambe Bay, in which his servant Edward Jones Schollick saved his life, it was left to him and his family (*ibid*). Scollick went on to become involved in ship building in Ulverston as well as a number of enterprises before finally immigrating to Australia (*ibid*). Indeed, throughout the post-medieval period the most historically interesting events to occur in Aldingham all centred on the rectory, which always attracted well-connected and wealthy rectors and therefore some important visitors, including William Wordsworth, Queen Victoria, and Margaret Thatcher (*op cit*, 16).

4. Fieldwork Results

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 This trench was aligned approximately north-west/south-east (Plate 11 and Plate 12). The topsoil (**100**) was a pale greyish-brown silt, less than 0.2m thick, on top of a pale orange, firm, silty clay subsoil (**101**). The subsoil was c0.1m thick above the firm mid-orange clay natural (**102**), which included c30% rounded gravel, with some more noticeably gravelly patches, which is most likely what was revealed in the geophysical survey.

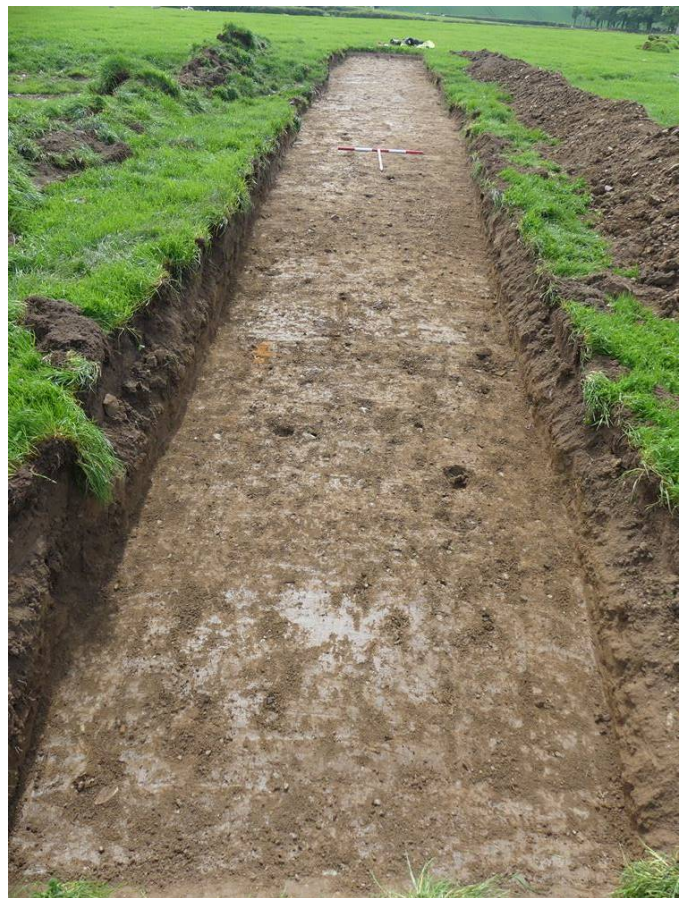


Plate 11 (left): Trench 1 viewed from the south-east

Plate 12 (right): Trench 1 viewed from the north-west

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 This trench was aligned north/south (Plate 13, Plate 14 and Plate 15). The pale grey-orange soft silt topsoil (**200**) was up to 0.2m thick on top of a firm orange brown silt subsoil (**201**), 0.1m thick. The natural (**202**), a firm mid orange clay with 40% rounded gravel, was encountered at a depth of c0.3m. An additional section was excavated to the west side of the trench to check for the anomaly detected by geophysical survey, but no feature was observed.

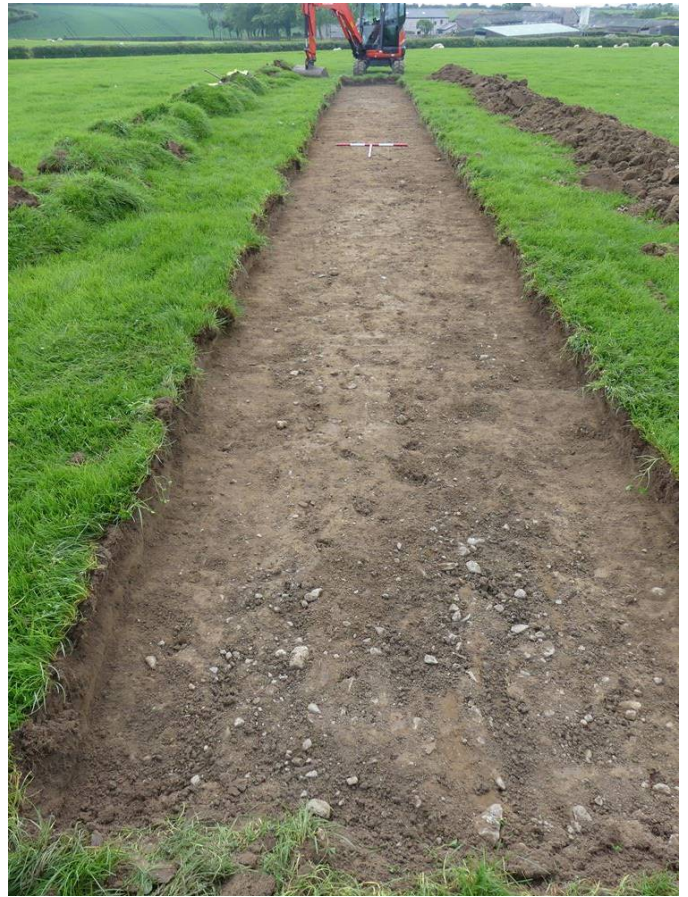
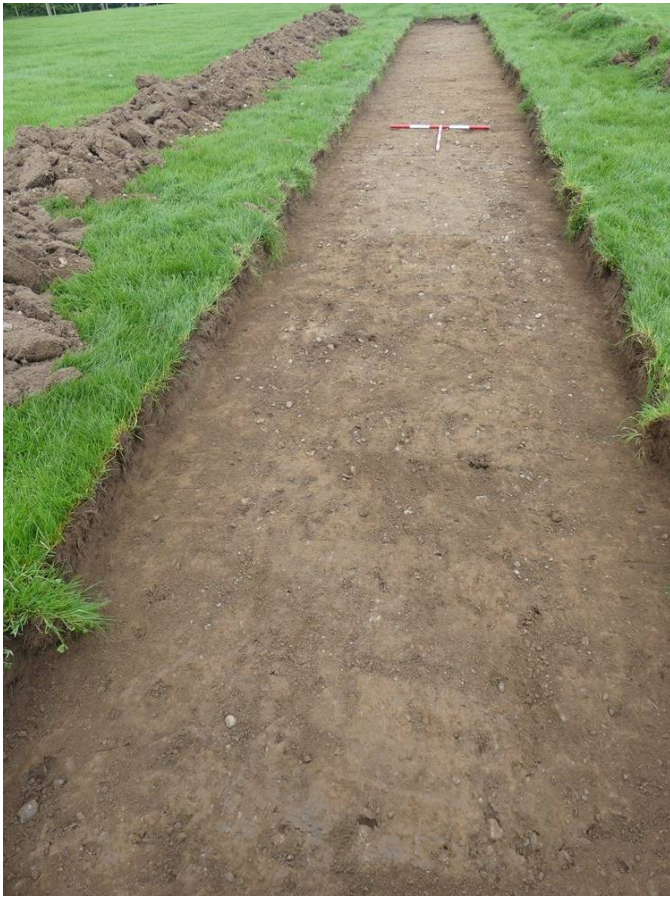


