

# **NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT GATESGARTH FARM, BUTTERMERE, LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK**

**FOR  
EDWIN THOMPSON**



**NGR NY 1946 1494**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In December 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Edwin Thompson to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a proposed sheep wintering building at Gatesgarth Farm, Buttermere, Cumbria (NGR 1946 1494). The farm was believed to be the site of a medieval vaccary (dairy farm). The evaluation comprised a rapid desk-based assessment of the site, a visual site inspection, metric and geophysical surveys of the proposed development area, and the excavation of twelve trial trenches across the site.

The rapid desk-based assessment involved the examination of all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held in the County Records Office in Carlisle, the local studies section at Carlisle Library, and the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) of the Lake District National Park Authority based in Kendal. The HER includes the locations and settings of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens and other, non-designated archaeological remains. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information, including the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

The earliest documentary reference to Gatesgarth Farm dates to 1259, when the area was a demense forest pasture. Documentary evidence suggests that a vaccary (dairy farm) has existed somewhere near Gatesgarth Farm from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. Earthworks, which had previously been identified within the proposed development area, were thought to be associated with this farm. Based on the documentary and topographic evidence, the potential for surviving structures associated with the vaccary was thought to be high.

From the 18<sup>th</sup> century Gatesgarth Farm was managed as a sheep farm, and much of the surrounding land was enclosed in this period. Cartographic evidence suggests that farm buildings have been situated within the proposed development area from at least 1770 onwards. Two possible barns are shown on Hodkinson and Donald's 1774 map (surveyed 1770), but had been replaced by the present barns by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The visual site inspection noted a number of visible earthworks within the proposed development area. The subsequent metric survey recorded three terraces within the proposed development area, two of which contained the possible footings of stone buildings, relict walls, ditches, and possible cobbled surfaces. The uppermost terrace contained a possible rectangular building platform with an associated field boundary and ditch. Ridge and furrow earthworks were also recorded on the south side of the proposed development area.

The geophysical surveys provided limited information regarding sub-surface deposits at the site, due to the close proximity of the natural bedrock, the proximity of modern fences and small size of the survey areas. However these surveys did reveal the presence of two ditches and a modern service pipe, which will have truncated potential archaeological features.

Of the twelve trenches excavated, the majority contained archaeological features associated with the agricultural use of the area during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The remains of at least three buildings have been revealed at the site with associated cobbled yards or trackways, field walls, land drains and the earthworks of former ridge and furrow cultivation.

The most interesting, and potentially the earliest, building identified at the site, is a longhouse of probable medieval date with an interior cobbled floor and exterior cobbled yard, situated on the northern edge of the proposed development area. Tentative evidence for an adjacent timber structure of an early date was also revealed in this area. Pottery evidence suggests that these

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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features date to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, indicating that the long house may be associated with the documented medieval vaccary.

The evaluation has revealed evidence for another stone building to the southwest, interpreted as a former barn, with a later stone culvert, field wall, and associated cobbled area. These features are thought to be post-medieval in date. The orientation of this building suggests that this may be one of two possible barns illustrated on Hodskinson and Donald's 1774 map, when Gatesgarth Farm was managed as a sheep farm.

A possible timber building, of unknown date, has been identified on the earthwork platform at the eastern corner of the proposed development area. However, very little evidence survives with which to interpret this structure.

The south side of the proposed development area contains the earthwork remains of former ridge and furrow cultivation. Two evaluation trenches have been excavated in this area. However, no other archaeological features were identified on the south side of the proposed development area.

The proposed development has the potential to impact on important archaeological remains on the north side of the proposed development area in the vicinity of the long house, through the construction of a new sheep wintering building, access ramps and associated landscaping. It is recommended that the measures be put in place to protect the archaeology in the area of the long house as part of the proposed development.

Of the artefacts recovered, the most important are the fragments of medieval pottery. It has been noted that medieval pottery from rural contexts in Cumbria is rare, and it is recommended that the results of the project should be published in the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Society, including a description of the medieval pottery assemblage. No further work is recommended on the post-medieval pottery or other artefacts.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to offer thanks to Edwin Thompson for commissioning the project, and to Mr W Richardson, Gatesgarth Farm, for his assistance throughout the fieldwork. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to John Hodgson, Senior Archaeology and Heritage Advisor at the Lake District National Park Authority, Stephen White, Local Studies Librarian at Carlisle Library, and staff at the County Record Office in Carlisle for their help during this project.

The rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken by Fiona Wooler, NPA Project Supervisor. The survey work was undertaken by Angus Clarke, NPA Project Archaeologist, Kevin Mounsey, NPA Project Archaeologist, and Martin Railton, NPA Senior Project Officer. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Angus Clarke, Kevin Mounsey, David Jackson NPA Project Archaeologist, Joe Jackson, NPA Project Archaeologist, Claire Mason, NPA Project Archaeologist, and Nicola Gaskell, NPA Project Supervisor. The environmental assessment was undertaken under the direction of Tricia Shaw, NPA Environmental Supervisor. The pottery assessment was undertaken by Jo Dawson, Consultant, Greenlane Archaeology. The report was written by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler, with illustrations by Martin Railton, Tony Liddell and Cat Peters, and was edited by Matthew Town, NPA Senior Project Officer. The project was managed by Martin Railton, NPA Senior Project Officer.



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in January 2007 at Gatesgarth Farm, Buttermere, in the Lake District National Park, Cumbria. The archaeological works were undertaken for Edwin Thompson (the Client), following an application to the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) for the construction of a sheep wintering building at the farm (Planning Ref. 7/2007/2116). The proposal was to construct a new 64m by 25m sheep wintering building at the centre of the site, along with vehicle access, drainage, and an underground 10,000 litre effluent storage tank. The periphery of the site was to be subject to landscaping and tree planting.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development area was believed to lie in the area of a 13<sup>th</sup> century vaccary (dairy farm), which would have consisted of a settlement and associated pastures, used for stock-rearing in the medieval period (LDNPA HER 32592). Several possible archaeological features had previously been identified at the site by the LDNPA Senior Archaeology and Heritage Advisor, which were thought to be associated with the former vaccary, or later holdings. These included the possible footings of several structures, including those of a possible long house, constructed on a terrace with associated wall footings, and several artificial platforms.
- 1.1.3 The proposed development had the potential to impact upon potential archaeological remains through the construction of building foundations, the provision of services, drainage, excavation for the effluent tank, and landscaping. The Lake District National Park Authority therefore recommended that a programme of archaeological work be implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), submitted to and approved by the LDNPA.

### 1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 Gatesgarth Farm is located at the south end of Buttermere, in the Lake District National Park. The proposed development area was situated in two fields of pasture to the southeast of Gatesgarth Farm, and west of Gatesgarth Cottage, on the south side of the road to B5289 road to Buttermere Village (Figure 1). The proposed development area comprised 0.45ha of land, centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference NY 1946 1494 (Figure 2).
- 1.2.2 Gatesgarth Farm is situated on a tongue of relatively low-lying land, at the head of a steep-sided valley framed by Buttermere Fell to the north, Fleetwith Pike to the southeast, and High Crag to the southwest. The low-lying land is maintained as pasture for sheep farming, with rough grazing on the nearby fells. The proposed development area occupies two adjacent fields of pasture, subdivided by traditional drystone walls. This area occupies the north and west slopes of a rounded hill at the bottom of Fleetwith Pike, with elevations ranging between 108m and 121m OD.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology of the site is Skiddaw slate, which was formed due to intense compression in the early Ordovician. This is overlain by glacial deposits of boulder clay (BGS 2001).

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A brief for the archaeological evaluation was produced by the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) Senior Archaeology and Heritage Advisor (Hodgson 2007). The work required comprised a rapid desk-based assessment, visual site inspection, archaeological survey and trial trench evaluation.
- 2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken according to a North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. project design (Railton 2007), which was submitted to, and approved by the LDNPA. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.

### 2.2 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 The rapid desk-based assessment involved the consultation of a number of existing datasets, in order to achieve an understanding of the nature of the existing resource regarding the geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context of the site. Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project design. The study area consisted of a 1.5km radius centred on the proposed development area. The principal sources of information were the Historic Environment Record (HER), maps and secondary sources.
- 2.2.2 ***LDNPA Historic Environment Record (HER):*** the HER in Kendal, a database of archaeological sites within the county, was accessed. This was in order to obtain information on the location of all designated sites and areas of historic interest and any other, non-designated sites within the study area, which included monuments, findspots, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. A brief record including grid reference and description was obtained for the various sites within the study area. Aerial photographs of the area were also studied.
- 2.2.3 ***County Record Office (Carlisle):*** the County Record Office in Carlisle (CRO) was visited to consult documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including surveys, Tithe and Enclosure Maps, and early Ordnance Survey maps, were examined. Several secondary sources, in particular the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, were also consulted.
- 2.2.4 ***North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPA):*** various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the North Pennines Archaeology library and any available archives of the sites themselves were examined. An electronic enquiry was also made of English Heritage's National Monuments Record and the website of the Archaeology Data Service. This was in order to enhance and augment the data obtained from a search of the appropriate repositories.

- 2.2.5 The desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 1994).

## 2.3 VISUAL SITE INSPECTION

- 2.3.1 The visual site inspection noted surface features of potential archaeological interest and areas of potential significant disturbance. The principal aim of the inspection was to identify previously unrecorded surface remains within the proposed development area. This information was intended to supplement the results of the desk-based assessment.
- 2.3.2 The visual site inspection also noted hazards and constraints to undertaking further archaeological work on site.

## 2.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

- 2.4.1 The archaeological survey comprised a metric survey of visible features, and geophysical surveys to detect potential sub-surface anomalies, using both geomagnetic and earth resistance survey techniques. The objective of the archaeological survey was to determine the presence/absence, nature and extent of any archaeological features within the proposed development area, and the presence/absence of any known modern anomalies within the study area, which may affect the results. The results of the archaeological survey were used to inform the locations of the archaeological trial trenches.
- 2.4.2 *Standards:* The metric survey was conducted in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (Riley & Wilson-North 2001), and corresponded to an English Heritage/RCHME Level 3 survey (RCHME 1999). The geophysical survey and reporting were conducted in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1995), and the recommendations of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2002).
- 2.4.3 *Geophysical Survey Technique Selection:* Earth resistance survey was also chosen as the most appropriate geophysical technique as it was thought this technique might provide additional detail to the metric survey by detecting buried archaeological features at the site, including possible sub-surface structural remains. When a small electric current is injected into the ground it encounters sub-surface resistance, which is measured. This resistance relates to the ability of the soil to retain moisture and can correspond to the location of cut archaeological features or buried stone walls etc. Geomagnetic survey was also selected as an appropriate technique, given the non-igneous environment, and the expected presence of cut archaeological features at depths of no more than 1.5m. This technique involved the use of hand-held gradiometers, which measure variations in the vertical component of the earth's magnetic field. These variations can be due to the presence of sub-surface archaeological features. Data was recorded by the instruments and downloaded into a laptop computer for initial data processing in the field using specialist software.
- 2.4.4 *Field Methods:* The study area measured 0.45ha of land subdivide into two fields. Primary survey stations were established using a Trimble 3605DR Geodimeter total

- station and marked with permanent survey markers. The elevation values for these stations were established using a value of 110m OD for the entrance to Gatesgarth Farm (a known mapped Ordnance Survey benchmark recorded as being at Gatesgarth Farm of 111.62m OD could not be located). A nominal scale of 1:250 was adopted for the metric survey. This scale is considered most appropriate for showing earthwork detail and structural relationships clearly and accurately. At this scale measurement inaccuracies of 5cm would be represented as a deviation of 0.2mm on the plot, invisible to the eye.
- 2.4.5 Visible archaeological features and earthworks were surveyed in plan using a Trimble 3605DR Geodimeter total station. This instrument has an angular measuring precision of 5", well within the required tolerances for a 1:250 scale survey. The principal plan components of visible archaeological features were established by standard EDM measurement using a detail pole mounted prism. Measurements were stored directly within the instrument's internal memory. Two earthwork profiles were also surveyed by the same method, using 100m tapes as a guide.
- 2.4.6 Survey data was downloaded onto a laptop computer for initial data processing using Terramodel 10.3 software. The data was subsequently exported as .DWG files in order to produce hachured plan and profile drawings in AutoCad 2004. A 20m grid was established over each area for the geophysical survey, and tied-in to known Ordnance Survey points using a Trimble 3605DR Geodimeter total station with datalogger.
- 2.4.7 Geomagnetic measurements were determined using a Bartington Grad601-2 dual gradiometer system, with twin probes set 1m apart. It was expected that significant archaeological features at a depth of up to 1.5m would be detected using this arrangement. The survey was undertaken using a zig-zag traverse scheme, with data being logged in 20m grid units. A sample interval of 0.25m was used, with a traverse interval of 1m, providing 3600 sample measurements per grid unit. The data was downloaded on site into a laptop computer for processing and storage.
- 2.4.8 Measurements of Earth resistance were determined using a Geoscan RM15 Resistance Meter, with twin probes set 0.75m apart. Again, the survey was undertaken using a zig-zag traverse scheme, with data being logged in 20m grid units. A sample interval of 1m was used, with a traverse interval of 1m, providing 400 sample measurements per grid unit. This data was also downloaded on site into a laptop computer for processing and storage.
- 2.4.9 *Date Processing:* Geophysical survey data was processed using ArchaeoSurveyor II software, which was used to produce 'grey-scale' images of the raw data. For the gradiometer data positive magnetic anomalies are displayed as dark grey, and negative magnetic anomalies are displayed as light grey. A palette bar shows the relationship between the grey shades and geomagnetic values in nT. For the resistance data, areas of anomalously high resistance are displayed as dark grey, and areas of anomalously low resistance as light grey. The palette bar shows the relationship between the grey shades and earth resistance values in ohms. Raw data was processed in order to further define and highlight the archaeological features detected.
- 2.4.10 The following basic data processing functions were used:
- Despike:* to locate and suppress random iron spikes in the gradiometer data

- Clip:* to clip data to specified maximum and minimum values, in order to limit large noise spikes in the geophysical data
- Destagger:* to reduce the effect of staggered gradiometer data, sometimes caused by difficult working conditions, topography, or operator error
- 2.4.11 Three types of geophysical anomaly were detected in the gradiometer data:
- positive magnetic:* regions of anomalously high or positive magnetic gradient, which may be associated with the presence of high magnetic susceptibility soil-filled features, such as pits or ditches.
- negative magnetic:* regions of anomalously low or negative magnetic gradient, which may be associated with features of low magnetic susceptibility, such as stone-built features, geological features, land-drains or sub-surface voids.
- dipolar magnetic:* regions of paired positive-negative magnetic anomalies, which typically reflect ferrous or fired materials, including fired/ferrous debris in the topsoil, modern services, metallic structures, or fired structures, such as kilns or hearths.
- 2.4.12 Two types of geophysical anomaly were detected in the earth resistance data:
- high resistance:* regions of anomalously high resistance, which may be associated with the presence of stone-built features, geological features or sub-surface voids.
- low resistance:* regions of anomalously low resistance, which may be associated with cut features which contain a higher moisture content than the surrounding material, such as pits or ditches
- 2.4.13 The grey-scale images were combined with site survey data and Ordnance Survey data to produce the geophysical survey plans. Colour-coded geophysical interpretation diagrams are provided, showing the locations and extent of positive, negative, dipolar, geomagnetic anomalies, and areas of anomalously high or low resistance.
- 2.4.14 Archaeological interpretation diagrams are provided, which are based on the interpretation of the geophysical survey results combined with the results of the metric survey, in light of the archaeological and historical background of the site.

## **2.5 TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

- 2.5.1 The trial trench evaluation comprised the excavation of a series of twelve trenches across the site. The total area of excavation comprised a 2% sample of the 0.45ha proposed development area, being 90m<sup>2</sup> in total. The precise sizes and locations of the trial trenches were based upon on the results of the rapid desk-based assessment, visual site inspection, and archaeological survey, in agreement with John Hodgson, LDNPA Senior Archaeology and Heritage Advisor. All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2002).
- 2.5.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they are observed
  - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces
  - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes
  - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes
- 2.5.3 Turf and topsoil were removed by minidigger, under close archaeological supervision on open areas of the site. Turf was removed by hand over structures at shallow depth. Trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. standard procedure as set out in the Excavation manual (Giecco 2003).
- 2.5.4 All finds were collected, including those from excavated topsoil. A metal detector was used to maximise collection of artefacts. Finds were returned to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. for initial processing and assessment.
- 2.5.5 Environmental deposits were sampled in according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. standard environmental sampling procedure. Environmental samples were processed under the direction of Patricia Shaw, BSc Hons, NPA Environmental Supervisor.

## 2.6 ARCHIVE AND PUBLICATION

- 2.6.1 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data, the process being adopted as set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1991). A full professional archive has been compiled following the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. standard procedure as set out in the NPA Guide to Project Archiving (Railton 2006), and in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The paper and physical archive will be deposited in the Kendal Museum.
- 2.6.2 The survey data archive for this project has been created in accordance with the recommendations of the Archaeology Data Service (ADS 2001). The archive is currently held at the company offices at Nenthead, Cumbria.
- 2.6.3 One copy of the survey report will be deposited with the Lake District National Park Historic Environment Record, where viewing will be available on request. The project is also registered with the **Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS)**. The OASIS reference for this project is **northpen3-38604**.
- 2.6.4 At the end of the project, a summary report on the results of the evaluation will be produced for inclusion in the Notes section of the 2008 edition of the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society. Depending on the final results of the project, a full publication article may be produced for inclusion in the Transactions, in agreement with the Client and the LDNPA.

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## 3. RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The assessment results are based on primary documents, most notably maps, and on secondary sources such as publications. The results are presented according to the archive from which they were consulted. There are 9 Historic Environment Records (HER) for the study area around the site, and extra information was gathered from the immediate vicinity, defined as a 1.5km radius centred on the site. A full list of the sites identified by the assessment is given in the Gazetteer in Appendix 1.

### 3.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

3.2.1 **HER:** there are 9 HER records within the study area, which is defined as a 1.5km radius around the site. These include 4 entries within the immediate vicinity of Gatesgarth Farm (Figure 2). These include the site of a supposed mill (HER 30522) [there is no cartographic evidence to support this suggestion, and it is possible that this entry may have originated from a misinterpretation of ‘Mill Beck’ which is actually located in Buttermere village]; a viewing station to the south of Gatesgarth Farm which is shown on a map of 1783 (HER 32081); a medieval vaccary (dairy farm) at Gatesgarth which is mentioned in 13<sup>th</sup> century Estate Rolls (HER 32592), and earthworks at Gatesgarth Farm, which may relate to the medieval vaccary (HER 32593).

3.2.2 **Listed Buildings:** the listed building records show no buildings within a 1.5km radius of the site.

3.2.3 **Scheduled Ancient Monuments:** there is one scheduled ancient monument within a 1.5km radius of Gatesgarth Farm, located just over 0.5km to the north-west of the site on the west side of Lambing Knott and marked as ‘homestead’. This site is described as a Romano-British farmstead consisting of a sub-circular enclosure measuring approximately 43 metres north-south by 50 metres east-west, containing two hut circles (SAM No.27670). Although outside the assessment area, there is a further scheduled ancient monument located approximately 4.5km to the northwest of Gatesgarth Farm, at the mouth of Scale Beck on the western side of Crummock Water. This site is believed to have been a medieval shieling settlement which consists of a group of five shielings of drystone construction (SAM No.27674). Shielings are small seasonally occupied huts which were built to provide shelter for herdsmen who tended animals grazing summer pasture on upland or marshland. The construction of these type of structures appears to date from the early medieval period onwards (from AD450), ceasing at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. A description of the relevant SAM records can be found in Appendix 1.

### 3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 3.3.1 The earliest, readily available map consulted during the rapid desk-based assessment was Hodkinson and Donald's map of 1774, which was surveyed in 1770 (Figure 3). This map clearly shows properties at 'Gatesgarth' between the southern end of 'Buttermere Water' and Honister Crag, although the orientation, unlike the later Ordnance Survey maps, is not strictly north-south. The location of the proposed development area is shown in red. There appears to be one property shown on the northern side of Gatesgarthdale Beck, in the approximate location of the present farmhouse for Gatesgarth Farm, two buildings orientated north-south on the south side of the road, roughly in the location of the present farm buildings at Gatesgarth Farm, and two properties on the north side of the road. This map does not show any watermill at Gatesgarth (Hodkinson and Donald used a circular symbol on their maps to show the location of watermills), although it is possible that if the supposed mill at Gatesgarth was simply for threshing crops rather than for milling corn, or as a fulling mill, then this may not be represented. It should be noted, however, that modern large-scale Ordnance Survey maps do mark the site of a 'Weir' on Gatesgarthdale Beck, to the east of Gatesgarth Cottage. Weirs are constructed on rivers and streams to control the flow of water and are generally associated with watermills, although this particular weir may serve some other function. To the south of Gatesgarth, the slate quarries on Yew Crag are annotated, and to the north, properties in Buttermere village are shown along with a representation of a chapel, although the present church was actually constructed in 1841 (Pevsner 2002, 82).
- 3.3.2 At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, P Crosthwaite, proprietor of the museum at Keswick, surveyed and planned several of the main lakes. His map entitled '*An Accurate Map of Buttermere, Crummock and Lowes-water Lakes, Scale Force etc*' was produced in June 1793 and the Buttermere side is reproduced in Figure 4. This is an interesting map as it shows a viewing station, which would have been located in a field to the south of Gatesgarth Farm. It is not known what form this viewing station took; it may have been an artificial mound, or even a wooden structure. A crude platform was observed to the south of the proposed development when the site was visited in January 2008 (*pers.comm.* Kevin Mounsey). The map also appears to show three buildings at Gatesgarth, one with the annotation '*The Duke of Norfolk's Great Sheep Farm*', which would appear to refer to Gatesgarth Farm, and the other two buildings marked '*Thomas Benson's Esq*'.
- 3.3.3 Enclosure maps were produced from c.1770 as land that had previously been common or waste was taken into cultivation. There is no Enclosure map for Buttermere at Carlisle Record Office.
- 3.3.4 Tithe maps and awards were produced following the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, and are useful for providing details of land ownership, occupiers, field names, acreage and state of cultivation. The Tithe map for Buttermere dates to 1845 and provides useful information as to the owner, occupier and extent of the lands attached to Gatesgarth Farm (Figure 5). For the purposes of the Tithe map, which is accompanied by the award which lists the information, Gatesgarth Farm is included with Croft Farm, located in Buttermere Village. The landowner of both Gatesgarth Farm and Croft Farm at this date was William Marshall; the occupier of Gatesgarth Farm was Christopher Tyson and there were approximately 37 fields attached to the farm, along with Plot 176



which was described as ‘house and little field’, Plot 178, ‘cottage and garden’, and Plot 177 ‘houses’. A full list of the plots in the occupancy of Christopher Tyson is given in Appendix 2. Buttermere Lake was also in the ownership of William Marshall at this date, but was ‘occupied’ by John Tyson, who presumably benefited from fishing rights. The total acreage for Gatesgarth Farm, along with Croft Farm and Buttermere Lake was 938 acres, 1 rood and 17 perches<sup>1</sup> in 1845. The Tithe map shows a property in the approximate location of the present farmhouse (Plot 176), two buildings to the east of that, on the south side of the road, two further buildings on the north side of the road beside which is Plot 178, and a further building on the south side of the road in the approximate location of the present Gatesgarth Cottage (Figure 5).