Plate 13 (left): Trench 2 viewed from the south

Plate 14 (right): Trench 2 viewed from the north



Plate 15: Extension to Trench 2, viewed from the east

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 This trench was aligned north-east/south-west (Plate 16 and Plate 17). The pale greyish-orange soft silt topsoil (**300**) was up to 0.3m thick above a pale orangey brown firm clay subsoil (**301**). This was 0.1m thick above the mid-orange firm clay natural (**302**), which included 25% rounded gravel.



Plate 16 (left): Trench 3 viewed from the south-west

Plate 17 (right): Trench 3 viewed from the north-east

4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 This trench was aligned approximately north/south (Plate 18 and Plate 19). The topsoil (**400**) was a soft, pale grey silt, up to 0.2m thick, above a pale brownish-orange firm silt subsoil (**401**), 0.1m thick. The natural (**402**) was a mid-orange firm clay, with 30% rounded gravel.

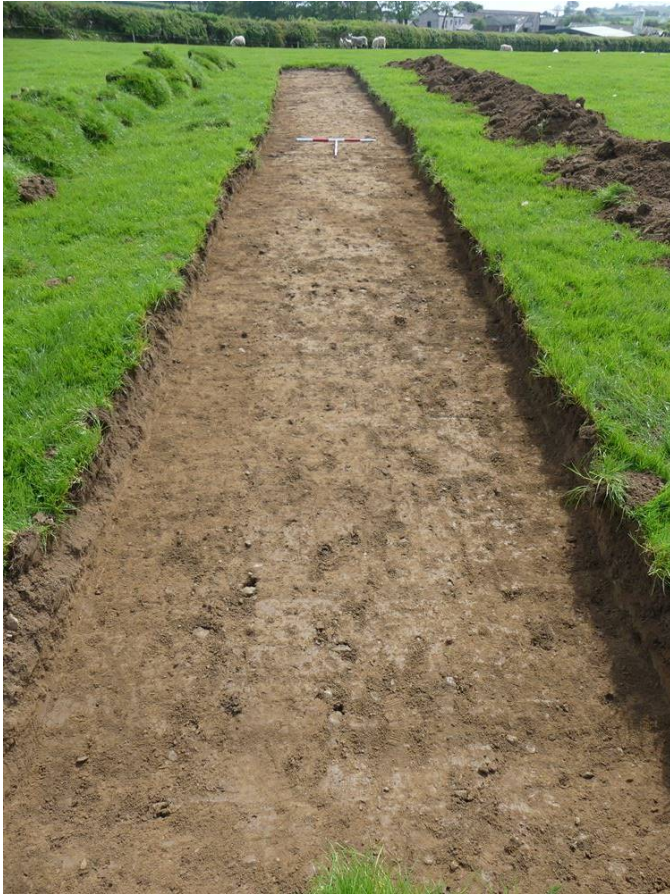


Plate 18 (left): Trench 4 viewed from the north

Plate 19 (right): Trench 4 viewed from the south

4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 This trench was aligned north/south (Plate 20 and Plate 21). The soft, pale grey silt topsoil (**500**) was up to 0.2m thick on top of the pale orangey brown firm silt subsoil (**501**), which contained 10% gravel inclusions. This was 0.1m thick above the firm mid orange clay natural (**502**), which contained 20% rounded gravel.



Plate 20 (left): Trench 5 viewed from the north

Plate 21 (right): Trench 5 viewed from the south

4.6 Trench 6

4.6.1 This trench was aligned approximately north/south (Plate 22 and Plate 23). The topsoil (**600**) comprised pale grey soft silt, up to 0.2m thick. Below that was a firm pale brownish-orange silt subsoil (**601**), up to 0.1m thick above the firm mid-orange clay natural (**602**), which included 15% rounded gravel.