- 3.3.5 The small-scale First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 shows the buildings at Gatesgarth at this date, as well as clearly showing the enclosed fields at the south end of Buttermere, and the topography of the surrounding fells. Several sheep folds are marked to the south of Gatesgarth around Warnscale Bottom, highlighting the importance of sheep rearing in this part of the Lake District. One interesting feature shown on this map is the man made, straight channel which diverted water from Warnscale Beck, to the south of Gatesgarth (Figure 6). This type of straight channel is often indicative of a mill race, however no mill is shown, therefore it is possible that it was used to prevent the beck from flooding, as has been observed in other parts of the Lake District (*pers.comm.* John Hodgson).
- 3.3.6 The larger scale version of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (c.1865) clearly shows the buildings at Gatesgarth at this date (Figure 7). When comparing this map with the earlier Tithe map it appears that one of the buildings on the north side of the road (north of Gatesgarth Cottage) has been demolished; Gatesgarth Cottage itself appears to be smaller by this date (although it is not known how accurate the Tithe map is with regards to the size of a property, it may have been representative only); and the property shown in the location of the present farmhouse for Gatesgarth Farm is slightly different in shape, with some of the surrounding fields being taken up as plantation surrounding the house on its west, north and eastern sides.
- 3.3.7 By the date of the publication of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map in 1899, a small building had been constructed to the west of Gatesgarth farmhouse, a small addition has been added to the south-west elevation of Gatesgarth Cottage, and the field to the south of the agricultural buildings at Gatesgarth Farm has been sub-divided into three (compare Field No.185 on Figure 7 with Field No’s 192 and 193 on Figure 8). Although not shown on Figure 8, to the north-west of Gatesgarth on the western side of Lambing Knott, is a lead mine level which is described on this map as ‘Old’, although it is not shown at all on the earlier First Edition versions (this mine working is shown on modern OS maps to the north of Lower Gatesgarth).

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<sup>1</sup> 1 acre = 4 roods or 160 perches (information from staff at Carlisle Record Office)

### 3.4 CARLISLE RECORD OFFICE

3.4.1 Prior to attending the record office in Carlisle, an on-line search was undertaken using the Access to Archives website ([www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk)<sup>2</sup>) to provide an indication as to the amount and range of documentary sources available relating to Gatesgarth Farm. The results were then assessed and any particularly relevant documents were then examined and are referred to here. Many of the relevant documents were estate records, including deeds which, due to their legal nature, proved difficult to read and interpret, consequently only relevant extracts will be reproduced here. Further documents held at both Carlisle and Whitehaven Record Offices are listed in Appendix 2, which may prove useful for future, more in-depth research, which is beyond the scope of the present project.

3.4.2 Carlisle Record Office has in its archive a collection of title deeds of varying dates which have been deposited by The National Trust. These include an Indenture (written agreement) dated October 1750 between Sir James Lowther of Whitehaven and James Spedding of Armathwaite, who was Sir James's agent (pers.comm. David Bowcock, Carlisle Record Office):

*'All those freehold messuages, lands and tenements (late Richard Lamplugh Esquire deceased) situate lying and being at and commonly called and known by the several name or names of Gatesgarth, Birkness and Birkness fields, and all that sheep heath or depastures for sheep, in the fields, forests, moors, and waste ground in Gatesgarth...and all other lands called Hassmess and Greeness Closes being in Gatesgarth...all of which said premises are now in the possession and occupation of Gerard Ullock, yeoman, farmer of the said Sir James Lowther...together with all and singular houses, outhouses, edifices, buildings, barns, byres, stables, orchards, gardens, lands, meadows, pastures..'* (CRO Ref: D NT/26).

From this Indenture it is not possible to know if any of this land or buildings includes Gatesgarth Farm itself, although it clearly refers to several properties. It is also interesting that this is an agreement between Sir James Lowther and his agent, and it has been suggested by David Bowcock that there may have been an ulterior motive, as was the case in urban areas such as Cockermouth.

3.4.3 In a bundle of deeds and papers relating to the Howard family of Greystoke Castle, which contains documents dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is an interesting account of a boundary walk undertaken in 1812 that provides information on the people living at Gatesgarth at that date, as well as land ownership:

*'Boundary of the Duke of Norfolk's lands at Gatesgarth in Buttermere – The boundary of the ancient freehold lands called Warnscale and Birkness, the property of his grace the Duke of Norfolk situate at Gatesgarth in the parish of Brigham in the county of Cumberland as perambulated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve by George Wilkinson Esquire, steward of the said Duke of Norfolk, guided and directed by several old men acquainted with the said Boundary and other persons then and here present due notice of the said perambulation having been first given to the lords of the several manors adjoining thereto and also advertised in the Cumberland Packet beginning at the foot of Sour*

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<sup>2</sup> Access to Archives – The English strand of the UK archives network

*Milk Beck from thence along the south west side of Buttermere Lake and so up Warnscale Beck and Dubs Beck to the three footed ?Blander from thence as the Heavens Water divideth to Brunt Cragg, Round How, Haystacks, High Cragg, High Stile, Red Pike and the Dodd and from thence downwards to Sour Milk Beck and following the said lake to the foot thereof where the said Boundary was first begun'* (CRO Ref: D HG/14).

The document was signed by several who attended the walk, although as some could not write a cross was made, with their names being added later. Those who lived at Gatesgarth included: Matthias Vickers, Joseph Grave, Matthias Mumberson, Peter Grove, John Mumberson, George Wilmot and Henry ?Mackrel.

- 3.4.4 An Indenture between Mary Senhouse of Calder Abbey, Henry Howard of Corby Castle, Charles Duke of Norfolk, John Marshall of New Grange, Leeds and William Marshall of New Grange dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1815 refers to an earlier agreement of 1765 which mentions a John Cartmell of Gatesgarth, yeoman. The following is an extract:

*'Indenture, release, surrender and confirm unto the said William Marshall, his heirs and assigns all that customary messuage or dwelling house, stable and cowhouse thereto adjoining situate lying and being at Gatesgarth otherwise Gaskarth in the township of Buttermere...on the south west side of the kings highway leading from Buttermere to Borrowdale...and all that part of a barn adjoining to a dwelling house formerly Charles Norman's situate on the east side of the doors of the said barn and also all those several closes..that is to say Long Garth and land about the building containing 3r and 28p, Snabb, otherwise Low Chapel Garth (9a 26p), Little Field, containing 6a 14p, Hudsons Close including Moss Green (30a 24p) and a parcel of ground adjoining to and lying on the north east and south west side of Gaskarth Beck near the houses containing 1a 1r 5p...'* (CRO Ref: D NT/26).

Again, it is not possible to know if this document refers to Gatesgarth Farm, although its description that the property lies on the south-west side of the road may suggest that it does.

- 3.4.5 A further Indenture of the same date, appears to be between different people, namely Vincent Eyre, late of Sheffield; Helen Craik of Flimby Lodge; John Spedding of Mirehouse; Charles, Duke of Norfolk and William Jones of Broughton. What is interesting about this document is that it includes a reference to buildings at Gatesgarth that were in a poor state:

*'And all that freehold messuage or dwelling house and outbuildings thereunto belonging (now in decay) situate at Gaitsgarth, otherwise Gaskarth in the township of Buttermere aforesaid and also all those several closes called the High Chapel Garth with a small garden standing therein..a close called Brow Head..a close called Pinfold Close...a close called Brown Ing and a new plantation in Brown Ing..one other close called Brown Ing How.....'* (CRO Ref: D NT/26).

- 3.4.6 In 1934 Gatesgarth Farm was up for sale, along with Gatesgarth Cottage, Kirkclose Plantation and Wilkinsyke Farm. Carlisle Record Office has a copy of the Sales Particulars in its archive, which provide information on the extent of the farm, and what the farm buildings were used for at that date:

*'The farmhouse, about 12 miles from Cockermouth, is delightfully situated to the south of Buttermere and is approached by a short drive from the road which has recently been put in thorough repair'. 'The farm buildings include: stone-built sheep pen with sheep dipping bath and implement store; large loft over, about 50ft by 18ft for wool etc. Very fine stone barn with carthorse stable for four; loose box at the end, and turnip house; cow byre for 16 with two calf boxes, large calving box and cow byre for 8, with calf pen at each end; very fine barn or hay store over'.*

*'The farmlands include some good rich pasture with frontage to the lake and a large area of fell land comprising the whole area at the southern end of the land with a considerable portion on the north-east and south-west sides. The area extends altogether to about 1487.993 acres. In addition there is a large area of unenclosed common of about 1136 acres, making the total area about 2600 acres. The farm has been let from Ladyday<sup>3</sup> on an annual tenancy to Mr Jeremiah Richardson at a rental of £240 per annum, and included in the letting are 1433 heaf-going sheep'. (CRO Ref: D Mil/Mounsey/153/510).*

### 3.5 PUBLICATIONS

- 3.5.1 The name 'Buttermere' is believed to derive from the Old Norse<sup>4</sup> word *buðar* and the Old English word *mere* meaning huts, or booths, by the lake (Lee 1998, 16 and CWAAS 1894-5, 408).
- 3.5.2 The earliest recorded reference to Gatesgarth is in 1259 when the area was retained as demesne<sup>5</sup> forest pasture and valued at 10s, when it was said to have been capable of supporting 60 cows and their offspring (Winchester 1987, 142). By 1267 Gatesgarth was a vaccary (dairy farm) which belonged to the countess of Aumâle. As well as the vaccary buildings, there were also enclosed meadows and a 'park'. By the 16<sup>th</sup> century there were three holdings at Gatesgarth, all held by the Hudson family (*Ibid*, 142). Winchester believes that the huge enclosure on the slopes of Robinson, known as Gatesgarth Side, relates to the area's history as a vaccary, and may historically have been known as the 'forest of Gatesgarth', the boundaries of which were given by a jury in 1578 (Liddell 1966, 121 and Winchester 1987, 143), although there are only a few of the place names given in that survey which can be traced on the ground in the present day. The boundaries of Gatesgarth Side in 1845 is shown separately on the Buttermere Tithe Map (Figure 9).
- 3.5.3 One of the earliest works consulted during the rapid desk-based assessment was Thomas Denton's '*A Perambulation of Cumberland*' which was compiled for Sir John Lowther in 1687-68 and recently published in 2003. On describing Buttermere in Loweswater parish, Denton observed that the village lay '*in a low crooked deep valley environed with many prodigious high mountains. Here is also a great plash or lake, which in these parts are called meres. From the hills about this mere springs the head*

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<sup>3</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> March

<sup>4</sup> Old Norse was the language spoken by Norwegians who colonised north-west England from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, Old English was the language spoken by Anglo-Saxons from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> centuries (Source: Lee 1998)

<sup>5</sup> Lands attached to a manor which are retained by the owner for their own use

- of Cokar, and in this lake are caught the best Charrs in the north, being fishes soe much admired at London*. He also refers to '*Booterbeck*' which appears to be modern '*Bowderbeck*' to the north-west of Gatesgarth as being the estate of the Hudson's in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the location of a black lead mine (Denton 2003, 119).
- 3.5.4 Writing at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Hutchinson described the soil around Buttermere as gravelly and that there was little in the way of enclosed and tillable land due to the topography. He also commented on the amount of sheep kept, not just at Buttermere, but also at Lorton, Loweswater and Wythop, totalling 10, 500 and described them as being '*of a heavier breed than some in the neighbourhood, particularly those at Loweswater*'. He noted that there was no freestone, limestone or coal in the area, however he described the slate quarries at Buttermere [to the east of Gatesgarth] as excellent (Hutchinson 1794-97, 123).
- 3.5.5 In their '*History, Directory and Gazetteer of Cumberland and Westmorland 1829*' Parson and White noted that many of the labourers in Buttermere township were '*employed in the extensive blue slate quarries on the rugged mountain called Honister Crag, which forms the south bank of the deep and narrow vale of Gatesgarthdale, the sides of which are almost perpendicular*'. They also refer to '*the sheep-house, and other dwellings, called Gatesgarth [which] stand at the end of Honister Crag*'. Presumably the sheep house they refer to is Gatesgarth Farm. In the directory, the farmer at Gatesgarth Farm is listed as Joseph Norman (Parson and White 1829, 183).
- 3.5.6 In 1860, sheep farming is described as being the chief employment of the inhabitants of Buttermere, with some employed in the slate quarries on Honister Crag. Cockermouth is noted to have been the market attended by those in the township, and the principal landowners are listed as being W Marshall, Esq, General Wyndham and Robert Jopson (Whellan 1860, 311).
- 3.5.7 Writing in 1936, Size refers to the location of a former 'Click Mill' situated on Mill Beck to the west of Buttermere village, as shown by carved rocks on the sides of the beck. This click mill is believed to have been dismantled around 1735, when the millers house was purchased for a Parsonage (Size 1936, 193) Click Mills were a simplistic form of watermill, consisting of a vertical shaft with paddles on the bottom (which occasionally click together hence the name) and millstones on the top. According to Size, there were in 1936 no other known examples in England, although they are known in Scotland, Ireland and Norway, with the remains of one being observed on the Isle of Man (*Ibid*, 192). It is interesting that these are areas which were subject to Norse influence. It must be remembered, however, that as there appears to have been little in the way of buildings associated with them, any evidence for them may have simply disappeared. This article also makes reference to building remains at Scale Beck, the word '*scale*' being derived from the Norwegian *scali* meaning a shelter (Size 1936, 194).
- 3.5.8 An article in the 1945 volume of the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society describes the foundations of buildings at Scale Beck (now Scheduled Ancient Monument No.27674 – See 4.2.3 above). This article is relevant to Gatesgarth Farm as it describes archaeological evidence for early settlement in the vale of Buttermere (Hay 1945, 116-121). Due to the presence of circular and rectangular foundations, Hay suggests that the buildings at Scale Beck may have

- originated as a British settlement and were later modified ‘*very considerably under Norse influence*’ i.e. from the 10<sup>th</sup> century (Hay 1945, 120). This is comparable to the insertion of rectangular buildings into earlier circular structures at Ewe Close, Crosby Ravensworth (*Ibid*, 117). In this article, Hay also makes reference to another British settlement, in this case what he describes as a small one-hut example (Hay 1945, 121), which appears to be that now Scheduled, located to the west of Lambing Knott and referred to in 4.2.3 above (SAM No.27670).
- 3.5.9 The slate quarries on Honister Crag and Yew Crag, to the east of Gatesgarth Farm, are well known and documented. It would appear, however, that searches for copper in the vicinity of Gatesgarth were also undertaken, although these presumably proved fruitless as there does not appear to be the remains of large-scale mining activity close to the survey site. Within a collection of correspondence dating from the 1690s, a letter from William Gilpin to Sir John Lowther of Whitehaven refers to the presence of ‘*marchasite, which I was informed might be had in great quantities. ‘Tis at Gascarth a customary tenement of Mr Lamplugh’s near the top of a high and steep rock. I found the copper operators of Moresby searching there for copper ore in an old work of Mr Hexhetters<sup>6</sup>. They were in pursuit of an ore which they called copper, and I believe it has something of that metal in it*’ (Hainsworth 1983, 441).
- 3.5.10 According to Tyler, some of the earliest quarrying for slate at Bull Gill open quarry and Ash Gill open quarry on Fleetwith Pike, to the south-east of Gatesgarth, was undertaken in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the remains of some of the earliest dwellings are located just below Bull Gill. Tracks from these quarries led to Dubs, and then to Warnscale Bottom and Gatesgarth, down which the men and loaded pony-drawn carts would descend (Tyler 1994, 22). It is therefore possible that parts of these early tracks may cross the proposed development area, although it would seem likely that the track skirted the western base of Fleetwith Pike to join the road that passes through Gatesgarth, as a track still does today.
- 3.5.11 In the 1986 volume of the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Winchester notes that in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with reference to medieval Cockermouth, the lord’s demesne consisted c.1270 of the castle with its attached deer park, 25 acres of land in ‘*the close below the castle*’, as well as 83 acres of demesne land in ‘*Ourebyfeld*’ and the field near St Helen’s Chapel was let to tenants. The demesne at Cockermouth formed the core of a large farming enterprise which included land at Birkby [near Maryport], as well as mountain pastures and meadows in the vaccary at Gatesgarth, and elsewhere in Derwent fells (Winchester 1986, 111).
- 3.5.12 The 2003 volume of Transactions contains a further article by Winchester which concentrates on the vaccary at Gatesgarth. Gatesgarth Farm is noted to have been famed for the breeding of sheep, since ‘old’ Edward (Ned) Nelson took over the estate in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, however in the 13<sup>th</sup> century it was cattle which formed the major part of the agricultural economy of the estate. As well as Gatesgarth, there are other known vaccaries: in the forest of Copeland, Wasdalehead and Gillerthwaite in Ennerdale. Furness and Fountains abbeys had vaccaries at Brotherilkeld in Eskdale and

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<sup>6</sup> Either Daniel Hechstetter who was brought from Germany by the Mines Royal in 1565 to seek for copper in the fells around Keswick, or one of his descendants (Source: Hainsworth 1983, 442)

Stonethwaite in Borrowdale (Winchester 2003, 109). The earliest surviving account dates to the years 1267-8, when 234 cattle were kept on vaccaries at Gatesgarth and Birkby, with meadows at Birkby, Gatesgarth and Keskadale providing hay for the stock over the winter. The accounts of between August 1267 and Michaelmas<sup>7</sup> 1269 also provide some information on the buildings at Gatesgarth, during this period a cow house was mended, and a house for hay and calves was built. In 1282-3, a 67 foot long *vaccaria* was constructed to house the stock in winter, Winchester notes that the exact position of the vaccary buildings is not known, although they may have been within the vicinity of the modern farm buildings and Gatesgarth Cottage, as a former resident of the cottage (Annie Nelson) remembers the remains of structures still visible in 1968 (*Ibid*, 114). By the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, there were two holdings at Gatesgarth, by which time the modern focus on sheep was established. In 1750, the two farms ran about 1600 sheep on the surrounding sheep heafs (*Ibid*, 116).

- 3.5.13 In England, vaccaries appear to have been a northern phenomenon, as there is evidence of their existence not only in the Lake District but also in Teesdale and Weardale; on land belonging to the abbeys of Rievaulx and Rosedale in Yorkshire, and in the Lancashire Forest of Bowland towards Skipton (Denyer 1991, 90). By the 14<sup>th</sup> century a combination of events, such as a general deterioration in the climate of Western Europe, devastating cattle plagues and increased border warfare, led to vaccaries being abandoned and the land divided into smaller tenements (*Ibid*, 91).
- 3.5.14 Gatesgarth Farm was bought by Thomas Richardson in 1963 from the then owner, Sir Claude Elliot, the Provost of Eton. It is at present the fourth largest farm in the Lake District<sup>8</sup>.

### **3.6 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

- 3.6.1 No known previous archaeological work has been undertaken within a 1.5km radius of Gatesgarth Farm.
- 3.6.2 Although not encompassing the present survey area, a Historic Landscape Survey of Ennerdale undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North in 2003 did refer to a comparable medieval vaccary at the head of Ennerdale, close to Gillerthwaite. The vaccary here is also known from documentation, and a 1334 *Inquisition post mortem* refers to two vaccaries at the head of the lake. Several rectangular long houses were identified as part of the survey, along with stock enclosures, one of which was typologically similar to a medieval enclosure at Heathwaite Fell (OAN 2003, 26).

### **3.7 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

- 3.7.1 Aerial photographs pertaining to the study area were studied at the LDNPA HER. The photographs were vertical and of a small-scale. As a result and no new archaeological sites were identified within the vicinity of Gatesgarth Farm from this source.

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<sup>7</sup> The feast of St Michael, September

<sup>8</sup> Cumberland News, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008, Farming Supplement

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## 4. VISUAL SITE INSPECTION

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The visual site inspection was undertaken on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2007. At the time of the survey the proposed development area was located within two fields of pasture, subdivided by a drystone wall, on the south side of the B5289 road to Buttermere (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 The northwest part of the proposed development area (Area 1) was contained within a small enclosed field situated immediately to the east of two 18<sup>th</sup> century slate barns belonging to Gatesgarth Farm. The remainder of the proposed development area occupied the northern part of a larger field of pasture, bounded by drystone walls to the north and west, and by the boundary fence of Gatesgarth Cottage to the northeast.



**Plate 1:** Setting of the proposed development area, looking south towards Hay Stacks (the proposed development area is on the far side of the road, situated between the barns on the right, and Gatesgarth Cottage on the left)

### 4.2 AREA 1

- 4.2.1 Area 1 comprised 1.6ha of land to the east of Gatesgarth Farm, bounded by drystone walls, a slate barn to the west, and a modern fence to the southwest (Plate 2). This fence was located further east than the limit of the proposed development area shown on Figure 2. A stack of round silage bails occupied the edge of the proposed development area on the west side of this fence, and so this area had to be excluded from the subsequent archaeological survey.
- 4.2.2 The northern part of Area 1 was relatively level, but the ground fell sharply to the southwest to an area that was heavily waterlogged at the time of the survey. Slate outcrops occupied the west side of this area.