Plate 22 (left): Trench 6 viewed from the north

Plate 23 (right): Trench 6 viewed from the south

4.7 Trench 7

4.7.1 This trench was aligned north/south (Plate 24 and Plate 25). The topsoil (**700**) was a pale grey soft silt, mostly 0.1m thick but up to 0.2m thick. Below that, a subsoil (**701**) of pale brownish-orange firm silt, 0.1m thick, lay on top of the mid-orange clay natural (**702**), which had 30% rounded gravel inclusions.



Plate 24 (left): Trench 7 viewed from the north

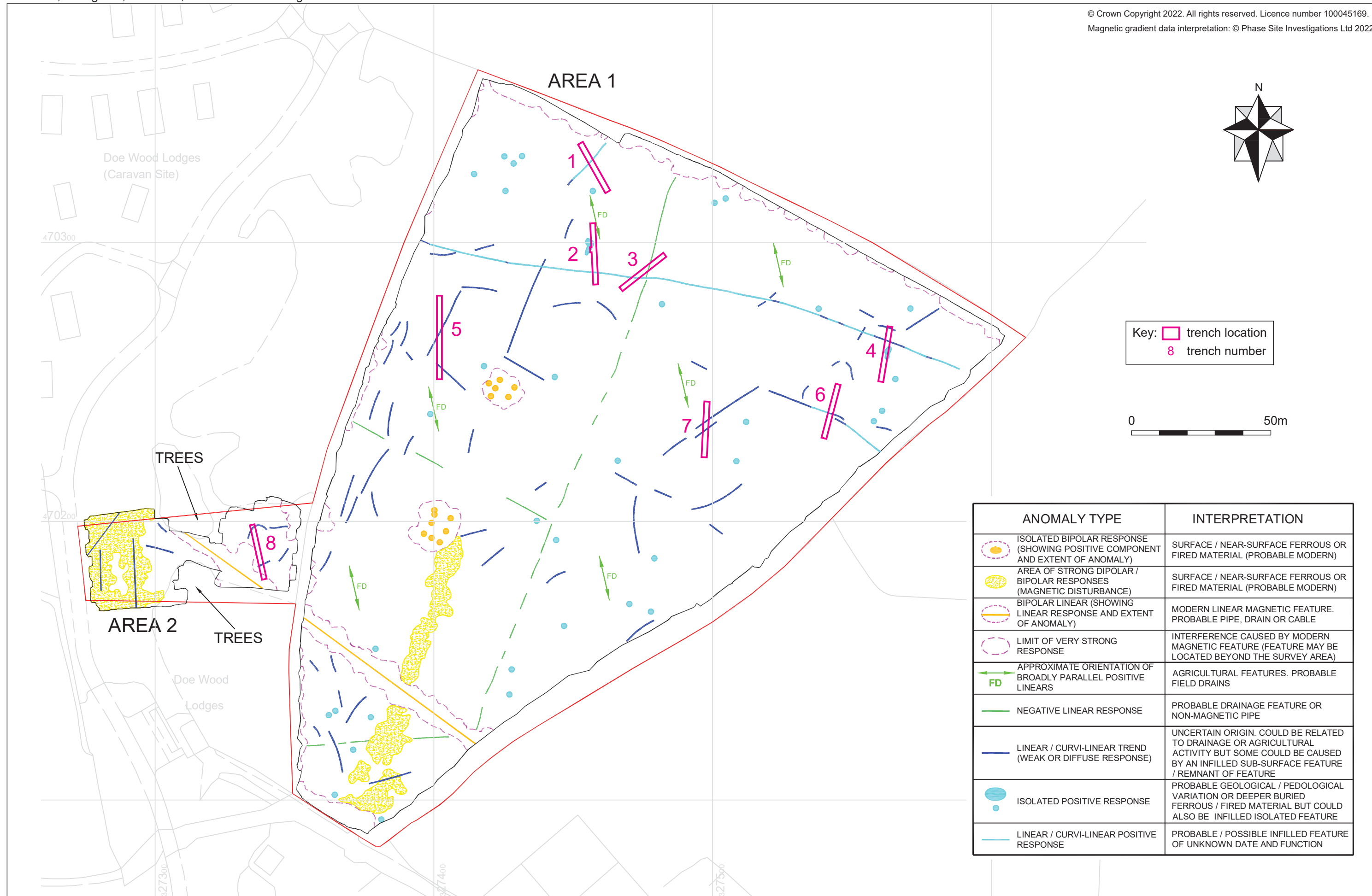
Plate 25 (right): Trench 7 viewed from the south

4.8 Trench 8

4.8.1 This trench was aligned approximately north-west/south-east (Plate 26 and Plate 27). The topsoil (**800**) was a pale grey soft silt, 0.3m thick, above a 0.2m thick pale orangey brown firm silt subsoil (**801**). Below that was a mottled firm clay natural (**802**), ranging from pale orange to dark pink to mid-brown, with 5% rounded gravel inclusions.



Plate 26 (left): Trench 8 viewed from the north
Plate 27 (right): Trench 8 viewed from the south



Key: trench location
8 trench number

0 50m

ANOMALY TYPE	INTERPRETATION
ISOLATED BIPOLAR RESPONSE (SHOWING POSITIVE COMPONENT AND EXTENT OF ANOMALY)	SURFACE / NEAR-SURFACE FERROUS OR FIRED MATERIAL (PROBABLE MODERN)
AREA OF STRONG DIPOLAR / BIPOLAR RESPONSES (MAGNETIC DISTURBANCE)	SURFACE / NEAR-SURFACE FERROUS OR FIRED MATERIAL (PROBABLE MODERN)
BIPOLAR LINEAR (SHOWING LINEAR RESPONSE AND EXTENT OF ANOMALY)	MODERN LINEAR MAGNETIC FEATURE. PROBABLE PIPE, DRAIN OR CABLE
LIMIT OF VERY STRONG RESPONSE	INTERFERENCE CAUSED BY MODERN MAGNETIC FEATURE (FEATURE MAY BE LOCATED BEYOND THE SURVEY AREA)
APPROXIMATE ORIENTATION OF BROADLY PARALLEL POSITIVE LINEARS	AGRICULTURAL FEATURES. PROBABLE FIELD DRAINS
NEGATIVE LINEAR RESPONSE	PROBABLE DRAINAGE FEATURE OR NON-MAGNETIC PIPE
LINEAR / CURVI-LINEAR TREND (WEAK OR DIFFUSE RESPONSE)	UNCERTAIN ORIGIN. COULD BE RELATED TO DRAINAGE OR AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY BUT SOME COULD BE CAUSED BY AN INFILLED SUB-SURFACE FEATURE / REMNANT OF FEATURE
ISOLATED POSITIVE RESPONSE	PROBABLE GEOLOGICAL / PEDOLOGICAL VARIATION OR DEEPER BURIED FERROUS / FIRED MATERIAL BUT COULD ALSO BE INFILLED ISOLATED FEATURE
LINEAR / CURVI-LINEAR POSITIVE RESPONSE	PROBABLE / POSSIBLE INFILLED FEATURE OF UNKNOWN DATE AND FUNCTION

Figure 2: Trench plan overlaid on interpretation of magnetic gradient data

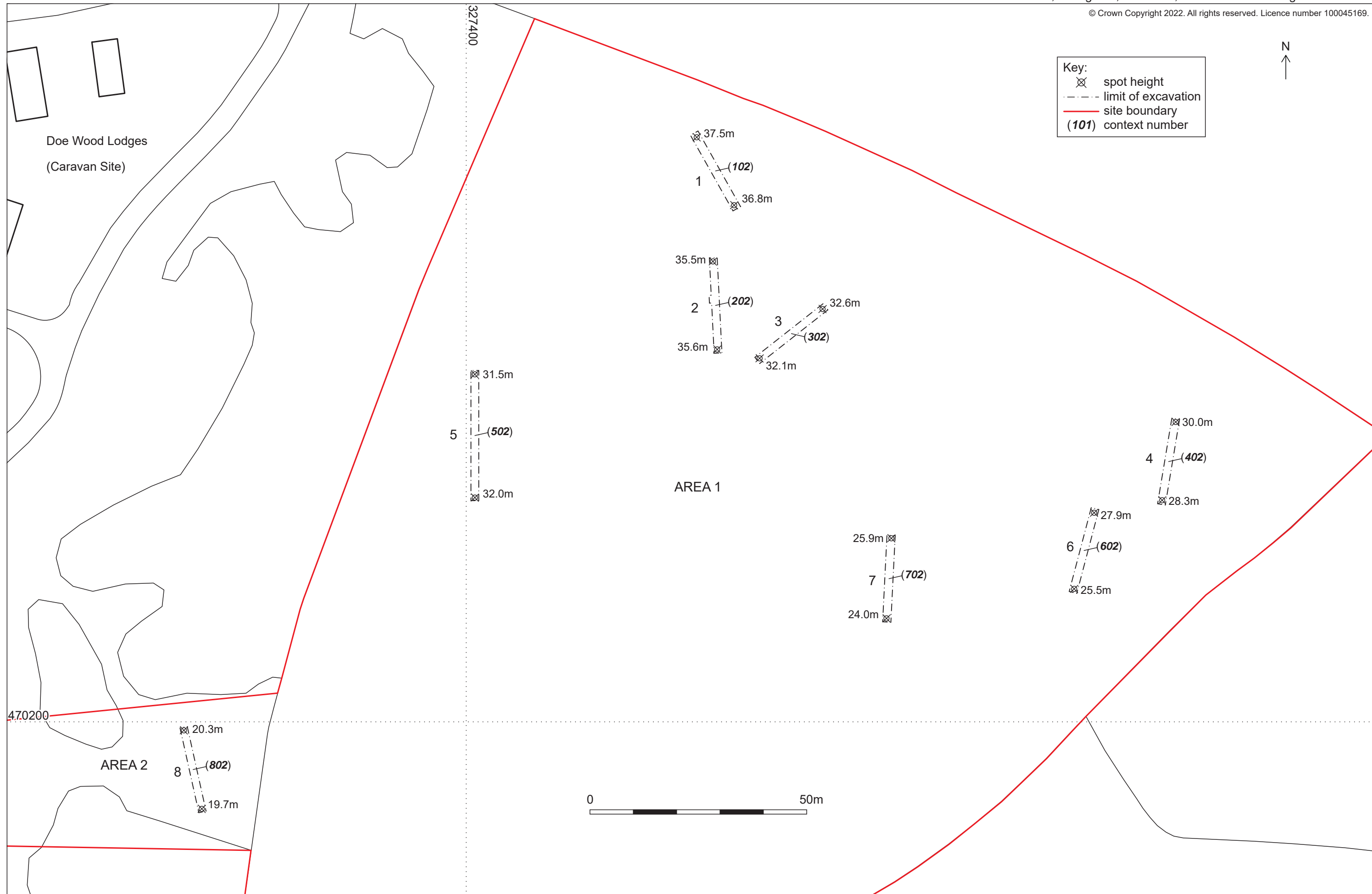


Figure 3: Trench plan

4.9 Finds

4.9.1 **Introduction:** in total, 34 finds were recovered by hand during the evaluation, the majority of probable or definite post-medieval date, although a modest collection of fragments of chert of possible prehistoric date were also found. All were recovered from topsoil or subsoil deposits. A full list of the finds is presented in *Appendix 3* with a discussion below.