**Plate 2:** Area 1 on the west side of the proposed development area, looking north



**Plate 3:** Possible footings of a rectangular building on the north side of Area 1 (on the right), looking west

- 4.2.3 Possible archaeological features were identified over the level ground on the north side of Area 1. These comprised a series of low stone banks made of earth-fast boulders and small stones, forming a possible rectangular area adjacent to the northern drystone wall (Plate 3). These were interpreted as the possible footings of a long rectangular building measuring approximately 20m long and at least 5m wide. Further low stone banks were identified to the south of this feature and were interpreted as being either part as part of this building, or the remains of former associated boundary walls.
- 4.2.4 To the south of these features the sunken outline of a former ditch or service trench was identified, aligned northeast-southwest. It was not certain whether this feature continued under the drystone wall, but this seemed probable.

- 4.2.5 At the top of the sloping ground towards the centre of Area 1, an alignment of earth-fast boulders was identified, aligned approximately east-west, which may mark the edge of a former track. However at the time of the survey a strong issue of water was observed coming from underneath these stones, due to the presence of a spring or broken land drain, which threw the purpose of these stones into question. West of these stones was a small area of cobbles with a similar alignment.



**Plate 4:** Area 2 looking west, with Gatesgarth Cottage on the right, and Gatesgarth Farm beyond



**Plate 5:** Ridge and furrow earthworks in Area 2 with Fleetwith Pike beyond, looking west

## 4.3 AREA 2

- 4.3.1 Area 2 was situated to the east of Area 1 within a larger field of pasture, bounded by drystone walls to the north and west, and by the boundary fence of Gatesgarth Cottage

to the northeast (Plate 4). This area occupied the north and west slopes of a rounded hill at the bottom of Fleetwith Pike.

- 4.3.2 Narrow ridge and furrow earthworks were identified over the southern part of this area and covering much of the north part of the field. These were aligned northeast-southwest with 3m between furrows (Plate 5).
- 4.3.3 At the top of the slope on the east side of Area 2 a prominent rectangular earthwork platform was identified, comprising a 17m-long and 7m-wide area bounded on the north, east and south sides by a low earthen bank (Plate 4 and Plate 6). This feature was aligned north-west to south-east with an open down-slope side to the northwest. Adjacent to this feature on the southeast side was the low bank of a possible former boundary and the sunken remains of an associated ditch on the east side (Plate 7).



**Plate 6:** Rectangular earthwork platform on the east side of Area 2, looking east



**Plate 7:** Remains of a low bank to the east of the earthwork platform, looking north

- 4.3.4 A level area was noted on the north side of Area 2, on the west side of Gatesgarth Cottage, adjacent to the drystone boundary wall. This area contained the fragmentary remains of a number of low stone banks, and a number of earth-fast boulders, which were interpreted as the remains of possible wall foundations. However a number of boulders were also present from field clearance, making interpretation difficult. Two alignments of earth-fast stones were identified close to the drystone wall, which were interpreted as possible former building or wall foundations.



**Plate 8:** Level ground on the north side of Area 2, where possible wall footings were identified, looking east

## 4.4 DISCUSSION

- 4.4.1 Three areas of potential archaeological remains were identified on the north side of the proposed development area, in addition to the visible ridge and furrow earthworks, and relict field boundaries. These were situated on three terraces on the western slope of a rounded hill at the bottom of Fleetwith Pike.
- 4.4.2 The rectangular platform on the east side of Area 2 was the most prominent feature identified. It was thought that this feature may have been a former building platform, although no stone footings were visible. The two lower terraces did not appear artificial in character, but contained evidence for the possible footings of stone buildings and associated walls.
- 4.4.3 The archaeological features identified during the visual site inspection were targeted by the subsequent archaeological survey and trial trench evaluation.

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## 5. SURVEY RESULTS

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 At the time of the archaeological survey, the proposed development area comprised two fields of pasture, subdivided by a drystone wall, measuring 0.45ha in total. All of the possible archaeological features identified during the visual site inspection, were included in the metric survey (Figures 10 & 11). Two earthwork profiles were also surveyed to help illustrate the earthwork platform located at the east side of Area 2 (Figure 12).
- 5.1.2 Two types of geophysical survey were undertaken at the site: geomagnetic survey and earth resistance survey, in order to gain as much information as possible about sub-surface features. For the purposes of the geophysical surveys, the proposed development area was subdivided into two areas: Area 1 and Area 2. A 20m grid was laid out in each area. The geophysical survey areas extended outside of the proposed development area to the southeast, in order to include the whole of the earthwork platform recorded in the topographic survey (Figure 13).
- 5.1.3 Area 1 comprised the northwest part of the proposed development area, and was contained within a small enclosed field situated immediately to the east of two 18<sup>th</sup> century slate barns belonging to Gatesgarth Farm. This area was bounded by drystone walls to the north, south and east, and a modern post and wire fence to the southwest. This fence was located further north and east than the field boundary depicted on the current Ordnance Survey map of the site (Figure 2). The southwest corner of this area was covered by a stack of silage bails at the time and could not be surveyed. The west side of this area was heavily waterlogged at the time of the survey. The natural bedrock was also visible at the surface in this area, and so this area was excluded from the geophysical surveys.
- 5.1.4 The remainder of the proposed development area (Area 2) occupied the northern part of a larger field of pasture, bounded by drystone walls to the north and west, and by the boundary fence of Gatesgarth Cottage to the northeast. Following the survey it was noted that the actual location of the Gatesgarth Cottage garden boundary fence, and the alignment of Gategarth Cottage itself, were slightly different to the locations depicted on the current Ordnance Survey map of the site, which was provided by the client (Figure 2). This was subsequently checked again and the Ordnance Survey map was found to be inaccurate, therefore the metric survey data was used for the subsequent survey plans, rather than the Ordnance Survey map (Figure 13).
- 5.1.5 The mapped Ordnance Survey benchmark at the entrance to Gatesgarth Farm could not be located on the ground, therefore the ground level at the drive entrance was used as a basis for survey elevation values, with an estimated height of 110m OD.

## 5.2 METRIC SURVEY

- 5.2.1 A series of low stone banks with earth fast boulders up to 0.3m high were recorded on the north side of Area 1 (Figure 10), close to the existing dry stone wall, with a slightly sunken area in between (a). These features had previously been interpreted as the possible footings of a long rectangular building measuring approximately 20m long and at least 5m wide. Further low stone banks were identified to the south of this feature and were interpreted as being either part as part of this building, or the remains of former associated boundary walls (b).
- 5.2.2 To the south of these features the sunken outline of a 16m-long, 3m-wide soil-filled ditch or service trench was recorded. It was not certain whether this feature continued under the drystone wall, but this seemed probable (c).
- 5.2.3 On the southwest side of Area 1, at the top of a natural slope, a partly exposed cobbled surface was observed (d), lying over the natural slate bedrock. This surface measured at least 3m long and 1m wide, but the full extent of this was not certain. Immediately to the southeast of this feature was a 4m-long alignment of larger cobbles (e), which may have been associated with this surface.
- 5.2.4 A further series of low stone banks was recorded at the west side of Area 2 in an area of level ground (Figure 11). A 15m-long, 2.5m-wide, 0.3m-high bank was recorded at the bottom of a natural slope, aligned northwest-southeast (f). This was interpreted as a possible boundary bank. Three irregular stone banks were located to the northeast of this features, being up to 0.4m high, 6m long and 2m wide (g). However it was thought that these features may have resulted from relatively recent field clearance.
- 5.2.5 An alignment of earth-fast boulders was visible on the north side of Area 2, adjacent to the existing stone wall, aligned northeast-southwest (h). The largest stone was 1.2m long, 0.6m wide and 0.2m high. These stones were thought to be the footings of a substantial wall. Another alignment of smaller earth-fast stones, and a short section of wall were recorded at the northwest corner of Area 2 (i). The visible section of wall was 1m long, 0.7m wide and 0.2m high, and was aligned northwest-southeast.
- 5.2.6 A 18m-long, 8m-wide rectangular building platform was situated at the top of the natural slope on the southeast side of Area 2 (j). This area was defined by a 8m-long, 1.2m-wide and 0.5m-high, sloping bank on the southeast side, an 18m-long, 0.6m-wide and 0.3m-high sloping bank on the southeast side, with a 10m-long, 0.4m-wide, 0.3m-high sloping bank on the northeast side, which curved northwards towards a pair of large earth-fast boulders. The platform was not level, but exhibited a slight incline towards the northwest.
- 5.2.7 Immediately to the south of this feature, was a low earth bank (k) and ditch (l), which curved around the southeast and southwest sides of the earthwork platform. The bank was 39m long, up to 2m wide and up to 0.3m high, and terminated at the west end next to a large earth-fast boulder. The soil-filled ditch was immediately south of the bank, being 1.7m wide and 0.1m deep. These features were interpreted as parts of a former field boundary associated with the earthwork platform.

- 5.2.8 Two earthwork profiles were recorded, aligned northeast-southwest (A1-A2) and northwest-southeast (B1-B2), to help illustrate the earthwork platform and associated bank and ditch (Figure 12).
- 5.2.9 A series of parallel ridges and furrows were recorded on the south side of Area 2 (m). These earthworks covered the majority of the hill top on the south side of the proposed development area, and extended down slope on the south and east sides of this hill (Figure 13). The ridges were on average spaced 3m apart, and were interpreted as the remains of former ridge and furrow cultivation of probable post-medieval date.

### **5.3 GEOMAGNETIC SURVEY**

- 5.3.1 Small dipolar magnetic anomalies were detected across both of the survey areas (Figure 14 and Figure 15). These were almost certainly caused by fired/ferrous litter in the topsoil, and are typical of modern agricultural land. Strong dipolar magnetic anomalies were detected along the southwest side of Area 1 and the northeast side of Area 2, due to the presence of modern post and wire fences. Strong dipolar magnetic anomalies were also detected on the west side of Area 1 and on the north side of Area 2, due to the presence of modern agricultural ferrous material in the topsoil.
- 5.3.2 A chain of intense dipolar magnetic anomalies was detected running across the north part of Area 2, and the east side of Area 1. These were due to the presence of a BT cable. Another chain of intense dipolar magnetic anomalies was detected running across Area 2, aligned north-south, and was almost certainly due to the presence of a modern service pipe.
- 5.3.3 A weak negative linear dipolar anomaly was detected on the east side of Area 1, in the vicinity of a visible sunken feature, interpreted as a possible soil-filled ditch.
- 5.3.4 A series of weak parallel positive and negative linear magnetic anomalies were detected on the southwest side of Area 2, and corresponded to the location of visible ridge and furrow earthworks.

### **5.4 EARTH RESISTANCE SURVEY**

- 5.4.1 Broad variations in earth resistance were detected across both survey areas, due to geological variations across the site (Figure 16). Discrete areas of anomalously high resistance were detected in areas where the natural bedrock was particularly close to the land surface. An area of anomalously low resistance was detected on the south side of Area 1, where the ground was particularly waterlogged (Figure 17).
- 4.4.2 An area of low resistance was detected on the east side of Area 1 in the vicinity of a visible sunken feature, interpreted as a possible soil-filled ditch. This was due to increased moisture content in this area. Another area of low resistance was detected in Area 2, aligned north-south, and was interpreted as the location of a modern service pipe.
- 4.4.3 A number of small areas of anomalously high resistance were detected on the north side of Area 1 and Area 2 due to the presence of stone rubble, visible stone footings

and large earth fast boulders. Some of these areas could not be surveyed due to the abundance of stone, which made the earth resistance survey impossible.

## **5.5 DISCUSSION**

- 5.5.1 Both the geomagnetic and earth resistance surveys detected a number of the visible features recorded in the metric survey, including the ridge and furrow earthworks in Area 2, and a possible soil-filled ditch in Area 1, due to corresponding variations in soil depths. Modern services were also detected by both of the geophysical surveys.
- 5.5.2 Overall the geophysical surveys provided little additional information regarding subsurface archaeological features. This was due to the shallow depths of stone-built features, the abundance of stone rubble and ferrous material at the site, and the close proximity of the natural bedrock, which was particularly problematic for the earth resistance survey.
- 5.5.3 In this instance the metric survey was the most useful survey technique in terms of identifying archaeological features at the site. A number of these features were targeted in the subsequent trial trench evaluation (Figure 18).



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## 6. TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 Twelve trenches were excavated in total (Trenches 1-12), targeting possible archaeological features recorded in the archaeological survey (Figure 18). The locations of the trial trenches were agreed with John Hodgson, Senior Archaeology and Heritage Advisor at the Lake District National Park Authority, prior to the excavation commencing. All of the trenches in Area 1 were excavated by hand (Trenches 8-12). In Area 2 the turf and topsoil (100) was excavated by mini digger, under close archaeological supervision, to the top of archaeological deposits. All subsequent excavation and cleaning was undertaken by hand. The exception was Trench 5, which was only excavated by hand due to the presence of a visible stone wall. Once the excavation was completed, all of the trenches were back-filled with the excavated material. The cut turf was re-laid in Area 1.

### 6.2 TRENCH 1

6.2.1 Trench 1 was a 1.6m-wide L-shaped trench measuring 13m long northeast-southwest direction, and 7m long northwest-southeast (Plate 9). It was located over the rectangular earthwork platform at the east end of Area 2, including a section of the associated bank and ditch (Figure 19).



**Plate 9:** Trench 1 (southwest end) looking northeast, showing outer ditch [116] and bank of pebbles (116) prior to excavation

- 6.2.2 The natural glacial sand and gravel (102) was revealed at a depth of 0.25m to the south and east of the earthwork platform. Within the platform area this was located at a depth of 0.15m. Cutting the natural subsoil on the inner edge of the rectangular platform was a shallow linear feature. Two sections were excavated through this feature, which was interpreted as a foundation slot for a timber building. On the southwest side of the platform the cut for this feature [114] was 1.2m wide and 0.2m deep with a concave base (Section 1, Figure 20). This was filled with light brown silty clay (115), containing occasional small rounded pebbles and a piece of roofing slate. On the southeast side of the platform the cut for this feature [118] was 1.3m wide and 0.18m deep with concave sides and a moderately flat base (Section 2, Figure 1). A round flat stone, measuring 0.5m by 0.4m, had been placed in the bottom of this feature (plate 10). This was interpreted as a pad for a timber post. Filling the bottom of this feature was a 0.02m-deep deposit of brown silt (130), above which was a 0.16m-deep layer of light brown sandy silt (119) containing occasional angular stones. No finds were recovered with which to date this feature.



**Plate 10:** Trench 1 (southeast end) looking northwest, showing the excavated construction slot [118] and stone forming a possible post pad

- 6.2.3 Cutting the natural subsoil to the southeast of the earthwork platform was a 0.8m-wide, 0.25m-deep ditch [116], with straight sloping sides and a flat base. This was packed with angular stones, measuring on average 0.15m in diameter, in a light brown silty clay matrix (117). The ditch was clearly constructed as a drainage ditch, presumably to carry water around, and away from, the earthwork platform.
- 6.2.4 Above the features described above was a 0.15m-deep layer of orange-brown sandy clay subsoil (101) containing frequent small rounded stones and some small fragments of slate. To the southwest of the earthwork platform, and between it and the drainage ditch [116], was a deposit of rounded pebbles (113), measuring on average 0.12m in diameter. These formed the top of a c.2m-wide earthwork bank (Section 1, Figure 20). This material was overlain by a 0.15m-deep layer of topsoil and turf, and was interpreted as the up-cast from the drainage ditch located immediately to the south [116].

6.2.5 The results of Trench 1 led to the interpretation that the earthwork platform had previously been occupied by a rectangular timber building, which was kept free of draining water from above by the construction of a drainage ditch around the southeast and southwest sides. A single fragment of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the spoil heap of Trench 1. However, no finds were recovered with which to date these features.

### 6.3 TRENCH 2

6.3.1 Trench 2 measured 1.6m by 6.5m, and was excavated on the north side of the earthwork platform (Figure 19). The natural glacial sand and gravel (102) was revealed at a depth of 0.8m in this trench, above which was a 4.5m-wide, 0.3m-deep layer of orange sandy clay (112) containing frequent rounded pebbles. The northern edge of this deposit was defined by a large earth-fast boulder, which marked the northeast edge of the terrace (Section 3, Figure 20). This layer was interpreted as re-deposited natural subsoil, which had been used to level the north side of the earthwork platform (Plate 11). Above this layer was a 0.35m-depth of orange-brown sandy clay subsoil (101) containing frequent small rounded stones, above which was a 0.25m-deep layer of topsoil (100). No finds were recovered from this trench with which to date the earthwork platform.



**Plate 11:** Trench 2, looking southwest towards the edge of the earthwork platform (marked by boulders)

## 6.4 TRENCH 3

- 6.4.1 Trench 3 was located on the north side of the proposed development area close to the existing northern boundary wall, and encompassed an alignment of earth-fast boulders recorded during the archaeological survey (Figure 21). This trench was 1.6m wide and 12.5m long. However a 1.5m long section of this trench was not excavated due to the presence of a BT cable in this area. The deposits in Trench 3 were disturbed by the presence of substantial tree roots from a line of trees to the north of the boundary wall.
- 6.4.2 The natural glacial stony sand and gravel (102) was revealed at a depth of 0.4m in this trench. Sitting on top of the natural subsoil were the foundation stones of two substantial stone walls, aligned northeast-southwest, and spaced *c.*5m apart. At the eastern end of Trench 3 a stone wall [111] measuring 0.8m wide and 0.1m high was revealed made of sandstone boulders up to 0.6m square. Several fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the top of this wall (Plate 12).



**Plate 12:** The eastern wall [111] in Trench 3, looking southwest

- 6.4.3 The second wall [126] was located towards the west end of Trench 3, and measured 0.9m wide, being 0.22m high. This was made of large sandstone boulders and smaller blue stones up to 0.3m in diameter. This wall was disturbed at the northern end, where it had been cut through by a stone-built, slate-lined culvert [125]. The culvert was at least 3.4m long, 0.4m wide and 0.13m high, and crossed the trench with a northwest-southeast alignment (Plate 13). The base and top of the culvert were constructed from re-used roofing slates. The sides were made from rounded cobbles (Section 4, Figure 22).
- 6.4.4 Abutting the west side of this wall, and filling the southwest corner of Trench 3 was the base of a dry stone wall (128), which was at least 3.3m long, 0.54m high and 0.9m wide, aligned northwest-southeast (Section 4, Figure 22). This was interpreted as a later boundary wall.



**Plate 13:** The western stone wall [126] and stone culvert [125] in Trench 3, looking west

- 6.4.5 Covering the stone walls and culvert in Trench 3 was a 0.4m deep layer of orange-brown sandy clay subsoil containing large amounts of angular stones and cobbles (129). This was interpreted as made ground resulting from the levelling of this area. Above this deposit was a 0.2m-deep deposit of topsoil (100) containing large quantities of stone rubble and a fragment of post-medieval pottery.
- 6.4.6 The two parallel walls in Trench 3 were interpreted as the foundations of a substantial stone building, possibly a former barn, of probable post-medieval date. The culvert and boundary wall were interpreted as further evidence for the agricultural use of the site in the post-medieval period.

## 6.5 TRENCH 4

- 6.5.1 Trench 4 was situated 6m to the southwest of Trench 3, and was located over a visible stone bank recorded during the archaeological survey (Figure 21). The trench was 1.6m wide and 0.95m long, aligned northeast-southwest. The natural glacial orange sand (102) was revealed at a depth of 0.25m at the southwest end of this trench. This was cut by a *c.*1m-wide, 0.1m-deep plough furrow [107], which was filled by a 0.1m-deep deposit of sandy loam (108), interpreted as a former plough soil (Section 4, Figure 22).
- 6.5.2 Above the natural subsoil at the centre of Trench 4 was a 2m-wide, 0.15m-deep deposit of closely-spaced rounded cobbles (109), between 0.1 and 0.2m in diameter, forming a low bank. Immediately to the northeast, filling the northeast end of the trench, was a cobbled surface of larger rounded stones (110), being on average 0.3m in diameter. This was interpreted as a former yard surface or crude metalled track (Plate 14).

- 6.5.3 The cobbled surface (110) was cut by a modern trench for a BT cable. All of the features in this trench were covered by a 0.2m-depth of topsoil, from which fragments of post-mediaeval pottery were recovered.



**Plate 14:** Cobbled surface (110) in Trench 4, looking southwest



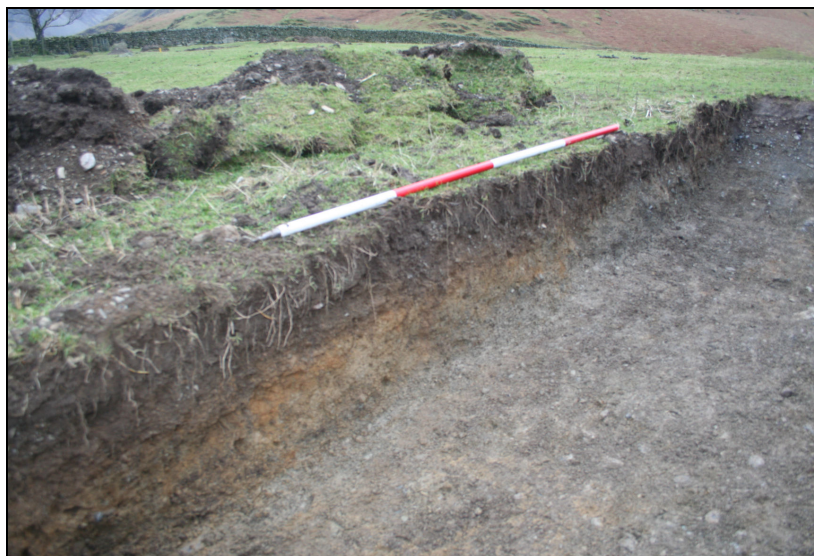
**Plate 15:** Section of wall [106] in Trench 5 with the modern wall beyond (looking north)

## 6.6 TRENCH 5

- 6.6.1 Trench 5 was located in the north side of the proposed development area, close to the existing boundary wall (Figure 21), where the foundations of a visible stone wall had been recorded. The trench was 1m wide and 3m long, and was aligned northeast-southwest. Further earth-fast boulders were noted to the east of this trench.
- 6.6.2 The natural glacial orange sand (102) was revealed at a depth of 0.25m, above which were the foundations of a well-constructed wall [106]. This wall was 0.7m wide and 0.25m high, with flush outer faces, aligned northeast-southwest (Section 5, Figure 22). Either side of this wall were deposits of tumbled stone (105), above which was a 0.1m-depth of topsoil (100) containing fragments of post-mediaeval pottery.
- 6.6.3 The alignment of this wall was similar to that in Trench 3, suggesting that these may be parts of the same post-medieval boundary wall (Plate 15).

## 6.7 TRENCH 6

- 6.7.1 Trench 6 was located on the south side of the proposed development area, in an area containing visible ridge and furrow earthworks (Figure 18). The trench was 1.6m wide, and 6m long, aligned approximately north-south. The natural glacial orange sand and gravels (102) was revealed at a depth of 0.25m, above which was a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (104) containing frequent small rounded pebbles and fragments of slate. This measured between 0.1m and 0.15m deep and was interpreted as a relict ploughsoil, above which was a 0.1m-depth of topsoil (100) and turf (Plate 16).
- 6.7.2 Three ridges and two plough furrows were observed in section in Trench 6, resulting from former ridge and furrow cultivation in this area (Section 7, Figure 22). No finds were recovered from this trench.



**Plate 16:** Northeast section of Trench 6, showing profile of ridge and furrow earthworks

## 6.8 TRENCH 7

- 6.8.1 Trench 7 was located 25m to the west of Trench 6 on the south side of the proposed development area (Figure 18). The trench was also 1.6m wide, and 6m long, aligned approximately north-south. The natural glacial orange sand and gravels (102) was revealed at a depth of 0.3m in this trench, above which was a layer of orange-brown sandy loam (103) containing frequent small rounded pebbles and fragments of slate, similar to that in Trench 6. This measured between 0.1m and 0.2m deep and was also interpreted as a relict ploughsoil, above which was a 0.1m-depth of topsoil (100) and turf (Plate 17).
- 6.8.2 Two ridges and two plough furrows were observed in section in Trench 7, resulting from former ridge and furrow cultivation in this area (Section 8, Figure 22). No finds were recovered from this trench.



**Plate 17:** Northeast section of Trench 7, showing profile of ridge and furrow earthworks

## 6.9 TRENCH 8

- 6.9.1 Trench 8 measured 1m by 6m, and was situated in the northwest corner of Area 1, on the north side of the proposed development area, in the location of a low stone bank (Figure 23). Following the removal of topsoil and turf (100), a single stone, forming the edge of a stone wall [139] was revealed, with large quantities of tumbled stone (142) on either side (Figure 23).
- 6.9.2 The natural glacial orange sand (102) was revealed at a depth of 0.5m at the eastern end of Trench 8. The foundations of a 1.2m-wide, 0.35m-deep stone wall [139] were revealed, sitting on the natural subsoil at the centre of the trench, aligned northeast-southwest (Plate 18). The outer edges of the wall were made up of large rounded boulders up to 0.45m wide and 0.55m deep, with a rounded stone rubble core (Figure 24).





**Plate 18:** Wall [139] of a stone building in Trench 8, looking south

- 6.9.3 A substantial 1m-wide, 0.1m-deep cobbled surface was revealed at the southeast end of Trench 8, made from tightly-packed rounded cobbles (140). This was interpreted as a former yard surface (Plate 19). To the northeast of the wall in Trench 8, another complete cobbled surface (141) was revealed, comprising tightly packed, smaller elongated cobbles and some small pieces of slate. The quality of this surface suggested that this was the interior floor of a former domestic building (Plate 20). A single undated corroded iron nail was recovered from this floor surface.
- 6.9.4 Above the two cobbled surfaces was a deposit of tumbled stone up to 0.4m deep, comprising large rounded cobbles and slate roofing tiles in a matrix of brown sandy clay (142). At the northwest end of the trench was a 0.1m-deep deposit of orange-brown sandy clay subsoil (101), above which was topsoil (100) and turf (Section 9, Figure 26). Fragments of factory-produced post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil in Trench 8.



**Plate 19:** The cobbled yard surface at the east end of Trench 8, looking west towards the wall



**Plate 20:** Internal cobbled floor surface to the east of the wall in Trench 8, looking west

## 6.10 TRENCH 9

- 6.10.1 Trench 9 measured 1m by 6m, and was situated 12m to the northwest of Trench 8, on the north side of the proposed development area, in the location of a low rounded stone bank. Following the removal of turf and topsoil (100), a substantial spread of stone (120) was revealed within a layer of brown sandy clay subsoil (101), making up the stone bank (Figure 23).
- 6.10.2 The natural glacial orange sand containing frequent small rounded pebbles (102) was revealed at a depth of 0.3m at the eastern end of Trench 9. Sitting on the natural sand were the foundation stones of a wall [122], which measured 1.1m wide and 0.42m high. This comprised two outer faces of large rounded boulders up to 0.5m in diameter, with an infill of smaller rounded stones, similar to the wall in Trench 8 (Figure 25). This was interpreted as the western wall of the same building revealed in Trench 8 (Plate 21).
- 6.10.3 Immediately to the northwest of this wall, filling the western end of Trench 9, a compacted stony surface (145) was revealed. This comprised a layer of small sub-rounded stones, less than 0.1m in diameter, which were sitting on the natural sand subsoil (102). This was interpreted as a former exterior ground surface, which is probably contemporary with the use of the adjacent building.
- 6.10.4 Above this surface was a 0.35m-deep layer of stone (120) within a matrix of brown sandy clay subsoil (101), making up the stone bank visible at the surface, above which was topsoil and turf (Section 10, Figure 26). A tiny fragment of burnt bone was recovered from the stone bank material (120). An iron nail was also recovered from the topsoil in this trench.



**Plate 21:** Wall [122] of a building in Trench 9, looking west

## 6.11 TRENCH 10

- 6.11.1 Trench 10 was L-shaped in plan, and was located between Trench 8 and Trench 9, on the north side of the proposed development area. This trench was 1m wide and had an 8m-long northeast-southwest section, and a 5m-long northwest-southeast section. It was located over a visible stone bank, low mound and possible wall in Area 1.
- 6.11.2 Following the removal of turf and topsoil (100) from Trench 10, the remains of a stone wall [123] were revealed in the northeast end, with tumbled stone (121) forming the visible bank either side (Figure 23). At the southeast end a deposit of rounded stones (143) was revealed forming a possible crude cobbled surface. At the eastern corner of the trench an organic peaty deposit (131) was revealed forming a low mound in this area.
- 6.11.3 Trench 10 was subsequently half-sectioned to reveal the natural glacial orange sand containing frequent small rounded pebbles (102) at a depth of 0.25m at the northern end of the trench. Also at the northern end of the trench the foundations of the wall [123] were revealed sitting on the natural sand. This wall was 0.9m wide and 0.24m high and comprised two outer faces of large rounded boulders up to 0.5m in diameter, with an infill of smaller rounded stones, similar to the walls in Trench 8 and Trench 9 (Figure 25). This wall was interpreted as the southeast wall of the same domestic building seen in Trench 8 and Trench 9 (Plate 22). Half of this wall was removed, but no earlier features were revealed.
- 6.11.4 A compacted stony surface (132) was revealed on the southwest side of the wall, forming a bank 1.1m-wide, 0.2m-high bank (Section 11, Figure 26). This comprised a

layer of small sub-rounded stones, less than 0.1m in diameter, which were sitting on the natural sand subsoil (102), similar to those in Trench 9. Again, this was interpreted as a former exterior ground surface.



**Plate 22:** Section through the wall [123] in Trench 10, showing adjacent stony surface (132), looking northwest

- 6.11.5 Cutting the natural sand to the southwest of this bank was a narrow linear feature [134], aligned east-west, which was 0.3m wide and 0.14m deep with a concave base and sides. This was filled by grey-brown silty clay (135) containing small rounded pebbles. At the west end of this feature, in the northwest trench section, this feature widened to 0.5m in diameter, and 0.2m deep, forming a possible post-hole [146]. This was filled by grey-brown silty clay (147) with three rounded stones in the base, interpreted as possible post packing stones (Section 11, Figure 26). Since only a 0.55m-length of the linear feature [134] was excavated it was difficult to interpret. However, it is possible that this was a foundation slot for a timber building or fence (Plate 23).
- 6.11.6 Above these features, and the stony surface (123), was a 3.5m-wide, 0.2m-deep layer of made ground (133) consisting of brown silty clay containing frequent small angular stones. Two fragments of medieval pottery and ceramic building material were recovered from this layer. Above this was a 0.15m-deep layer of stone (121), interpreted as tumbled stone rubble from the adjacent building. Several corroded iron objects were recovered from this material.
- 6.11.7 Above this layer at the western corner of Trench 10 was a 0.1m-deep layer of soft red-brown peaty material (131), which measured *c.*5m in diameter, forming a visible low mound. Fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit, which was interpreted as possible midden material. Above this was a 0.1m-depth of topsoil (100) and turf. Another fragment of medieval pottery and an iron fragment was recovered from the topsoil in this area.
- 6.11.8 At the southeast end of Trench 10, a 1.75m-long, 0.25m-deep deposit of irregular rounded boulders (143) was revealed above the natural sand subsoil (102), forming a

crude surface. This was interpreted as a possible former yard surface or part of a cobbled track (Plate 23).



**Plate 23:** Possible posthole [146] in the northwest section of Trench 10, beneath a layer of made ground (133), and tumbled stone (121) from the building (looking northwest)



**Plate 24:** Cobbled surface (143) in the southeast end of Trench 10, looking northwest

## 6.12 TRENCH 11

- 6.12.1 Trench 11 was located *c.*12 to the west of Trench 10, in an area of ground that was seemingly devoid of archaeological features (Figure 18). This trench was 1m wide and 3m long, aligned northwest-southeast. The natural glacial orange sandy subsoil (102) was revealed at a depth of 0.15m in this trench.
- 6.12.2 Above this at the northern end of the trench was a 0.8m-wide, 0.1m-deep deposit of rounded cobbles (137), forming part of a possible crude yard or track surface. Further widely-spaced cobbles (138) were revealed to the south, but it was uncertain whether these were archaeological features (Figure 27). No finds were recovered from this trench.

## 6.13 TRENCH 12

- 6.13.1 Trench 12 was situated 10m to the west of Trench 11, on the west side of the proposed development area, over a visible cobbled surface (Figure 18). This trench was also 1m wide and 3m long, aligned northwest-southeast. The natural slate bedrock was revealed at the southwest end of this trench at a depth of 0.1m (Plate 24).
- 6.13.2 Overlying the natural bedrock was a deposit of closely-spaced rounded cobbles (136), at least 2.5m wide and 0.15m deep, interpreted as a former yard surface (Figure 27). No finds were recovered from this trench with which to date the cobbled surface.



**Plate 25:** Cobbled surface (136) in Trench 12, and natural slate bedrock (looking northeast)

## 6.14 DISCUSSION

- 6.14.1 Archaeological features were identified in the majority of the trenches excavated, and included the foundations of stone buildings, foundation slots of possible timber buildings, the remains of cobbled yards or trackways, field walls, land drains and the earthworks of former ridge and furrow cultivation. All of the features identified may be associated with the agricultural use of the area during the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 6.14.2 Potentially the earliest features identified were those in Trenches 8, 9 and 10 in Area 1, on the north side of the proposed development area, where the remains of a longhouse have been revealed. Three sections of wall have been excavated, forming the northwest, southwest and southeast walls of this building, which measures 18m long and at least 5m wide. The northeast wall was presumably beneath the existing boundary wall (Figure 28). A portion of interior cobbled floor at the southeast end of the building suggests that the interior was originally subdivided. No floor was detected at the northwest end, but this may have been removed at the end of the building's use. There was an external cobbled yard at the southeast end of the building, and a stony bank defined the southwest side. Tentative evidence has been revealed for an adjacent timber structure to the southwest and a possible midden. Fragments of pottery date these features to the medieval period. The long house is also typical for this period.
- 6.14.3 In Trench 3, also on the north side of the proposed development area, two substantial walls of another stone building have been revealed, which is interpreted as a former barn, as well as a stone culvert and boundary wall (excavated in Trench 5). An adjacent area of cobbles has been identified in Trench 4. All of the finds from these trenches were post-medieval in date.
- 6.14.4 Trenches 1 and 2 revealed evidence for the construction of the earthwork platform, and identified the remains of a construction slot for a timber building at the southeast end. The archaeological evidence suggests that this may have been up to 17m long and 8m wide. No evidence for a construction slot was revealed in Trench 2, but this trench revealed evidence for a levelling episode associated with the construction of the platform. It is also possible that the construction methods at the northwest side of the platform may have been different, given that the platform was sloping downwards at this side. It was also clear from Trench 1, that a drain had been constructed to the south of the platform, to channel water away from the interior. No dating evidence was recovered for these features.
- 6.14.5 Trenches 6 and 7 contained the remains of former ridge and furrow cultivation, which covers much of the land to the south of the proposed development area. This form of cultivation was commonly used for subsistence agriculture in the Lake District from the medieval period onwards. It is possible from the nature and scale of the earthworks that this ridge and furrow cultivation is post-medieval in date.
- 6.14.6 The cobbled surfaces in Trench 4 and Trench 12, and the possible surfaces in Trench 10 and Trench 11 are not closely dateable, but are associated with the continued agricultural use of the site, beginning in the medieval period, and continued throughout the post-medieval period up to the present day.

## 7. THE ARTEFACTS

### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

7.1.1 This section covers the artefacts that were retrieved during the trial trench evaluation. The artefacts were returned to the company offices at Nenthead for processing and initial assessment. All artefacts are currently held at the North Pennines Archaeology Offices at Nenthead and are listed in Table 1, below. In addition a number of roofing slates were recovered and are included in Section 7.4, below.

Context	Trench	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
U/S	1	Pottery	1	0.014	Post-Med
100	3	Pottery	1	0.108	Post-Med
111	3	Pottery	1	0.053	Post-Med
U/S	4	Pottery	4	0.065	Post-Med
U/S	4	Fe Objects	3	0.063	unknown
100	4	Pottery	9	0.084	Post-Med
100	4	Pottery	2	0.004	Post-Med
100	4	Fe Object	1	0.064	unknown
U/S	5	Pottery	5	0.067	Post-Med
100	8	Pottery	16	0.03	Post-Med
141	8	Fe Objects	2	0.016	unknown
100	9	Fe Nail	1	0.013	unknown
120	9	Burnt Bone	1	0.001	unknown
100	10	Fe Object	1	0.585	unknown
100	10	Pottery	1	0.002	Medieval
121	10	Fe Objects	3	0.046	unknown
131	10	Pottery	4	0.019	Medieval
133	10	Pottery	2	0.008	Medieval
133	10	CBM	2	0.004	Medieval?

**Table 1:** Finds from Gatesgarth Farm, Buttermere (Archive Ref. BUT-A)

### 7.2 POTTERY

7.2.1 In total 47 fragments of pottery were recovered during the evaluation and were returned to the company offices at Nenthead for initial processing. The pottery was subsequently sent to Jo Dawson, Pottery Consultant, for specialist assessment. A summary of the assessment is included below. The full assessment report is included in Appendix 4.

7.2.2 Of the pottery fragments recovered, 7 were dated to the medieval period (in this case 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries) and the remaining 40 were dated to the post-medieval period (in this case late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries). All of the medieval pottery came from Trench 10, in the vicinity of the long house (topsoil 100, midden material 131 and made ground 133). The post-medieval pottery came from the topsoil or unstratified



- contexts in Trench 1, Trench 3, Trench 4, Trench 5 and Trench 8, and from the wall foundations in Trench 3 (context 111).
- 7.2.3 The quantity of medieval pottery was small. However, medieval pottery from rural contexts is scarce, and so the assemblage was of relative significance. A fragment of an oxidised sandy ware vessel was recovered from the topsoil (100) in Trench 10, dating to the mid 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century. Four freshly broken fragments from a single fragment of partially reduced ware were recovered from the possible midden material (131) in Trench 10, dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The layer of made ground (133) beneath this deposit produced two fragments from a glazed medium coarse sandy ware jug, dated to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century or 14<sup>th</sup> century. One fragment bore an eye decoration, forming part of a larger zoomorphic design (Plate 26).
- 7.2.4 Most of the post-medieval pottery recovered was from the topsoil (100) or from unstratified contexts. Mostly this dated to the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. A single non-diagnostic coarse ware fragment was recovered from the top of a wall [111] in Trench 3, and dated from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 7.2.5 In addition to the pottery fragments, two fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from the layer of made ground (133) in Trench 10. One fragment comprised a coarse-grained orange fired fabric, most likely a fragment of brick of unknown date. The second was a fragment of cream coloured daub of possible medieval date.



**Plate 26:** Medieval pottery from Trench 10 (context 133)

### **7.3 METAL OBJECTS**

- 7.3.1 In total 11 iron (Fe) objects were recovered during the evaluation. These mostly comprised heavily corroded iron fragments or corroded nails.
- 7.3.2 Three unrecognisable corroded iron fragments were recovered from the unstratified contexts in Trench 4. Another iron fragment was recovered from the topsoil (100) in this trench. A 900mm-long iron nail with a round head was recovered from the topsoil (100) in Trench 9. A 270mm-long 30mm-wide modern iron spike was recovered from the topsoil (100) in Trench 10.
- 7.3.2 Three iron objects were recovered from the layer of tumbled stone (121) covering the wall in Trench 10. These were an unrecognisable corroded iron lump, a 400mm-long piece of iron bar, and a heavily corroded 35mm-long corroded iron nail.
- 7.3.3 From the internal cobbled floor (141) of the long house in Trench 8, two recently broken fragments from a single corroded hand-made nail of possible medieval date were recovered. This was 40mm long with a bent rectangular 8mm-wide shank, and heavily corroded head.
- 7.3.4 Apart from the nail recovered from Trench 8, most of the metal objects were non-diagnostic, and so provided little useful information.

### **7.4 BUILDING MATERIALS**

- 7.4.1 A large number of roofing slates were revealed during the evaluation. Roofing slates were present in large quantities in the topsoil (100) in Trench 3 in the vicinity of the former barn, a sample of which was retained. These ranged in size and shape being either rectangular or diamond-shaped. The smallest were 100mm wide and 200mm long. Larger examples were up to 220mm wide and 350mm long. A wrestler slate was also recovered. These are most common in the Lake District, and were developed as an alternative to the use of a ridge-piece. The wrestler slates interlock to form a rigid finish to the roof. Similar roofing slates and a second wrestler slate were recovered from the topsoil (100) in Trench 8 and Trench 10. All were made from local slate.
- 7.4.2 A single rectangular roofing slate was recovered from the topsoil (100) in Trench 1. This measured 280mm wide and 300mm long, and was made from a fine-grained light grey slate. A 170mm-wide, 120mm long half-diamond roofing slate of the same material was also recovered from the fill (114) of the construction slot [115] for a possible timber building in Trench 1.
- 7.4.3 It is likely that all of the roofing slates recovered were originally from one or more post-medieval agricultural buildings. These types of slate were common on low-status farm buildings in the Lake District, and their presence further suggests that the stone building in Trench 3 was a post-medieval barn.

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## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

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### 8.1 INTRODUCTION

- 8.1.1 The objective of the environmental analysis was to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of any ecofactual remains recovered from archaeological deposits, and to determine their origins.
- 8.1.2 Of the 12 trenches excavated only 2 contexts were considered worth sampling, these were both in Trench 10. Sample 1 was recovered from the south west corner of the trench from an organic material thought to be a midden deposit (131) associated with a long house. Sample 2 was from the fill (135) of a possible timber slot [135] to the south of the long house.
- 8.1.3 Preservation of the organic remains and bone from this material was expected to be reasonable, depending on the acidity and aerobic conditions of the soil. An acid soil would degrade any bone within the matrix and aerobic conditions would aid degradation of organic material.
- 8.1.4 The whole earth samples were processed in order to assess the environmental potential of the material recovered. This helps to provide further information as to the depositional processes involved in the formation of the material. The methodology employed required that the whole earth samples be broken down and split into the various different components. This was achieved by a combination of water washing and flotation. The recovered remains were then assessed for content.
- 8.1.5 Flotation separates the organic, floating fraction of the sample from the heavier mineral and finds content of sands, silts, clays, stones, artefacts and waterlogged material. Heavy soil and sediment content measuring less than 1mm falls through the retentive mesh to settle on the bottom of the tank. Flotation produces a 'flot' and a 'residue' for examination, whilst the heavier sediment retained in the tank is discarded. The method relies purely on the variation in density of the recovered material to separate it from the soil matrix, allowing for the recovery of ecofacts and artefacts from the whole earth sample.
- 8.1.6 The retent, like the residue from wet sieving, will contain any larger items of bone, or artefacts. The flot or floating fraction will generally contain organic material such as plant matter, fine bones, cloth, leather and insect remains. A rapid scan at this stage will allow further recommendations to be made as to the potential for further study by entomologists or palaeobotanists, with a view to retrieving vital economic information from the samples. Favourable preservation conditions can lead to the retrieval of organic remains that may produce a valuable suite of information in respect of the depositional environment of the material, which may include anthropogenic activity, seasonality and climate and elements of the economy.
- 8.1.7 The contents of the sample are listed below in Table 2 and Table 3.

Sample	Context No	Sample Size (litres)	Flot Size (cm <sup>3</sup> )	Retent Size (cm <sup>3</sup> )
1	131	10	50	5000
2	135	10	30	4000

**Table 2:** Details of samples and contexts

DETAILS		RETENT FRACTION						LIGHT FRACTION (FLOT)									
Context	Context type	Sample number	Root material	Charred wood	Magnetic material	Amorphous organic	Gravel	Stones	Root material	Charred wood	<i>Silene</i> sp.	Common nettle	<i>Scirpus</i> sp.	<i>Cirsium</i> sp.	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Sclerotia	Woody plant parts
131	Lay	1	1	1	0	0	3	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
135	Fill	2	1	1	0	0	3	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

**Key to tables:** Fill = ditch or gully fill, Lay = layer. Contents assessed by scale of richness 0 to 3. 0 = not present, 1 = present, 2 = common, 3 = abundant.

**Table 3:** Contents of flot and retent residues from the samples

## 8.2 SAMPLE 1 (CONTEXT 131)

8.2.1 This friable light brown sandy silty soil was a peaty organic layer just beneath the topsoil in Trench 10, adjacent to the long house. The retent was made up mainly of gravel and small stones. There was a small amount of charred wood and root material. The flot was mainly small root material with a small amount of charcoal. One seed of the *Silene* species was recovered.