4.9.2 **Stone:** eight fragments of a dark grey to black chert were recovered: two from context **101**, two from context **301**, and four from context **501**. This material occurs locally – outcropping in a number of locations including near Dalton and at Sandscale (Cross 1939, 263), and nearby Gleaston (Salisbury and Coupe 1995, 5) and was utilised in the making of artefacts in the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic (Evans 2005, 56). None of the pieces recovered during the evaluation were particularly diagnostic and none were finished artefacts, but they are typical of the sort of waste material deriving from tool manufacture in this period. The concentration in Trenches 1, 3 and 5, also does suggest some sort of activity was taking place on the crest of the hill.

4.9.3 **Medieval pottery:** a small, much abraded fragment of medieval pottery from a thin-walled vessel was recovered from **800**. No attempt has been made to link this sherd to specific fabrics or specific sources; however, it is similar to Partially Reduced and Lightly Gritted wares that are thought to have been introduced in the 12th century and dominate late 13th and 14th century assemblages in the region (e.g. McCarthy and Brooks 1992; Brooks 2000; Bradley and Miller 2009, 663-664).

4.9.4 **Other ceramic:** a single undiagnostic piece of red earthenware was recovered from context **100** and another from **801**. These are undatable and could belong to any period from the Roman onwards. The latter was very soft, however, potentially suggesting an early date. A fragment of red earthenware drainage tile was also recovered from context **800** and **801**. These were widely used from the middle of the 19th century into the early 20th as part of widespread attempts to improve agricultural land (Davis and Davis 2013).

4.9.5 **Post-medieval pottery:** a total of 16 fragments of post medieval pottery were recovered, with examples found in the topsoil and/or subsoil of most of the trenches. These represent a range of the typical domestic wares found in the area during the 18th to 20th centuries, with various examples of coarse utilitarian red earthenware, but also table wares such as creamware and white earthenware. Such material often found its way into ploughsoils due to being incorporated into midden material used as fertiliser.

4.9.6 **Clay tobacco pipe:** a plain stem fragment with a relatively narrow (5/64") borehole of probably 18th or 19th century date was recovered from **801** (after Davey 2013).

4.9.7 **Metal:** two iron objects were recovered, one each from the topsoil and subsoil in Trench 8. These comprised machine parts or similar, presumably lost accidentally from farm machinery.

4.9.8 **Industrial residue:** a single piece of glassy iron slag, probably deriving from a blast furnace, was recovered from context **100** and another piece of more amorphous slag, probably also from iron working, was recovered from context **101**. Although suggestive of iron working nearby such a small quantity of this material, which is virtually indestructible and was used for hardcore and a range of other purposes, is of little significance.

5. Discussion

5.1 Results

5.1.1 The same sequence of deposits was encountered in all eight trenches: topsoil, subsoil and natural. The natural was typically around 0.3m below the surface, although topsoil and subsoil deposits were slightly thicker in Trench 8 than elsewhere.

5.1.2 No features were revealed corresponding to any of the anomalies considered to be of potential archaeological interest in the geophysical survey data. It is likely that the majority of these were caused by slight variations in the underlying natural geology; this was evident Trench 1 where there were some slightly more gravelly patches noted at the interface between the subsoil and natural.

5.1.3 The lack of evidence for the linear east/west feature identified in the geophysical survey and targeted by Trenches 2 to 4 was surprising. However, this could conceivably represent the continuation of an extant stone bank/field boundary, visible above ground in the field to the east (Plate 28). A similar bank defines the east side of the field (Plate 29). Such a feature could conceivably have left enough of a magnetic variation to be picked up in the geophysical survey, but not leave any archaeological evidence. It was apparent across the site, from the shallowness of the deposits encountered, that the area had been subject to relatively minimal ploughing; this was presumably due to have been part of a park during the medieval period. The thicker deposits in Trench 8 were almost certainly due to material recently accumulated on the site during the development of the area to the west.



Plate 28 (left): Extant linear earthwork in field to the east of the site

Plate 29 (right): Stone bank field boundary to the east side of Area 1

5.1.4 The only items of archaeological interest discovered during the evaluation were the small collection of chert fragments found in Trenches 1, 3 and 5. Although not particularly diagnostic and potentially entirely natural, these are suggestive of late Mesolithic to early Neolithic in the area, apparently concentrated on the crest of the hill. The lack of any accompanying features perhaps indicates that this was a very short-lived period of activity, but it fits within a wider body of evidence revealed through field walking in the local area (Evans 2005; 2008). Evidence for small-scale structures of this period has also been found in the local area (Evans 2008, 136; Elsworth and Wilson 2020) and is apparent that groups of people leading an at least partly hunter-gatherer lifestyle were moving through the landscape at this time. No evidence for later prehistoric activity, fitting with the burnt mound of Bronze Age date discovered to the west, during the previous phase of development (Headland Archaeology 2006; 2008), was identified, but this would inevitably have needed to be close to a water source and burnt mounds are not typically found associated with wider areas of settlement.

5.2 Significance

5.2.1 The evaluation did not find any features or deposits of archaeological significance. The small quantity of chert fragments of possible prehistoric date and local origin is typical of the sort of 'background' evidence for activity in the Mesolithic to Neolithic period and with the absence of any associated features, these only add to the existing body of such evidence, rather than substantially enhancing it.