## 8.3 SAMPLE 2 (CONTEXT 135)

8.3.1 This friable mid grey brown silty sand with inclusions of small rounded pebbles was the fill of a possible gully. The retent was made up mainly of gravel and small stones. There was a small amount of charred wood and root material. The flot was mainly small root material with a small amount of charcoal. There was one seed of the common nettle *Urtica dioica*.

## 8.4 DISCUSSION

- 8.4.1 No charred grain was recovered from the samples, and there was only one seed type from each sample. None of the seed types was charred but they were well preserved and complete. This suggests some type of mineralisation occurring to the seed after deposition.
- 8.4.2 The matrix of the context from Sample 1 was very organic but there was little information recovered from it to help understand its origins. The seed of *Silene* recovered could not be defined to species. This genus occupies a wide range of niches so it is difficult to say more about the habitat from which it came. There is no other organic evidence to indicate the source of this material but it is unlikely that it was from a midden unless, as it was just below the topsoil, the aerobic conditions had aided the degradation of the material post deposition.
- 8.4.3 The material from sample 2 had a lot of roots in it. There was also a seed of the common nettle. This plant indicates a nitrogen rich soil, typical of areas with much organic waste such as fertilised ground or manure and midden heaps. As there was only one seed recovered it is difficult to infer this, as it may simply have been an intrusion.
- 8.4.4 The potential for further information being gained from the examination of this material is limited, and so no further work on the samples is recommended.

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## 9. CONCLUSIONS

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### 9.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 9.1.1 The rapid desk-based assessment has indicated that the area around Gatesgarth Farm has been settled from at least the Romano-British period. However, there is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman period activity within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.
- 9.1.2 It has been suggested that the Buttermere area was settled in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, and that several early settlement sites in the area contain possible evidence of Norse re-occupation. There is no evidence for settlement of this period at Gatesgarth Farm.
- 9.1.3 The earliest documentary reference to Gatesgarth Farm dates to 1259, when the area was a demesne forest pasture. Documentary evidence suggests that a vaccary (dairy farm) has existed somewhere near Gatesgarth Farm from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century. Earthworks, which had previously been identified within the proposed development area, were thought to be associated with this farm. Based on the documentary and topographic evidence, the potential for surviving structures associated with the vaccary was thought to be high.
- 9.1.4 From the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Gatesgarth Farm was managed as a sheep farm, and much of the surrounding land was enclosed in this period. Cartographic evidence suggests that farm buildings have been situated within the proposed development area from at least 1770 onwards. Two possible barns are shown on Hodkinson and Donald's 1774 map (surveyed 1770), but had been replaced by the present barns by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 9.1.5 The metric survey recorded three terraces within the proposed development area, two of which contained the possible footings of stone buildings, relict walls, ditches, and possible areas of cobbles. The uppermost terrace contained a possible rectangular building platform with an associated field boundary and ditch. Ridge and furrow earthworks were also recorded on the south side of the proposed development area.
- 9.1.6 The geophysical surveys provided limited information regarding sub-surface deposits at the site, due to the close proximity of the natural bedrock, the proximity of modern fences and small size of the survey areas. However these surveys did reveal the presence of two ditches and a modern service pipe, which will have truncated potential archaeological features.

### 9.2 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.2.1 Of the twelve trenches excavated, the majority contained archaeological features associated with the agricultural use of the area during the medieval and post-medieval periods. The remains of at least three buildings have been revealed at the site with associated cobbled yards or trackways, field walls, land drains and the earthworks of former ridge and furrow cultivation.
- 9.2.2 The most interesting, and potentially the earliest, building identified at the site, is a longhouse of probable medieval date with an interior cobbled floor and exterior

- cobbled yard, situated on the northern edge of the proposed development area. Tentative evidence for an adjacent timber structure of an early date was also revealed in this area. Pottery evidence suggests that these features date to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, indicating that the long house may be associated with the documented medieval vaccary.
- 9.2.3 The evaluation has revealed evidence for another stone building to the southwest, interpreted as a former barn, with a later stone culvert, field wall, and associated cobbled area. These features are thought to be post-medieval in date. The orientation of this building suggests that this may be one of two possible barns illustrated on Hodkinson and Donald's 1774 map, when Gatesgarth Farm was managed as a sheep farm.
- 9.2.4 A possible timber building, of unknown date, has been identified on an earthwork platform at the eastern corner of the proposed development area. However, very little evidence survives with which to interpret this structure. It is proposed that tree planting is to take place on the west side of the earthwork platform. The east side of the platform should not be effected by this scheme.
- 9.2.5 The south side of the proposed development area contains the earthwork remains of former ridge and furrow cultivation. Two evaluation trenches have been excavated in this area. However, no other archaeological features were identified.
- 9.2.6 The proposed development has the potential to impact on important archaeological remains on the north side of the proposed development area in the vicinity of the long house, through the construction of a new sheep wintering building, access ramps and associated landscaping. It is recommended that the measures be put in place to protect the archaeology in the area of the long house as part of the proposed development.
- 9.2.7 Of the artefacts recovered, the most important are the fragments of medieval pottery. It has been noted that medieval pottery from rural contexts in Cumbria is rare, and it is recommended that the results of the project should be published in the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Society, including a description of the medieval pottery assemblage. No further work is recommended on the post-medieval pottery or other artefacts.

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## 10.2 HISTORIC MAPS

*Hodkinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland 1774* (Carlisle Library)

*Crosthwaite's Accurate Map of Buttermere, Crummock and Lowes-Water Lakes, Scale Force etc 1793* (Source: Hankinson 1988)

*Buttermere Tithe Map 1845* (CRO Ref: DRC 8/35)

*First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1863 (6" to 1 mile)* (CRO)

*First Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1865 (25" to 1 mile)* (CRO)

*Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1899 (25" to 1 mile)* (CRO)

## APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF SITES

HER No.	Site Name	Description	General Period	Grid Reference
1213	Warmscale Bottom Shieling	One surviving shieling hut on a shelf above the stream at the head of the valley. The hut has been badly robbed but stands 5½ ft at the NE angle. Entrance was probably in S end. The hut has N-S orientation, is 22 x 13ft and has 2 unequal rooms. The walls are of carefully laid drystone masonry with levelling courses of slate, incorporating large boulders in NE angle	Medieval	E319980 N513820
13830	Hassness Ice House	Ice house built before 1899 but had gone out of use by the 1920s. Situated in Ice House Wood NW of the house.	Post Medieval	E318700 N515900
30010	Bloomery Site at Hassness	Bloomery on east side of Beck Bank	Medieval	E318810 N515780
30522	Mill, Gatesgarth Farm	Site of mill identified by M Davies-Shiel	Unknown	E319400 N515020
30523	Bloomery, Crag Wood, Hassness	Bloomery identified by M Davies-Shiel	Unknown	E318680 N515720
30525	Mine, Low Wax Knott, Buttermere Fell	Site of mine identified by M Davies-Shiel	Unknown	E318760 N514050
32081	Viewing Station, Gatesgarth	A viewing station marked as West's 'Sixth Station' on Crosthwaite's Buttermere, Crummock and Loweswater map (1783) in 'The Regatta Men' by A Hankinson (1988)	Post Medieval	E319420 N514830
32592	Vaccary at Gatesgarth	Site of medieval vaccary described in Cockermouth Estate Rolls	Medieval	E319490 N515110
32593	Earthworks at Gatesgarth Farm, Buttermere	Stone footings of at least three buildings constructed on terraces on west facing slope above Gatesgarth Farm. The lowest building may be a long house. There is a platform further up the slope without evidence for building footings. These features may relate to the documentary records for a medieval vaccary (HER 32592) at Gatesgarth	Unknown	E319466 N514949
SAM No.	Site Name	Description	General Period	Grid Reference
27670	Romano-British farmstead 200m west of Lambing Knott	Located on a gently sloping fellside close to the foot of the hill and includes a sub-circular enclosure containing two hut circles. The enclosure has internal measurements of approx 43m N-S by 50m E-W and is defended by a	Romano-British	NY1909 1558

		<p>turf-covered rubble wall which has been built up on the downslope S and W sides in an attempt to level the interior of the enclosure. The wall is best preserved on the SW where it measures up to 9m wide and 2m high on its outer side. There is an entrance measuring c.4m wide on the enclosure's SW side. At the centre of the enclosure there is a flat circular area measuring c.6m in diameter which has been cut into the hill slope on its N side and levelled on its downslope S side. A short distance to the N there is similar flat circular area measuring 4m in diameter. Both of these features are interpreted as the site of hut circles. The enclosure wall has been partially disturbed on the eastern side to provide stone for a post-medieval wall and an attached sheep pen, both of which have now tumbled and re disused.</p>		
27674	Shieling settlement close to the mouth of Scale Beck	<p>The monument includes a medieval shieling settlement located on the fellside close to the mouth of Scale Beck on the western side of Crummock Water. It includes a group of 5 shielings of drystone construction, two of which are associated with adjacent stone-built enclosures, together with a D-shaped enclosure within which there is a small square outbuilding. The nature of the surviving remains suggests that the shieling settlement may have been used over a considerable period of time, and that the range of additional features such as enclosures and an outbuilding indicates that it may have been occupied on a more permanent basis than is normal for sites of this nature.</p>	Medieval	NY1559 1758

## APPENDIX 2: DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

Buttermere Tithing Map 1845, list of plot numbers, acreage etc associated with Gatesgarth Farm:

Plot	Landowner	Occupier	Name	State	Acreage
175	William Marshall	Christopher Tyson	Bull Copy (part of)	Not given	0a 2r 0p
175a	“	“	Bull Copy (part of)	“	0a 3r 6p
179	“	“	Snab	Arable	10a 0r 15p
177	“	“	Houses	Not given	0a 0r 19p
178	“	“	Cottage, garden	“	0a 0r 32p
176	“	“	House, little field	“	1a 1r 14p
171	“	“	Howe	“	4a 0r 4p
172	“	“	Parrock	“	0a 1r 18p
170	“	“	Brown Ing	“	5a 2r 7p
169	“	“	Brown Ing Wood	“	1a 0r 38p
180	“	“	High Hudson	Arable	2a 2r 25p
181	“	“	Field Head	Not given	3a 3r 18p
182	“	“	Litt Field	“	5a 3r 27p
183	“	“	Litt Field Wood	“	1a 0r 15p
184	“	“	Lamplugh Field Wood	“	0a 3r 21p
185	“	“	Broad Ing Wood	“	0a 2r 6p
186	“	“	Lamplugh Field	“	14a 3r 30p
187	“	“	Broad Ing	“	3a 3r 7p
188	“	“	Sandale	“	5a 0r 15p
189	“	“	Low Hudson	Arable	3a 2r 4p
190	“	“	Far Hudson	Arable	7a 2r 32p

191	“	“	Warnscale Close (part of)	Pasture	11a 0r 0p
191a	“	“	Warnscale Close (part of)	Not given	18a 1r 18p
163	“	“	Greenhass Close	“	8a 3r 30p
164	“	“	Milking Howe	“	3a 0r 11p
166	“	“	Pinfold Close	“	17a 2r 26p
167	“	“	Browhead Near	“	18a 0r 30p
162	“	“	Crag Close	“	6a 1r 32p
161	“	“	Crook Close	“	19a 1r 14p
168	“	“	Far Browhead	Pasture	18a 3r 14p
192	“	“	Moss Green	Not given	9a 3r 20p
193	“	“	Tup Close	“	12a 0r 13p
194	“	“	Intack	“	55a 2r 22p
195	“	“	Out Close	“	80a 0r 20p
195a	“	“	North Outclose	“	40a 2r 15p
196	“	“	Outclose Bottom	“	1a 3r 35p
197	“	“	Outclose Bottom	“	2a 1r 1p
198	“	“	Birkness Close	“	72a 1r 20p
199	“	“	Birkness Close Bottom	“	2a 0r 31p
200	“	“	Birkness Intack	“	52a 3r 15p
201	William M	Himself	Birkness Plantation	Not given	80a 0r 0p
202	“	John Tyson	Buttermere Lake	“	259a 2r 35p

Total acreage of William Marshall's which includes Croft Farm = 938a 1r 17 perches, of which  
259a 2r 35p is Buttermere Plot No.244 = Gatesgarthside

Trade Directories sampled for entries relating to Gatesgarth Farm:Mannix and Whellan 1847 Cumberland Directory

Christopher Tyson, Gatesgarth

T Bulmer & Co 1901 History, Topography and Directory of Cumberland

Edward Nelson, Gatesgarth

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1914

Buttermere Parish - *'The principal landowners are William Hibbert Marshall J P of Patterdale Hall, Penrith and Lord Leconfield. Blue slate is obtained in the township by the Buttermere Green Slate Co Ltd of Keswick. The soil is generally light; subsoil light and gravelly. The chief crops are oats and roots and some land in pasture. The area is 5788 acres of land and 860 of water; rateable value £1283. The population in 1911 was 131 in the civil and 150 in the ecclesiastical parish'*.

Edward Nelson, farmer, Gatesgarth

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1925

Edward Nelson, farmer, Gatesgarth [listed as farm over 150 acres]

Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland 1938

J Richardson, farmer, Gatesgarth Farm [over 150 acres]

Cumberland Directory 1954

Listed at Gatesgarth:

George Wilson Birkett, Gatesgarth

Mary Liddell, Gatesgarth

Annie Nelson, Gatesgarth Cottage

J Richardson, Gatesgarth Farm

List of documents which may aid further research on Gatesgarth Farm held by record offices in Cumbria (information obtained from the Access to Archives website [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk)):

Carlisle Record Office:

Title deeds to The National Trust properties in Cumberland – Catalogue Ref: D NT/26

The Howard family of Greystoke Castle – Catalogue Ref: D HG/14

Lowther family of Whitehaven – Catalogue Ref: D Lons/W4/12 and 16

The Lawson family – Catalogue Ref: D LAW

Whitehaven Record Office:

Waugh and Musgrave, solicitors of Cockermouth – Catalogue Ref: DWM

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## **APPENDIX 3: ILLUSTRATIONS**

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North Pennines Archaeology  
2008

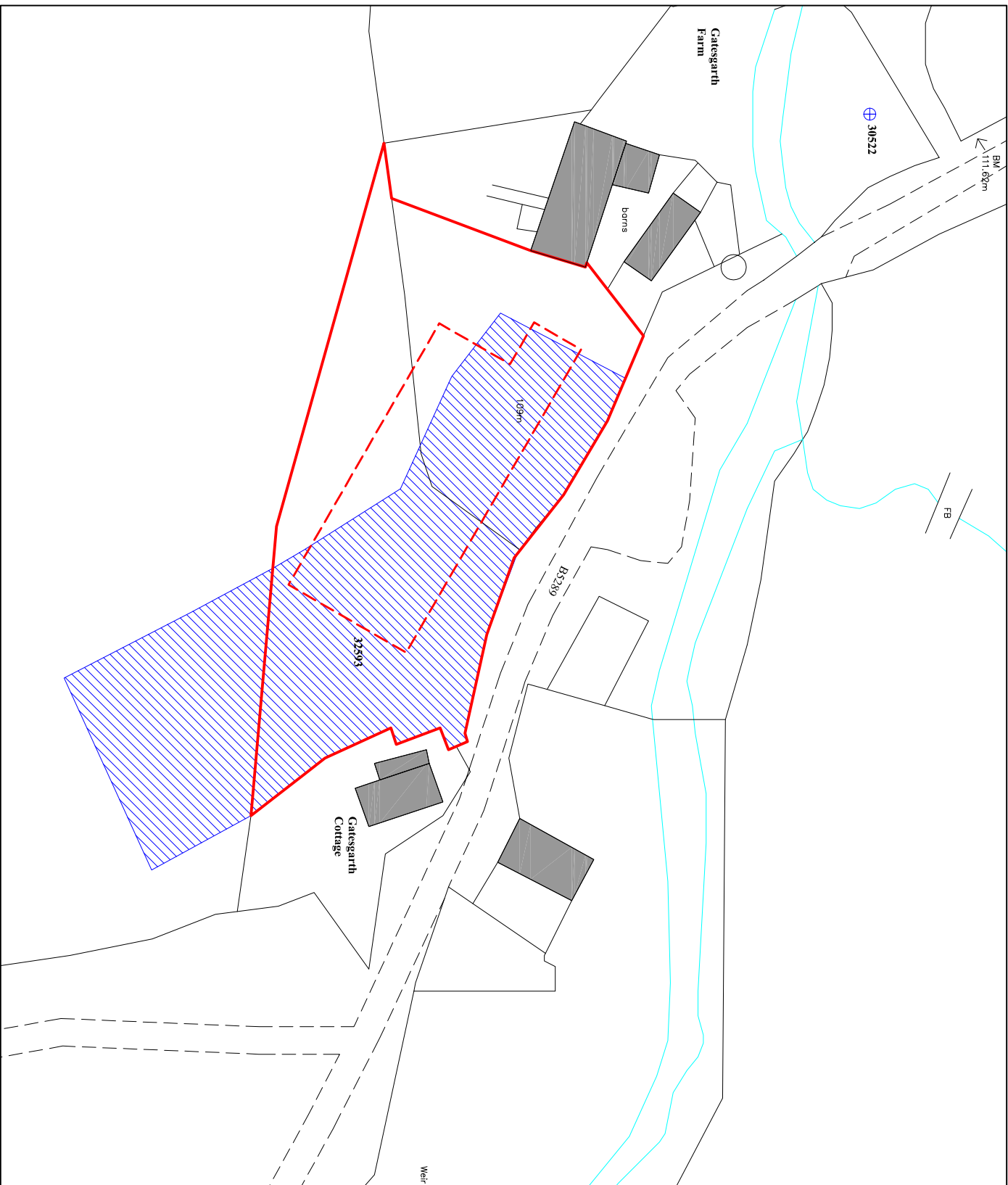
**PROJECT:** Gatesgarth Farm, Buttermere  
**SCALE:** 1:50 000 at A4  
**REPORT No:** CP 597/07  
**CLIENT** Edwin Thompson  
**DRAWN BY:** MDR  
**DATE:** February 2008  
**FIGURE No:** 1

 location of Gatesgarth Farm



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Figure 1 : Location map







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Lake District National Park

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SCALE: 1:1000 at A4

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DATE: February 2008

-  outline of proposed development area
-  outline of proposed new building
-  area of Lake District HER site no. 32593
-  site of Lake District HER site no. 30522



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FIGURE No: 2

Figure 2 : Location of the proposed development area showing HER sites



**Figure 3:** Extract from Hodkinson and Donald's Map 1774 (Surveyed 1770)

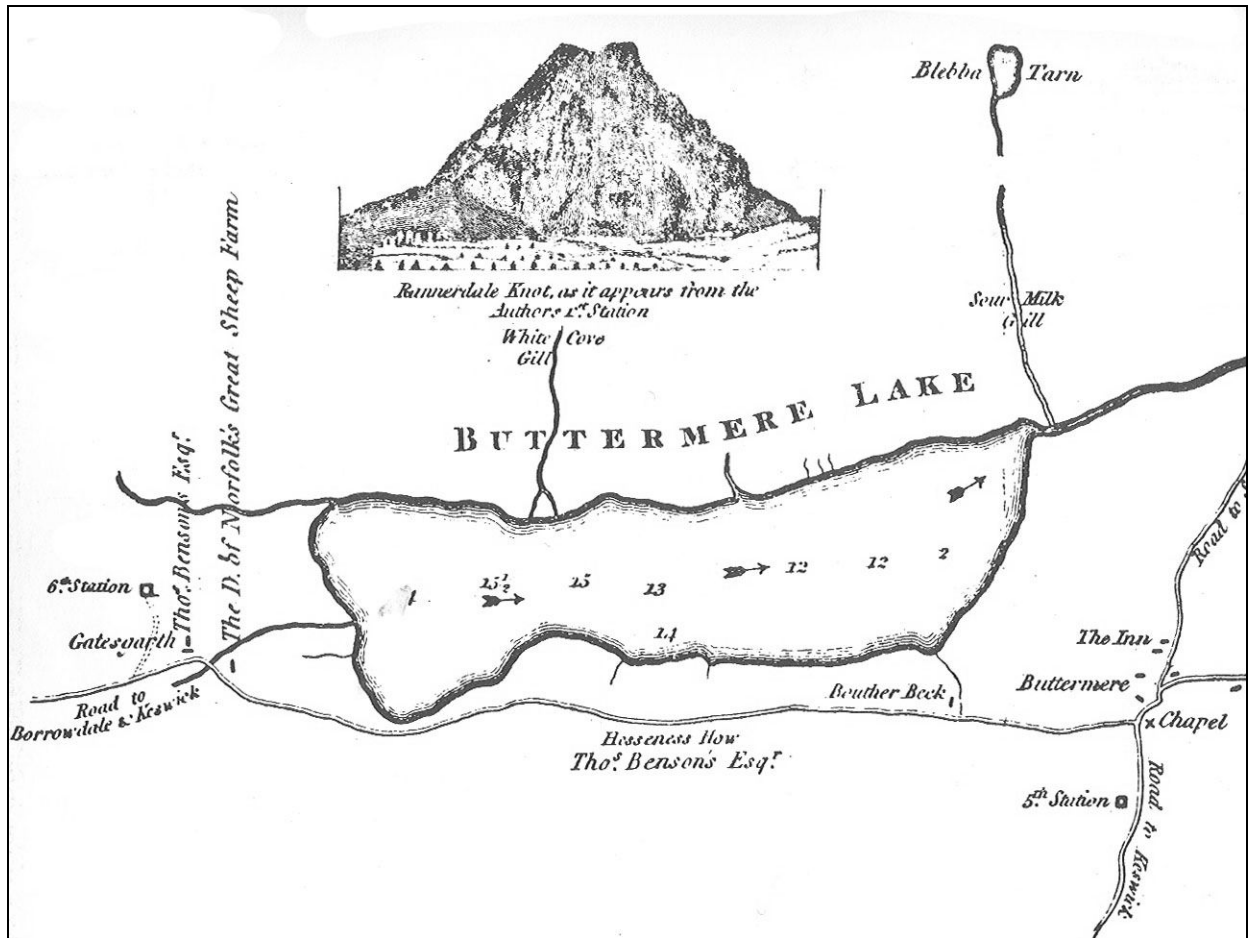
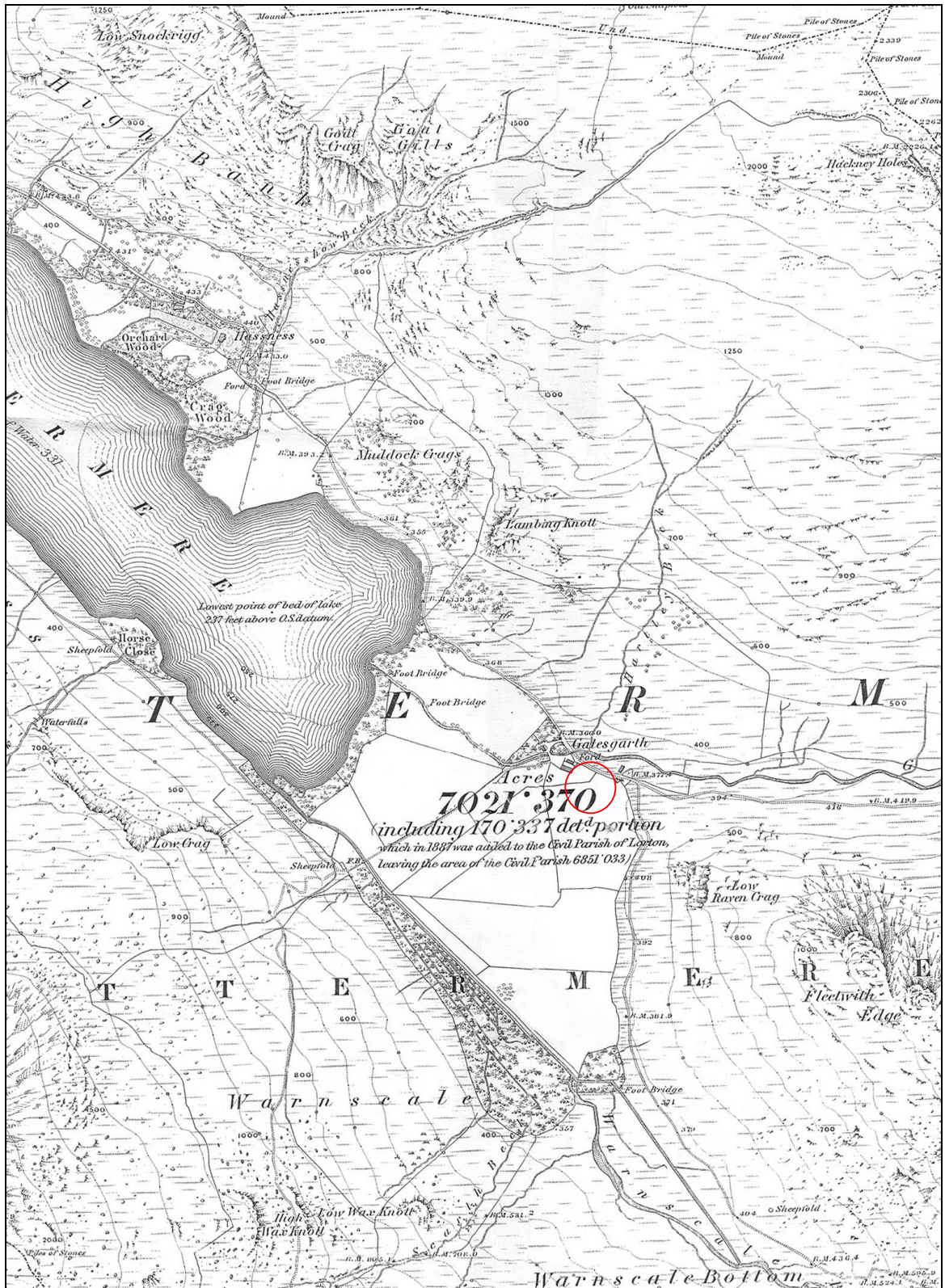


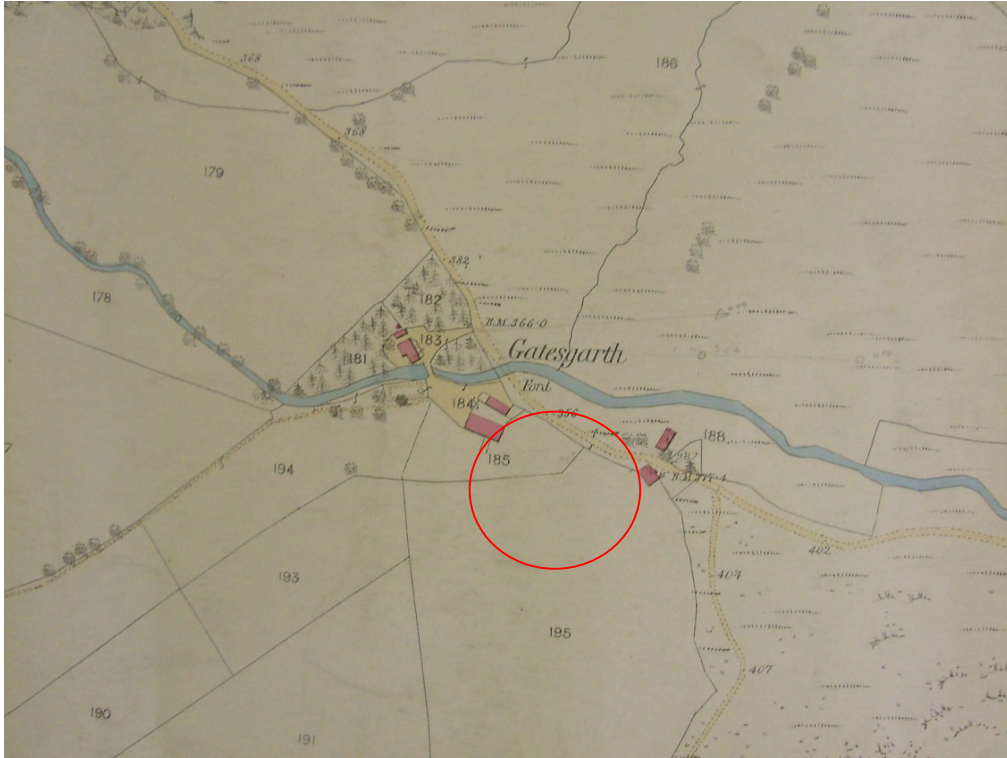
Figure 4: Part of Crosthwaite's map of 1793 (Source: Hankinson 1988)



**Figure 5:** Extract from Buttermere Tithe map 1845 (CRO Ref: DRC 8/35), location of the proposed development area is shown in red



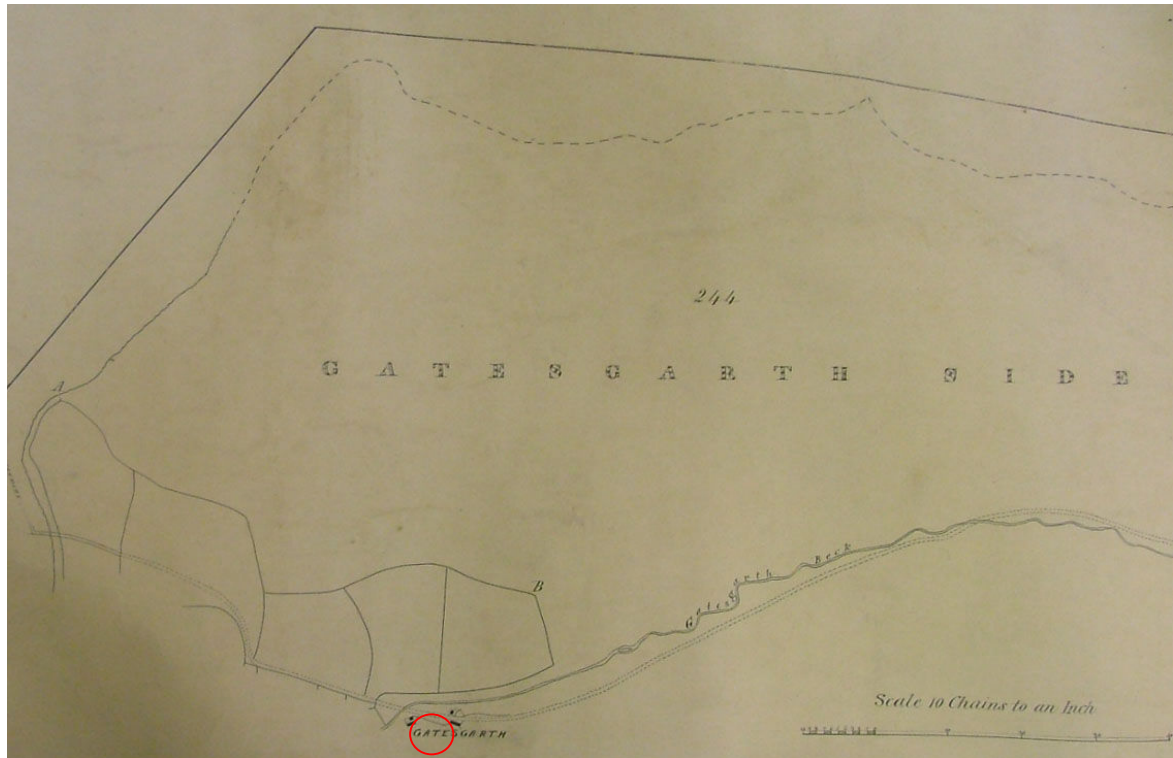
**Figure 6:** First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1863 (62 to 1 mile scale), location of the proposed development area is shown in red



**Figure 7:** First Edition Ordnance Survey map c.1865 (25" to 1 mile scale)

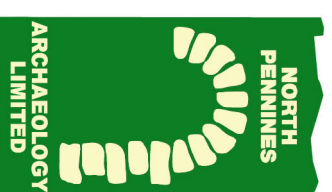
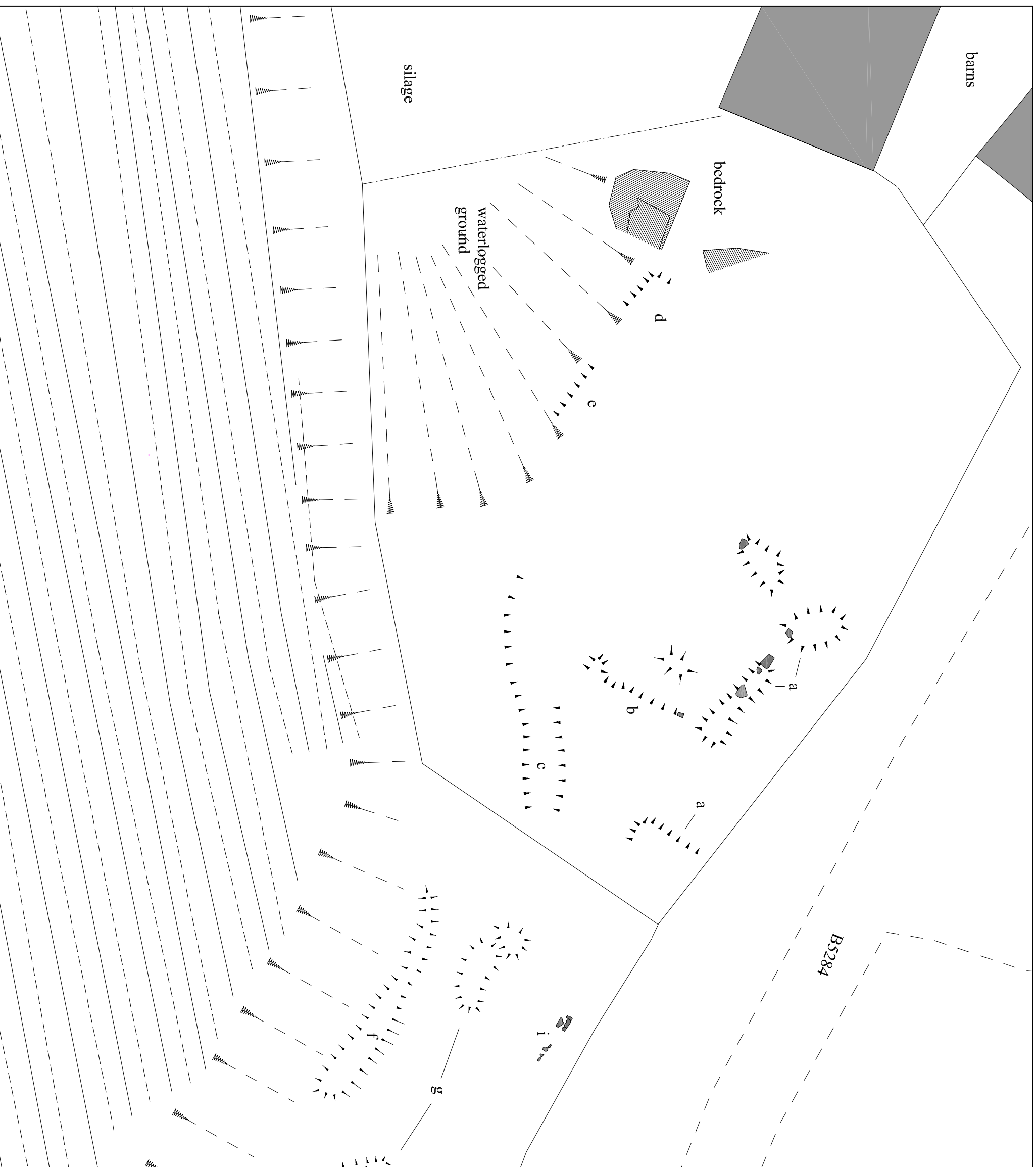


**Figure 8:** Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1899 (25" to 1 mile scale)



**Figure 9:** Extract from the 1845 Tithe map showing part of the boundary of Gatesgarth Side





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Scale 1:250 at A3

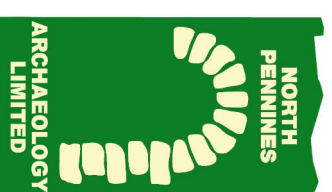
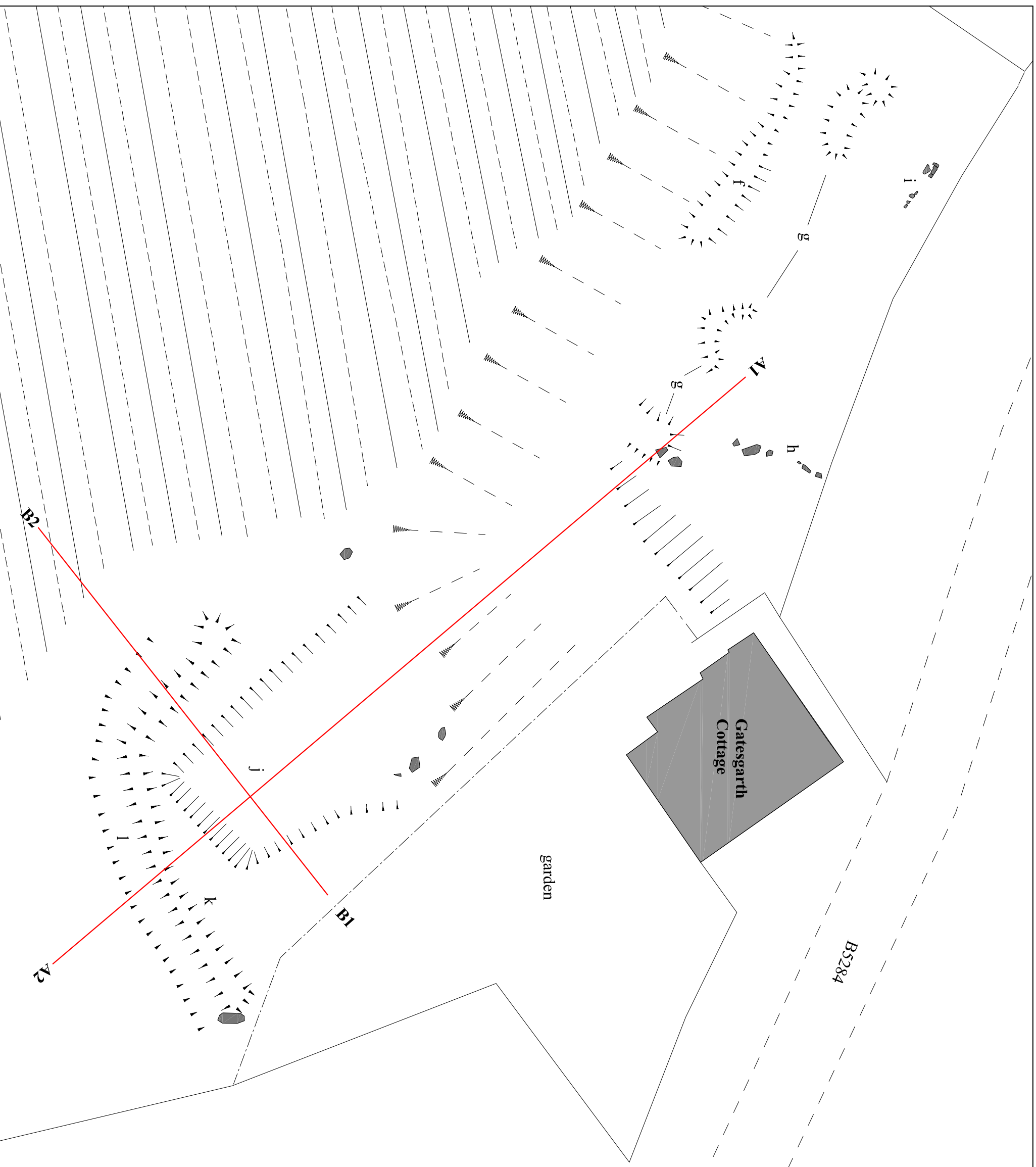
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DATE: February 2008

- earthwork detail
- natural slope
- earthenfast boulder
- natural bedrock
- ridge
- furrow



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Figure No: 10

Figure 10 : Topographic survey (Area 1)



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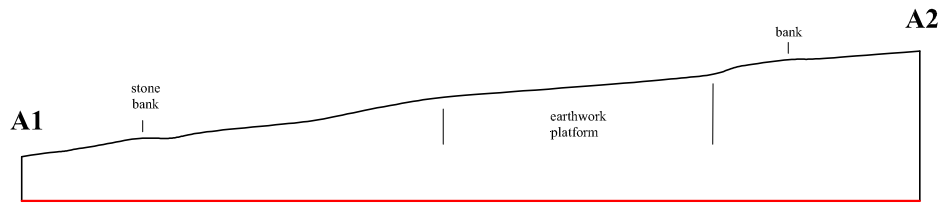
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- earthenware detail
- natural slope
- earthenware boulder
- ridge
- furrow
- profile location

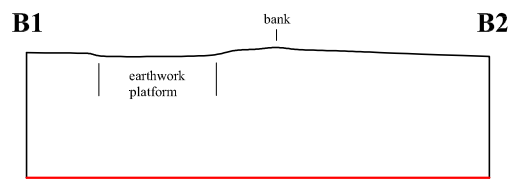


Report No: CP 597/08  
Figure No: 11

Figure 11 : Topographic survey (Area 2)