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Appendix 1: Project Design

The Site	
Site Name	Coniston View, Aldingham, Ulverston
County	Cumbria
NGR	327442 470223 (centre)

Client	
Client Name	Pure Leisure Ltd

Planning	
Pre-planning?	No
Planning Application No.	SL/2020/0388
Condition number	Change of use of land to allow the siting of 50 touring caravans, welfare building and associated infrastructure at Doe Wood Lodges (resubmission of SL/2019/1009)
Condition number	6
Local Planning Authority	South Lakeland District Council
Planning Archaeologist	Jeremy Parsons, Cumbria County Council

Archaeological work	
Desk-based assessment done as previous phase of work?	No
Geophysical survey done as previous phase of work?	Yes
Approximate number and dimensions of trenches proposed	Seven trenches 20m long and one trench 30m long

Archiving	
Relevant Record Office(s)/Archive Centre(s)	Barrow-in-Furness
Relevant HER	Cumbria
Relevant Museum	Dock Museum, Barrow-in-Furness

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Cover Sheet

1.1.1 All the details specific to this project are set out on the cover sheet of this project design. The project design itself covers all elements that are involved in archaeological evaluation.

1.2 Greenlane Archaeology

1.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology is a private limited company based in Ulverston, Cumbria, and was established in 2005 (Company No. 05580819). Its directors, Jo Dawson and Daniel Elsworth, have worked continuously in commercial archaeology since 2000 and 1999 respectively, principally in the north of England and Scotland. Greenlane Archaeology is committed to a high standard of work, and abides by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct. The various elements of the project will be carried out according to the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a-c).

1.3 Staff

1.3.1 **Dan Elsworth (MA (Hons), ACIfA)** graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1998 with an honours degree in Archaeology, and began working for the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, which became Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in 2001. Daniel ultimately became a project officer, and for over six and a half years worked on excavations and surveys, building investigations, desk-based assessments, and conservation and management plans. These have principally taken place in the North West, and Daniel has a particular interest in the archaeology of the area. He has managed many recent projects in Cumbria and Lancashire including several archaeological evaluations.

1.3.2 **Tom Mace (BA (Hons), MA, MIfA)** has extensive experience of working on a variety of archaeological projects, especially watching briefs, but also excavations, evaluations, and building recordings, as well as report writing and illustration production. He joined Greenlane Archaeology in 2008 having worked for several previous companies including Archaeological Solutions and Oxford Archaeology North. He currently works on a broad range of projects and is also responsible for the production of all illustrations for reports and publications as well as some post-excavation assessments. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

1.3.3 **Jo Dawson (MA (Hons), ACIfA)** graduated from University of Glasgow in 2000 with a joint honours degree in Archaeology and Mathematics, and since then has worked continuously in commercial archaeology. Her professional career started at Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD), following which she worked for Headland Archaeology, in Edinburgh, and then Oxford Archaeology North, in Lancaster. During this time she has been involved in a range of different archaeological projects. She has extensive experience of both planning and pre-planning projects, and has undertaken assessments of all sizes. Since establishing Greenlane Archaeology in 2005 she has managed numerous projects in south Cumbria, including desk-based assessments and evaluations. She currently mainly carries out quality control of reports and post-excavation assessments. She is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

1.3.4 **Specialists:** Greenlane Archaeology have a range of outside specialists who are regularly engaged for finds and environmental work. Engagement is dependent upon availability, but specialists typically engaged are as follows:

Specialism	Specialist
Animal bone	Naomi Sewpaul
Ceramic building material, medieval and Roman	Phil Mills
Conservation	York Archaeological Trust
Clay tobacco pipe	Peter Davey (or Tom Mace in house for smaller assemblages)
Flots	Headland Archaeology, Edinburgh
Human bone	Malin Holst
Industrial residue	Gerry McDonnell
Medieval pottery	Chris Cumberpatch for assemblages from the North East of England
Miscellaneous find types, for example Roman glass and medieval and earlier metalwork	Chris Howard-Davis
Prehistoric pottery	Blaise Vyner
Radiocarbon dates	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
Roman pottery	Ruth Leary
Samian	Gwladys Monteil
X-ray of metal finds	York Archaeological Trust

2. Objectives

2.1 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 To examine early maps of the site and any other relevant primary and secondary sources in order to better understand the site, and set it in its historic context.

2.2 Archaeological Evaluation

2.2.1 To excavate evaluation trenches as specified in the project design cover sheet, in order to identify the presence of any archaeological deposits, features, and structures on the site and establish their form, function, and date where possible.

2.3 Report

2.3.1 To produce a report detailing the results of the evaluation, which will outline the form and date of any archaeological features encountered.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the project.

3. Methodology

3.1 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

3.1.1 Where an archaeological desk-based assessment has not already been carried out in a previous phase of work, a rapid examination of easily available sources, particularly maps, relating to the site will be carried out. The sources that will be used as part of the desk-based assessment will include:

- **Record Office/Archive Centre:** the majority of original and secondary sources relating to the site are deposited in the relevant Record Office(s) or Archive Centre(s), as specified in the cover sheet of this project design. Of principal importance are early maps of the site, particularly Ordnance Survey maps but also the Tithe Map, but other relevant primary sources such as the census, taxation records, parish registers, wills, deeds and other documents will also be consulted. In addition relevant secondary sources will also be consulted and all of this information will be utilised to better understand the historical and archaeological development of the site and set it in context;
- **Historic Environment Record:** this is a list of all of the recorded sites of archaeological interest recorded in the county, and is the primary source of information for a study of this kind. Each site is recorded with any relevant references, a brief description and location related to the National Grid. The HER will be consulted and relevant information relating to any sites in close proximity to or within the proposed development area. In addition, relevant secondary sources, particularly previous archaeological investigations in the immediate area and aerial photographs, will also be examined;
- **Online Resources:** where available, mapping such as Ordnance Survey maps and tithe maps will be consulted online;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** a number of copies of maps and local histories are held by Greenlane Archaeology. These will be consulted in order to provide information about the site.

3.2 Archaeological Evaluation

3.2.1 The anticipated number and dimensions of evaluation trenches are set out on the cover sheet of this project design. The evaluation methodology, which is based on Greenlane Archaeology's excavation manual (Greenlane Archaeology 2007), will be as follows:

- The trenches will be excavated with regard to the position of any known constraints, focussing on the areas of high archaeological interest or potential, and avoiding areas which are likely to have been severely damaged or truncated by later activity, unless they are considered to have a high potential;
- The overburden, which is unlikely to be of any archaeological significance, will be removed by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist until the first deposit beneath it is reached;
- All deposits below the overburden will be examined by hand in a stratigraphic manner, using shovels, mattocks, or trowels as appropriate for the scale. Deposits will only be sampled, rather than completely

removed, below the first identified level of archaeological interest, unless specified by the Planning Archaeologist (see cover sheet), with the intention of preserving as much *in situ* as possible;

- The position of any features, such as ditches, pits, or walls, will be recorded and where necessary these will be investigated in order to establish their full extent, date, and relationship to any other features. Negative features such as ditches or pits will be examined by sample excavation, typically half of a pit or similar feature and approximately 10% of a linear feature;
- All recording of features will include hand-drawn plans and sections, typically at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10, respectively, and photographs in colour digital format (both RAW files and JPEG format at at least 12meg resolution) will be taken;
- All deposits, trenches, drawings and photographs will be recorded on Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- All finds will be recovered during the evaluation for further assessment as far as is practically and safely possible. Should significant quantities of finds be encountered an appropriate sampling strategy will be devised;
- All faunal remains will also be recovered by hand during the evaluation, but where it is considered likely that there is potential for the bones of fish or small mammals to be present appropriate volumes of samples will be taken for sieving;
- Deposits that are considered likely to have, for example, preserved environmental remains, industrial residues, and/or material suitable for scientific dating will be sampled. Bulk samples of between 20 and 60 litres in volume (or 100% of smaller features), depending on the size and potential of the deposit, will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (e.g. gullies, pits and ditches) and occupation deposits such as hearths and floors. An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of samples of suitable deposits by specialist sub-contractors (see *Section 1.3.4* above), who will examine the potential for further analysis. All samples will be processed using methods appropriate to the preservation conditions and the remains present;
- Any human remains discovered during the evaluation will be left *in situ*, and, if possible, covered. The Planning Archaeologist will be immediately informed as will the local coroner. Should it be considered necessary to remove the remains this will be carried out under the guidance of the local coroner, and a licence obtained from the Ministry of Justice, under Section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857;
- Any objects defined as 'treasure' by the Treasure Act of 1996 (HMSO 1996) will be immediately reported to the local coroner and securely stored off-site, or covered and protected on site if immediate removal is not possible;
- The evaluation trenches will be backfilled following excavation although it is not envisaged that any further reinstatement to its original condition will be carried out.

3.2.2 Should any significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the evaluation these will immediately be brought to the attention of the Planning Archaeologist so that the need for further work can be confirmed. Any additional work will be carried out following discussion with the Planning Archaeologist and subject to a new project design, and the ensuing costs will be agreed with the client.

3.3 Report

3.3.2 The results of the evaluation will be compiled into a report, which will provide a summary and details of any sources consulted. It will include the following sections:

- A front cover including the appropriate national grid reference (NGR);
- A concise non-technical summary of results, including the date the project was undertaken and by whom;
- Acknowledgements;
- Project Background;
- Methodology, including a description of the work undertaken;
- Results of the rapid desk-based assessment;
- Results of the evaluation, including finds and samples;

- Discussion of the results including phasing information;
- Bibliography;
- Illustrations at appropriate scales including:
 - a site location plan related to the national grid;
 - a plan showing the location of the evaluation trenches in relation to nearby structures and the local landscape,;
 - plans and sections of any features discovered during the evaluation;
 - photographs of any features encountered during the evaluation and general shots of the evaluation trenches;
 - extracts from historic mapping.

3.4 Archive

3.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the evaluation trenches, formed during the project, will be stored by Greenlane Archaeology until it is completed. Upon completion it will be deposited with the relevant Record Office or Archive Centre, as detailed on the cover sheet of this project design, together with a copy of the report. The archive will be compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the ClfA (ClfA 2014c). In addition, details will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public.

3.4.2 A paper and digital copy of the report will be provided to the client and a digital copy of the report will be provided to the relevant Historic Environment Record, as detailed on the cover sheet of this project design.

3.4.3 The client will be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to a suitable museum. Any finds recovered during the evaluation will be offered to an appropriate museum (see cover sheet). If no suitable repository can be found the finds may have to be discarded, and in this case as full a record as possible would be made of them beforehand.

4. Work timetable

4.1 Greenlane Archaeology will be available to commence the project on the date specified on the Order Form, or at another date convenient to the client. It is envisaged that the elements of the project will be carried out in the following order:

- **Task 1:** rapid desk-based assessment (where this has not already been carried out as a previous phase of archaeological work);
- **Task 2:** archaeological evaluation;
- **Task 3:** processing and assessment of finds and samples;
- **Task 4:** production of draft report including illustrations;
- **Task 5:** feedback on draft report, editing and production of final report;
- **Task 6:** finalisation and deposition of archive.

5. Other matters

5.1 Access and clearance

5.1.1 Access to the site will be organised through co-ordination with the client and/or their agent(s).

5.2 Health and Safety

5.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology carries out risk assessments for all of its projects and abides by its internal health and safety policy and relevant legislation. Health and safety is always the foremost consideration in any decision-making process.

5.3 Insurance

5.3.1 Greenlane Archaeology has professional indemnity insurance to the value of **£1,000,000**. Details of this can be supplied if requested.