Profile A1-A2



Profile B1-B2

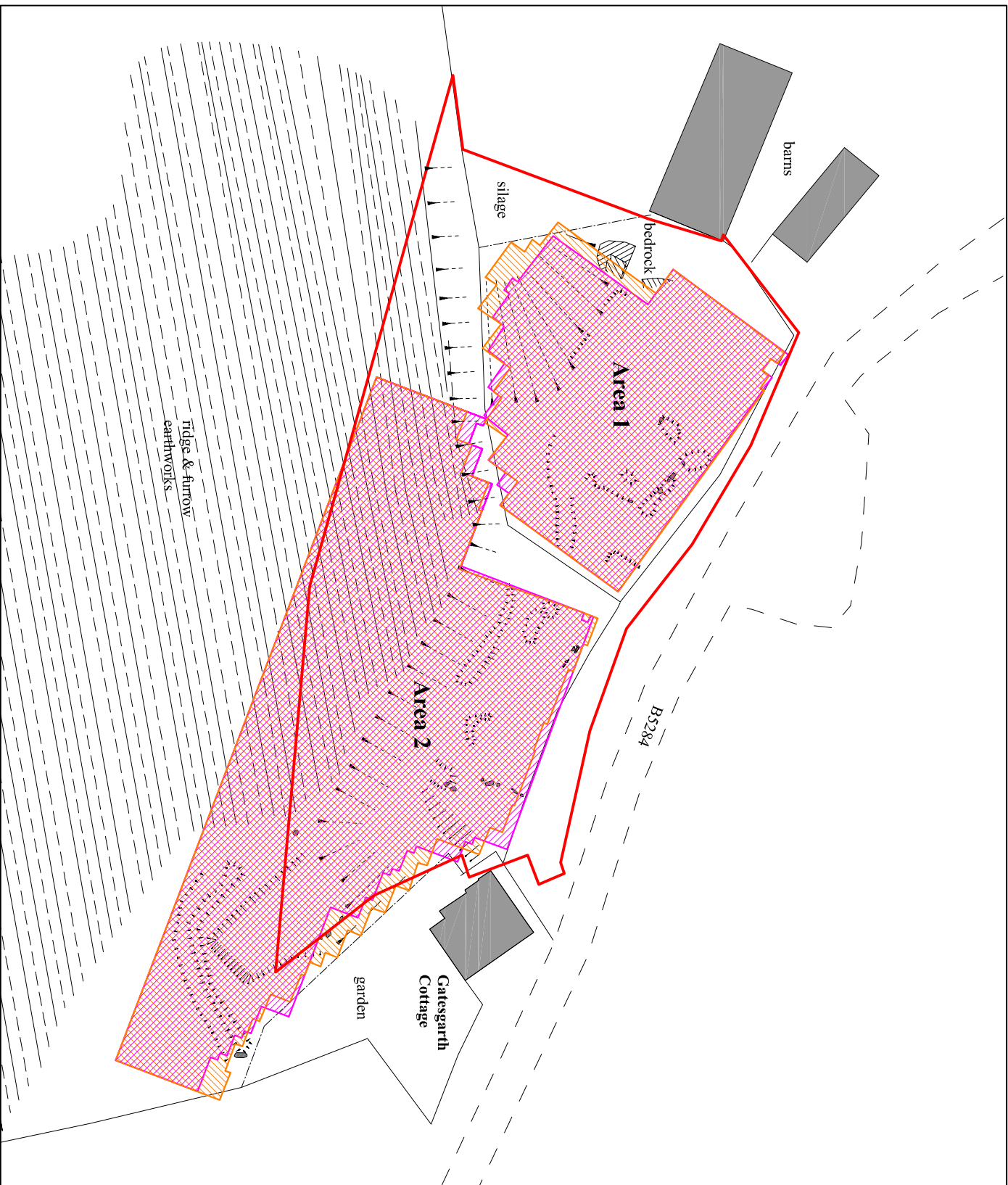


North Pennines Archaeology  
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PROJECT: Gatesgarth Farm, Buttermere  
 SCALE: 1:500 at A4  
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 FIGURE No: 12

 datum 110m OD

Figure12 : Earthwork profiles






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SCALE: 1:750 at A4

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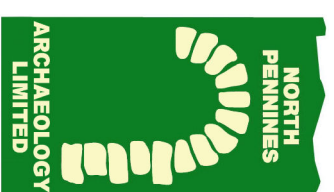
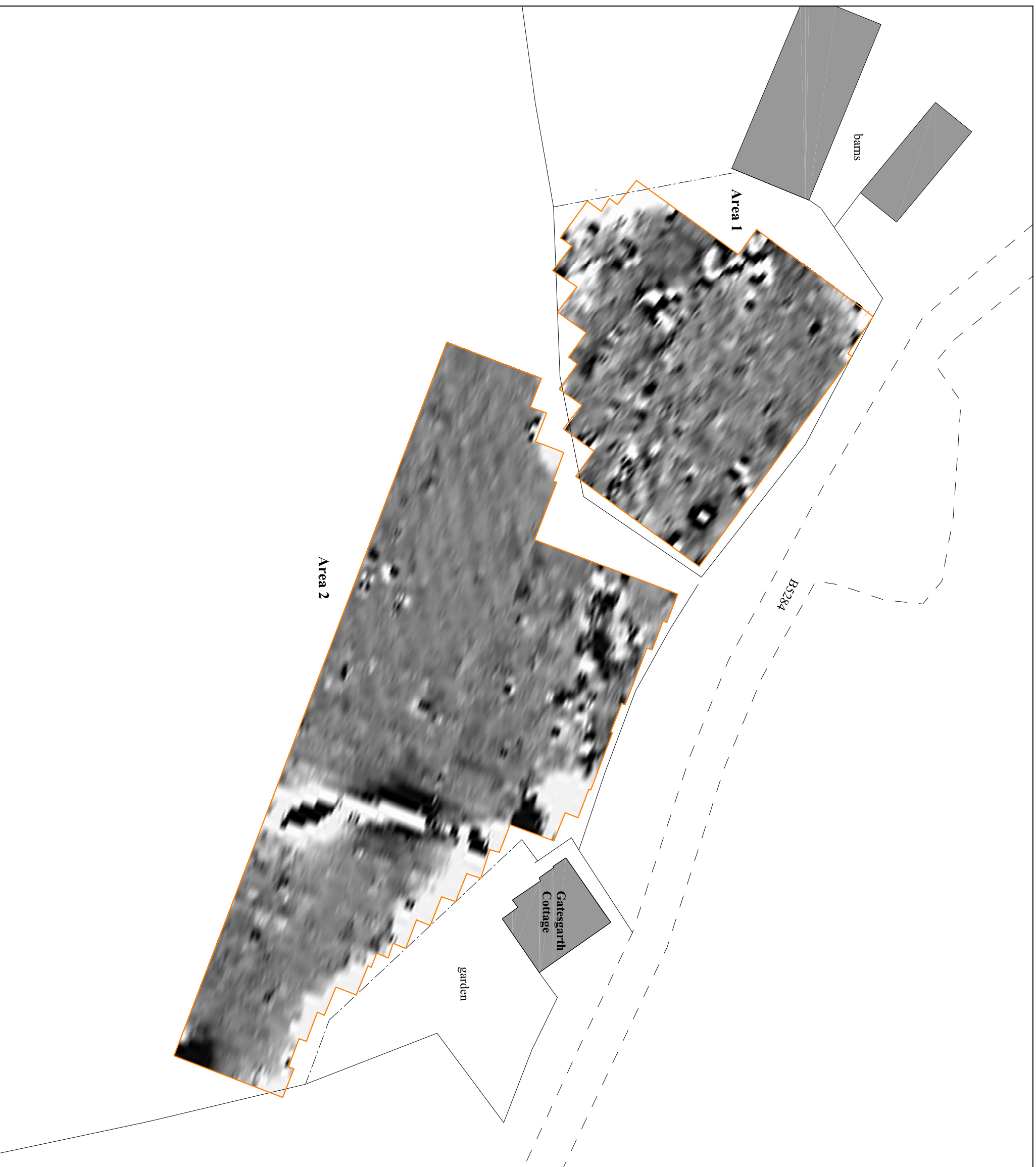
-  outline of proposed development area (based on OS mapping)
-  area of earth resistance survey
-  area of gradiometer survey



REPORT NO: CP 597/07

FIGURE No: 13

Figure 13 : Locations of geophysical survey areas showing topographic detail




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Scale 1:500 at A3

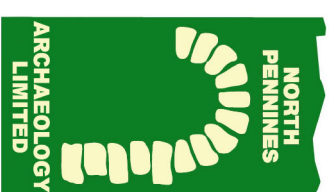
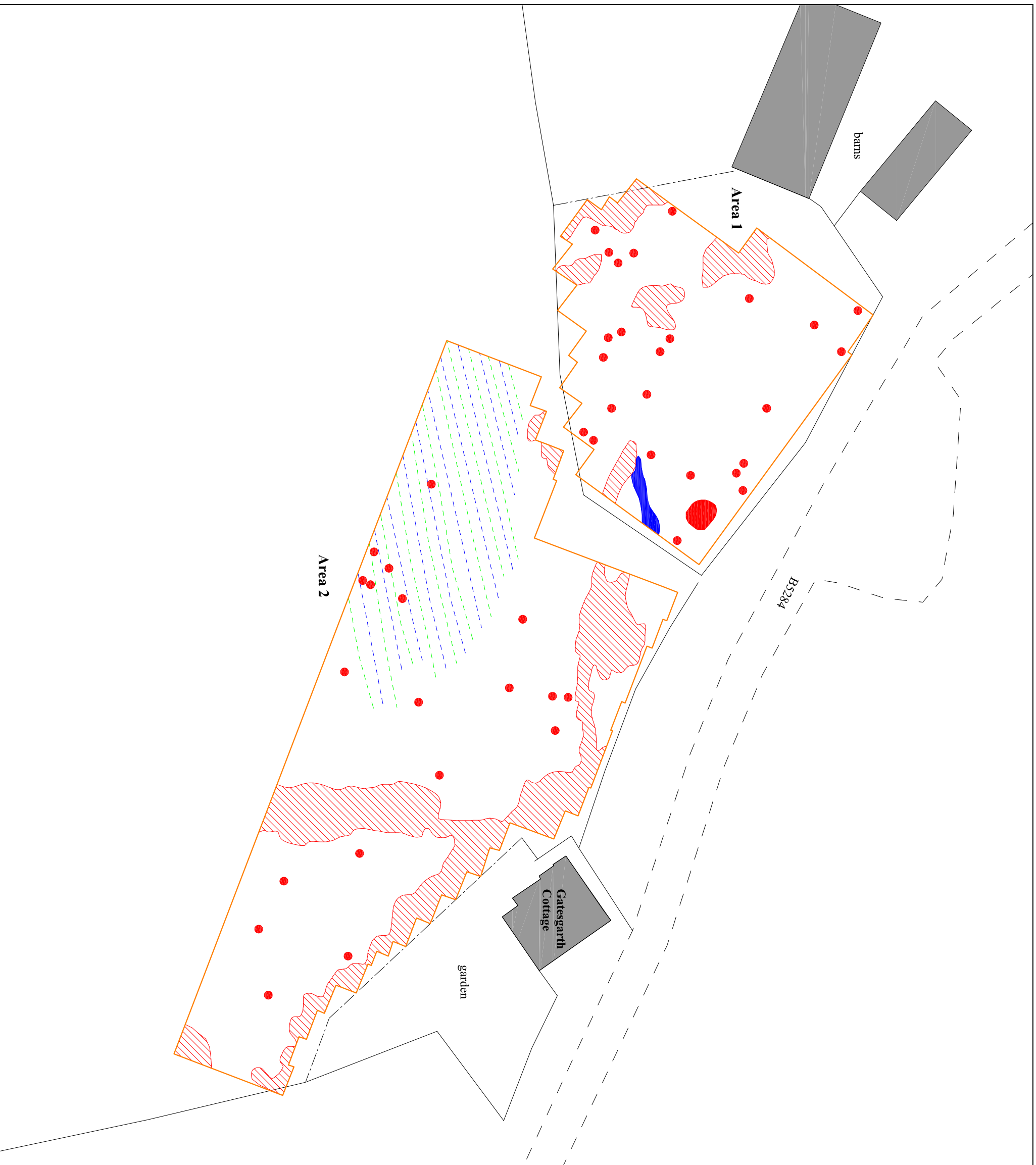
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 outline of geomagnetic survey area



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Figure No: 14

Figure 14 : Geomagnetic survey







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Scale 1:500 at A3

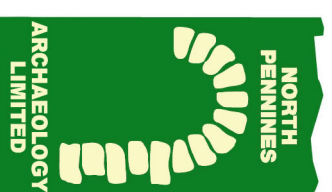
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DATE: February 2008

-  outline of geomagnetic survey area
-  positive magnetic anomaly
-  negative magnetic anomaly
-  dipolar magnetic anomaly



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Figure No: 15

Figure 15 : Geophysical interpretation of geomagnetic survey




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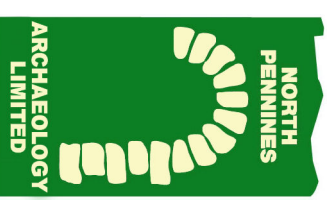
DRAWN BY: MDR  
DATE: February 2008

 outline of earth  
resistance survey area



Report No: CP 597/08  
Figure No: 16

Figure 16 : Earth resistance survey






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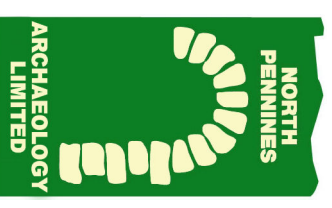
-  outline of earth resistance survey area
-  area of high resistance
-  area of low resistance



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Figure No: 17

Figure 17 : Geophysical interpretation of earth resistance survey














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Scale 1:500 at A3

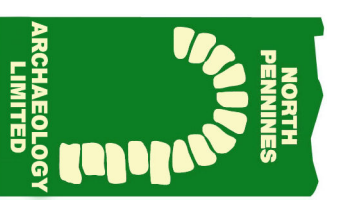
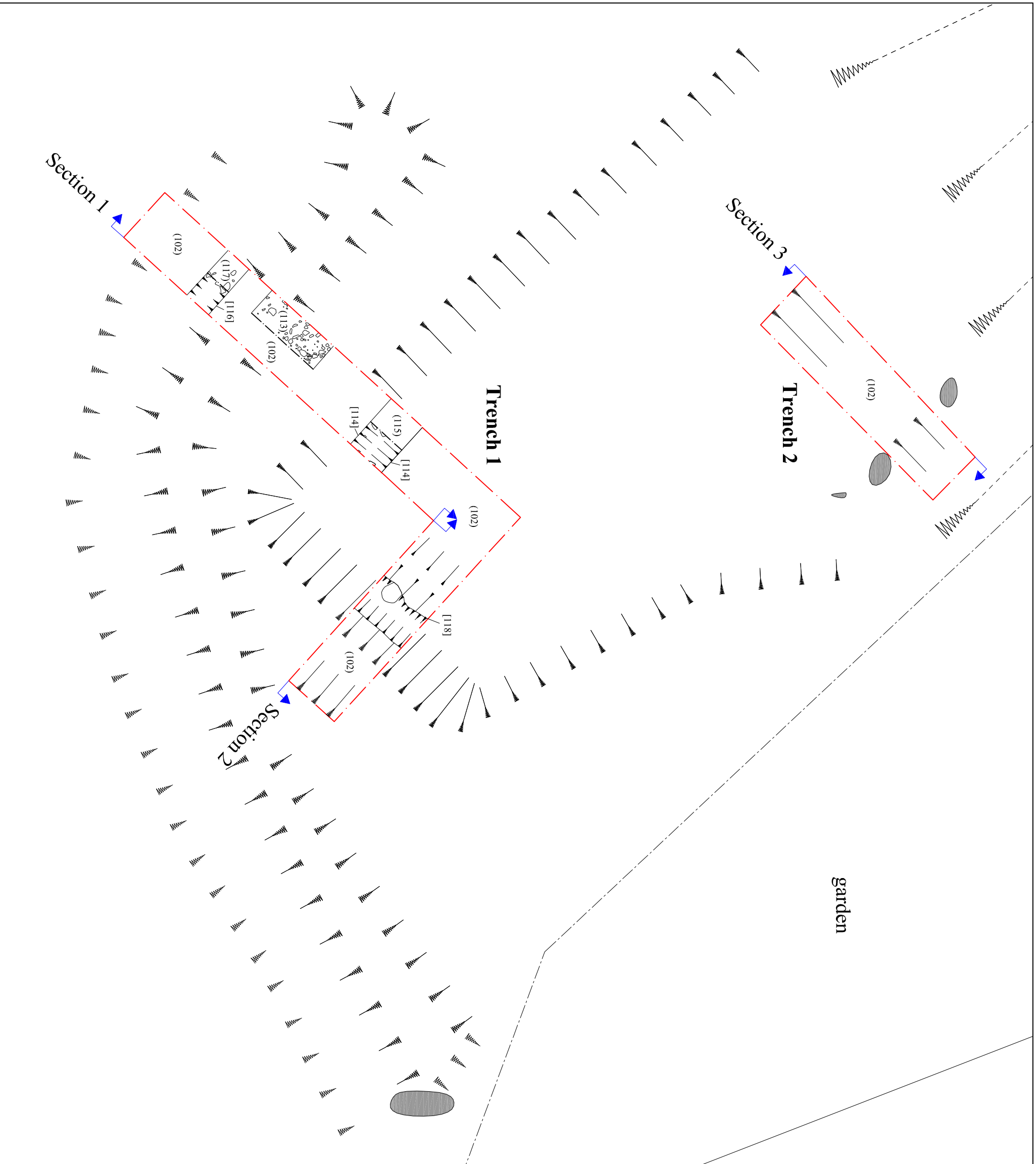
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DATE: February 2008

-  outline of geomagnetic survey area
-  outline of earth resistance survey area
-  earthwork detail
-  natural slope
-  earthenfast boulder
-  ridge & furrow earthworks
-  possible subsurface structures
-  soil-filled features
-  services



Report No: CP 597/08  
Figure No: 18

Figure 18 : Archaeological interpretation of geophysical surveys showing topographic detail and evaluation trench locations (Trenches 1-12)






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Scale 1:100 at A3

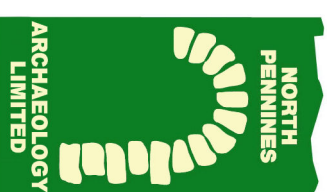
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-  limit of excavation
-  section location
-  context number



Report No: CP 597/07  
 Figure No: 19

Figure 19 : Plan of excavated features in Trench 1 and Trench 2



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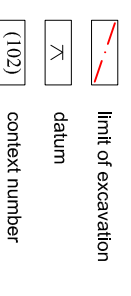
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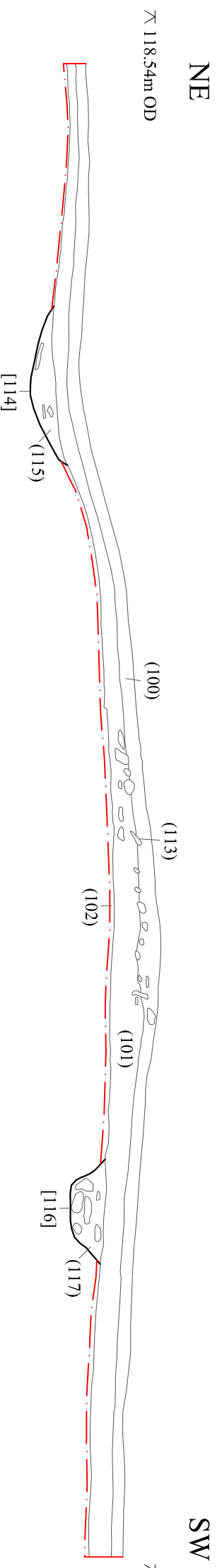
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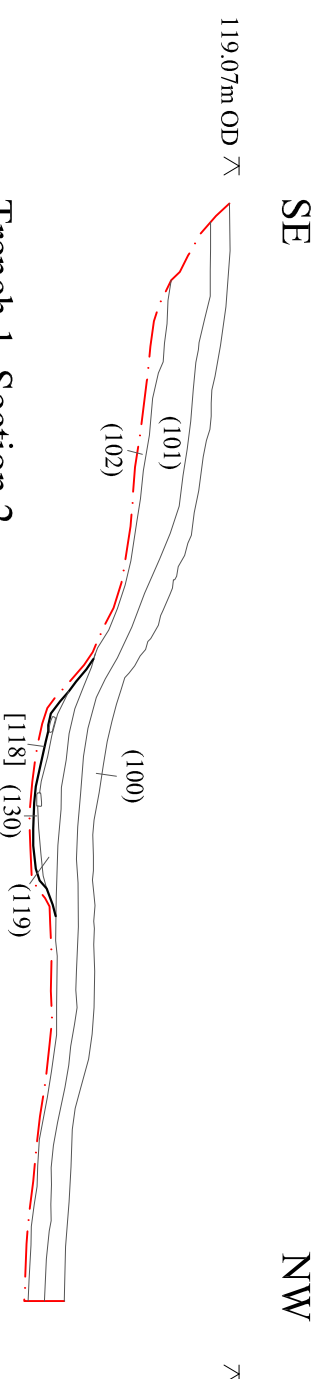
DATE: February 2008



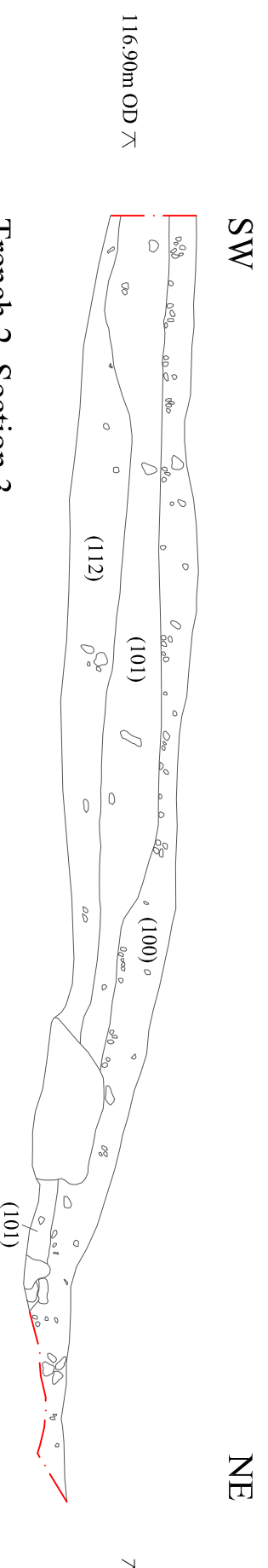
Trench 1, Section 1



Trench 1, Section 2



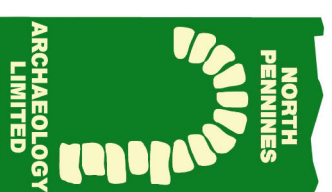
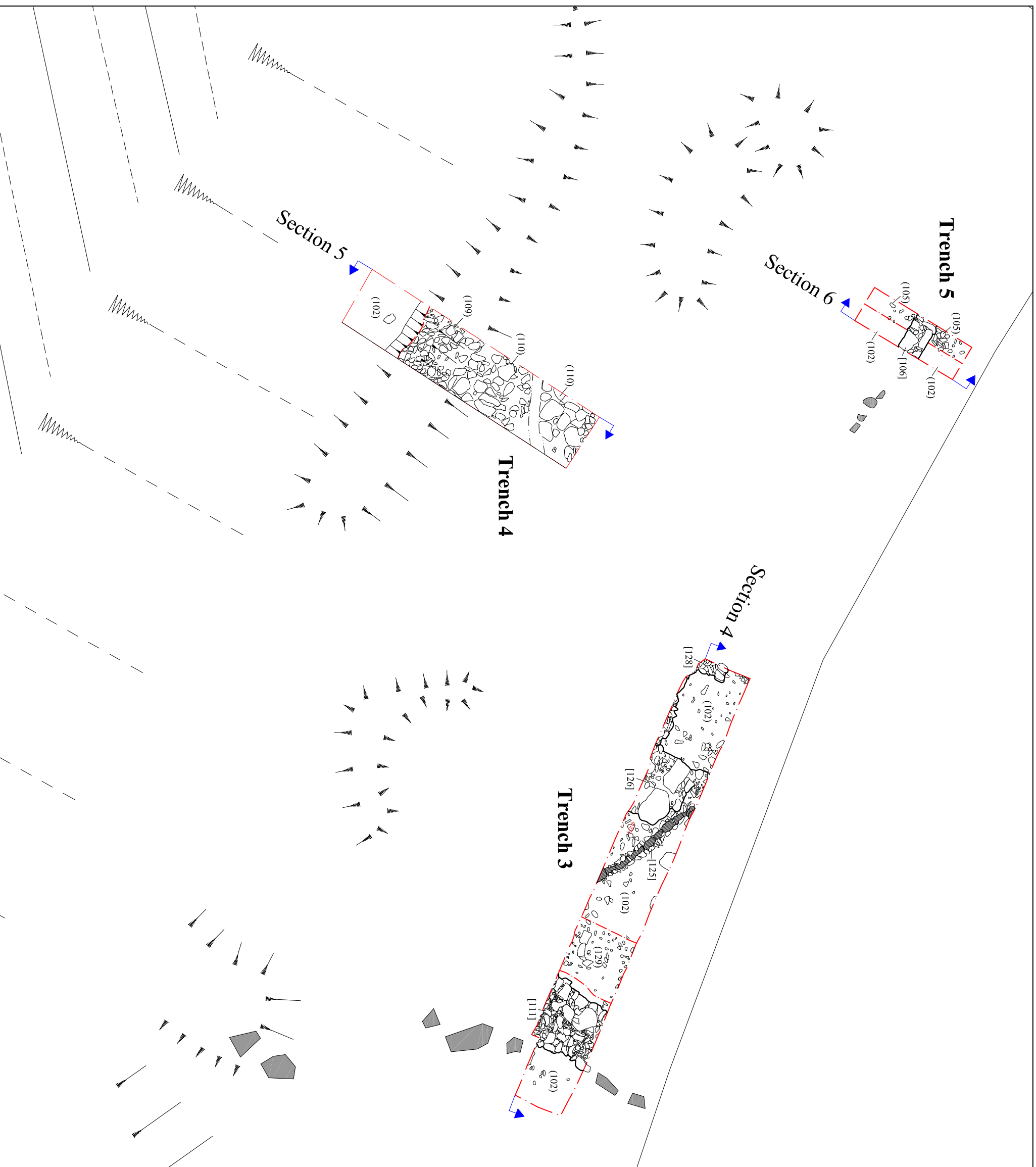
Trench 2, Section 3