5.4 Environmental and Ethical Policy

5.4.1 Greenlane Archaeology has a strong commitment to environmentally and ethically sound working practices. Its office is supplied with 100% renewable energy by Good Energy, uses ethical telephone and internet services supplied by the Phone Co-op. In addition, the company uses the services of The Co-operative Bank for ethical banking, Naturesave for environmentally-conscious insurance, and utilises public transport wherever possible. Greenlane Archaeology is also committed to using local businesses for services and materials, thus benefiting the local economy, reducing unnecessary transportation, and improving the sustainability of small and rural businesses.

6. Bibliography

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Appendix 2: Summary Context List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Deposit	Pale greyish-brown silt, less than 0.2m, thick	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Pale orange, firm, silty clay, c0.1m thick	Subsoil
102	Deposit	Firm, mid-orange clay, includes c30% rounded gravel	Natural
200	Deposit	Pale grey-orange soft silt, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
201	Deposit	Firm, orange brown silt, 0.1m thick	Subsoil
202	Deposit	Firm, mid orange clay, with 40% rounded gravel	Natural
300	Deposit	Pale greyish-orange soft silt up to 0.3m thick	Topsoil
301	Deposit	Pale orange brown firm clay, 0.1m thick	Subsoil
302	Deposit	Mid-orange firm clay, includes 25% rounded gravel	Natural
400	Deposit	Soft, pale grey silt, up to 0.2m thick	Topsoil
401	Deposit	Pale brownish-orange firm silt 0.1m thick	Subsoil
402	Deposit	Mid-orange firm clay, with 30% rounded gravel	Natural
500	Deposit	Soft, pale grey silt up to 0.2m thick	Topsoil
501	Deposit	Pale orangey brown firm silt contained 10% gravel inclusions 0.1m thick	Subsoil
502	Deposit	Firm mid orange clay which contained 20% rounded gravel	Natural
600	Deposit	Pale grey soft silt, up to 0.2m thick	Topsoil
601	Deposit	Firm, pale brownish-orange silt up to 0.1m thick	Subsoil
602	Deposit	Firm, mid-orange clay which included 15% rounded gravel	Natural
700	Deposit	Pale grey soft silt, mostly 0.1m thick but up to 0.2m thick	Topsoil
701	Deposit	Pale brownish-orange firm silt, 0.1m thick	Subsoil
702	Deposit	Mid-orange clay with 30% rounded gravel inclusions	Natural
800	Deposit	Pale grey soft silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
801	Deposit	0.2m thick pale orangey brown firm silt	Subsoil
802	Deposit	Mottled firm clay; pale orange to dark pink to mid-brown, with 5% rounded gravel inclusions	Natural

Appendix 3: Summary Finds List

Context	Type	Qty	Description	Date range
100	Ceramic	1	Red earthenware fragment	Post-medieval
100	Industrial residue	1	Fragment of glassy banded black and grey slag, presumably deriving from a blast furnace	18 th – early 20 th century
101	Stone	2	Dark grey to black banded chert, some evidence for flake removal on the larger one, which might be part of a small core, the smaller piece possibly a small waste flake	Late Mesolithic – early Neolithic
101	Industrial residue	1	Lump of amorphous slag-like material, fairly heavy with a 'folded' surface, possibly iron working slag	Not closely dateable
301	Stone	2	Dark grey to black banded chert, the larger with some evidence for flake removal and possibly a small core, the smaller a rough waste flake	Late Mesolithic – early Neolithic
301	Pottery	1	Brown-glazed buff-bodied stoneware	Late 18 th – early 20 th century
500	Pottery	1	Brown-glazed red earthenware coarseware body fragment	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
500	Pottery	1	Creamware fragment	Mid 18 th – early 19 th century
501	Pottery	1	High-fired brown-glazed red earthenware coarseware body fragment	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
501	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware coarseware body fragment	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
501	Stone	4	Dark grey to black banded chert lumps, two larger pieces with evidence for flake removal, the smaller possibly just naturally occurring	Late Mesolithic – early Neolithic
600	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware coarseware	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
600	Pottery	1	White earthenware	19 th – early 20 th century
600	Pottery	1	Greyish green glazed buff-bodied stoneware fragment	Late 18 th – early 20 th century
701	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware coarseware base	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
701	Pottery	3	White earthenware, including blue shell edge plate rim and green transfer-printed pattern	19 th – early 20 th century
800	Ceramic building material	1	Red earthenware drain tile/pipe fragment, probably horse-shoe shaped or circular in profile	Mid-19 th to early 20 th century
800	Pottery	1	Small, much abraded fragment of a thin-walled vessel, 2-3mm thick; lightly gritted, soft, sandy fabric, with 'sandwich-effect' cross-section, with mid grey core and pale buff outer and pale grey inner margins; no glaze apparent	12 th – 14 th century
800	Pottery	2	Black-glazed red earthenware coarseware fragments	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
800	Pottery	2	White earthenware transfer-printed fragments: Broseley and a blue printed pattern	19 th – early 20 th century

Context	Type	Qty	Description	Date range
800	Fe	1	Very corroded large washer or similar	Late 18 th – early 20 th century
801	Ceramic building material	1	Red earthenware drain tile/pipe fragment, probably horse-shoe shaped or circular in profile	Mid-19 th to early 20 th century
801	Ceramic	1	Soft (low fired) red earthenware	Not closely dateable
801	Clay tobacco pipe	1	Plain stem fragment; length: 42mm; stem diameter: 6.5mm; central 5/64" borehole	18 th – 19 th century
801	Fe	1	Very corroded cast (?) iron pipe fragment	Late 18 th – early 20 th century?