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Figure No: 20

Figure 20 : Sections of Trench 1 and Trench 2







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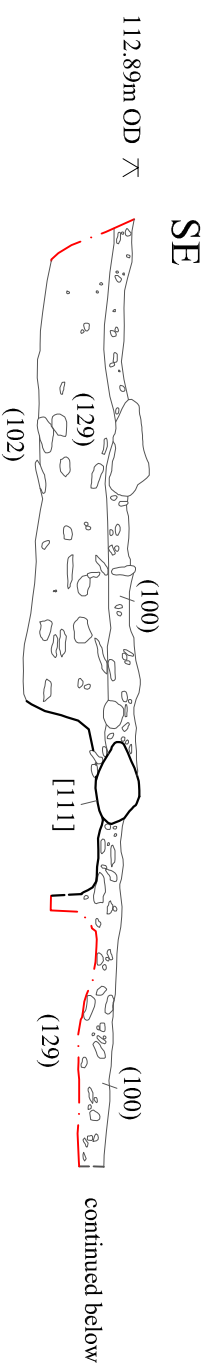
DRAWN BY: MDR  
DATE: February 2008

-  limit of excavation
-  section location
-  context number
-  re-used roof slate

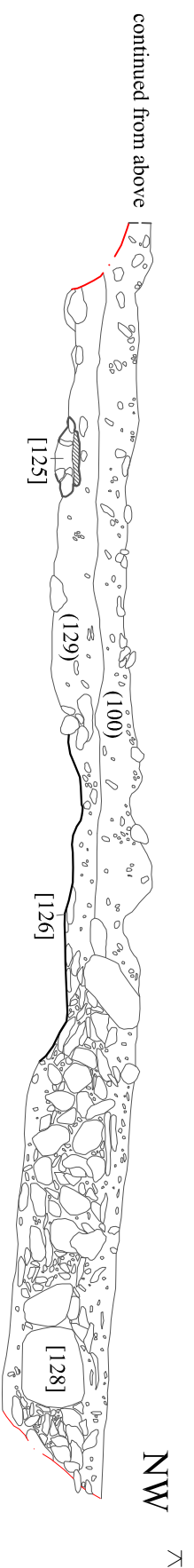


Report No: CP 597/08  
Figure No: 21

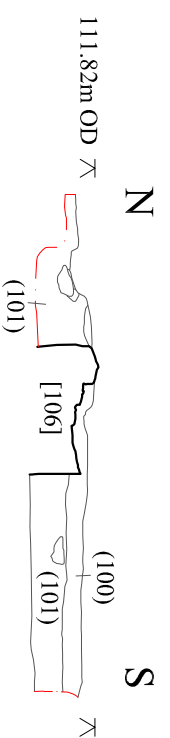
Figure 21 : Excavated features in Trench 3, Trench 4 and Trench 5



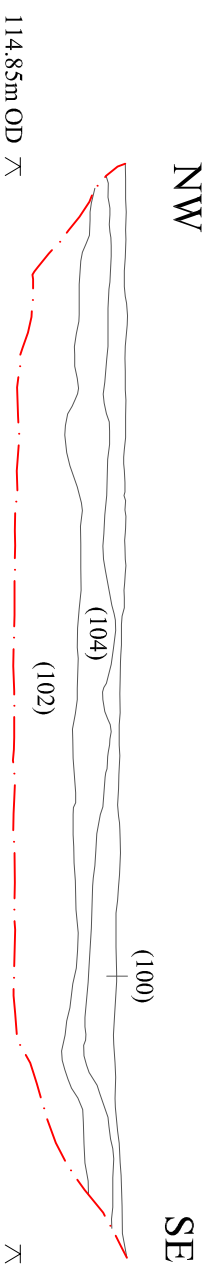
Trench 3, Section 4



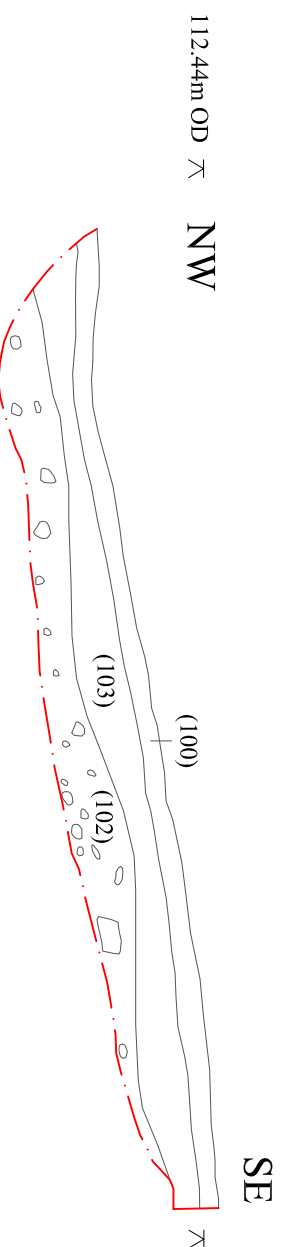
Trench 4, Section 5



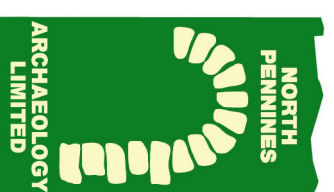
Trench 5, Section 6



Trench 6, Section 7



Trench 7, Section 8







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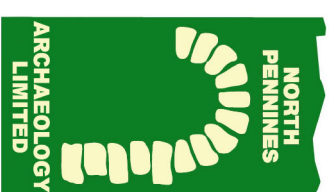
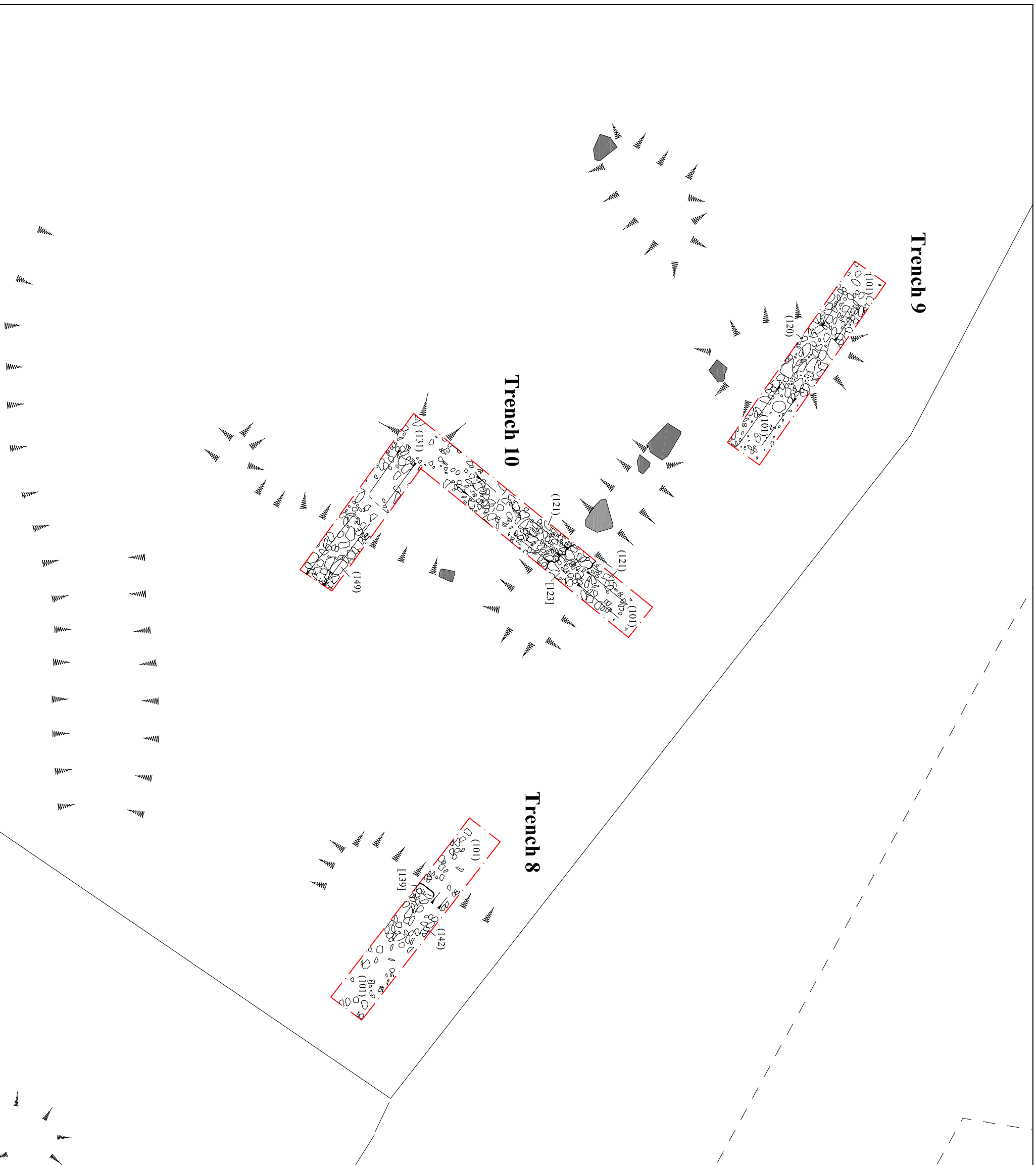
Scale 1:40 at A3

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DATE: February 2008

-  limit of excavation
-  datum
-  context number
-  reused state

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Figure No: 22

Figure 22 : Sections of Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7






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Scale 1:100 at A3

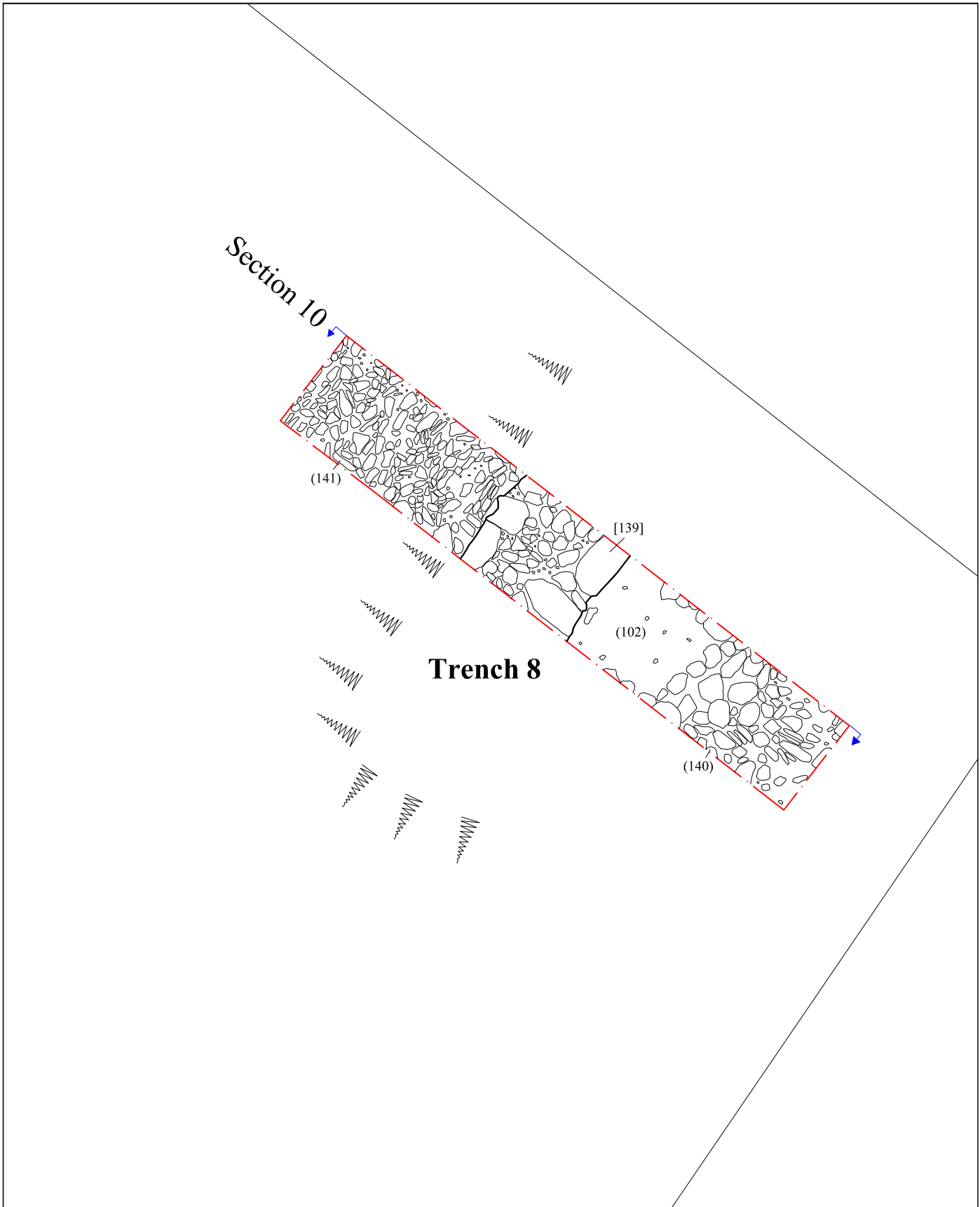
DRAWN BY: MDR  
DATE: February 2008

-  limit of excavation
-  section location
-  context number



Report No: CP 597/08  
Figure No: 23

Figure 23 : Archaeological features in Trench 8, Trench 9 and Trench 10 prior to excavation



**Trench 8**

Section 10

(141)




[139]

(102)

(140)

NPA Geophysical Survey  
2007

PROJECT: Gatesgarth Farm, Buttermere  
 SCALE: 1:50 at A4  
 REPORT No: CP 597/07  
 CLIENT: Edwin Thompson  
 DRAWN BY: MDR  
 DATE: February 2008  
 FIGURE No: 24

 limit of excavation  
 section location  
 context number

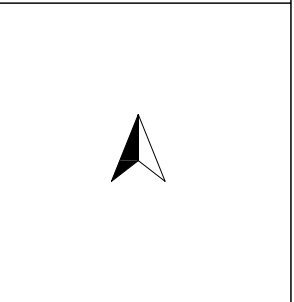
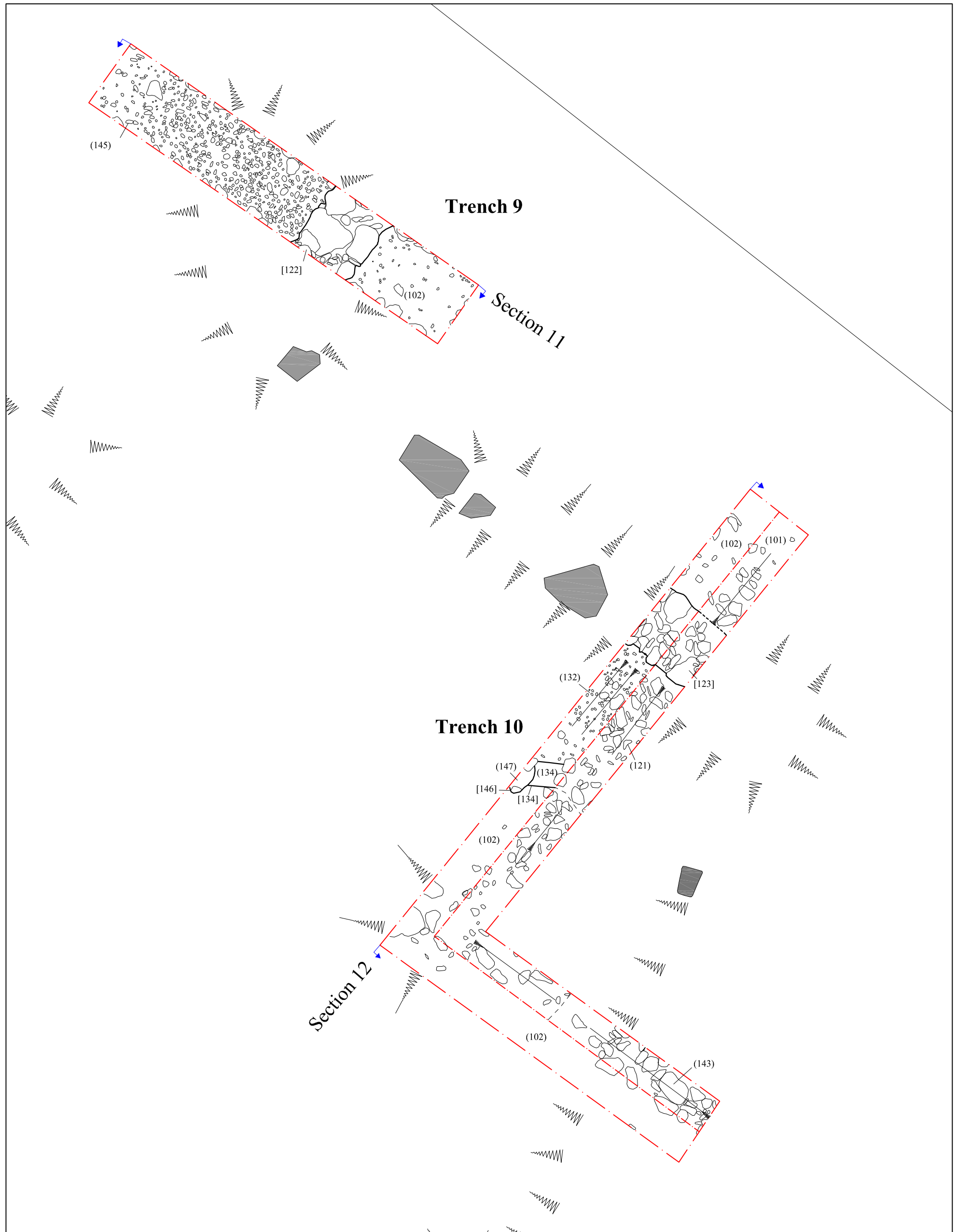


Figure 24 : Plan of excavated features in Trench 8








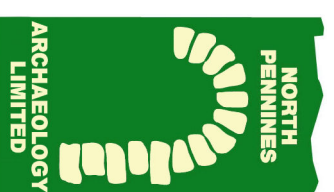
 <p>NPA Geophysical Survey 2007</p>	<p>PROJECT: Gatesgarth Farm, Buttermere  SCALE: 1:50 at A3  REPORT No: CP 597/07  CLIENT: Edwin Thompson  DRAWN BY: MDR  DATE: February 2008  FIGURE NO: 25</p>	<p>  limit of excavation   section location   context number </p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732.</p>
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Figure 25 : Plan of excavated features in Trench 9 and Trench 10





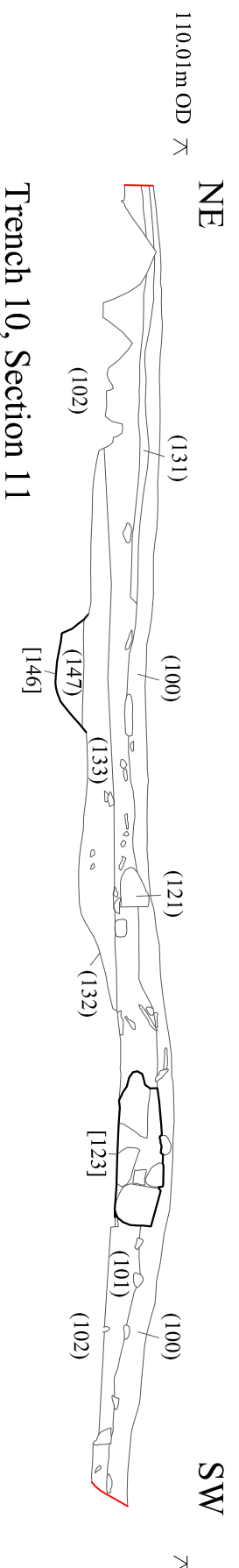
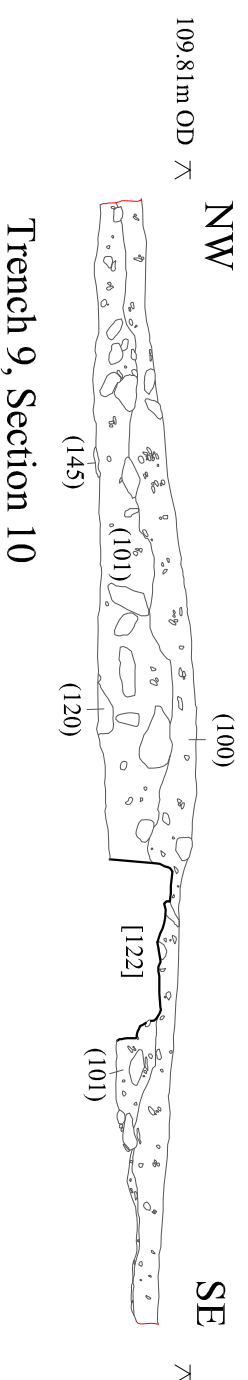
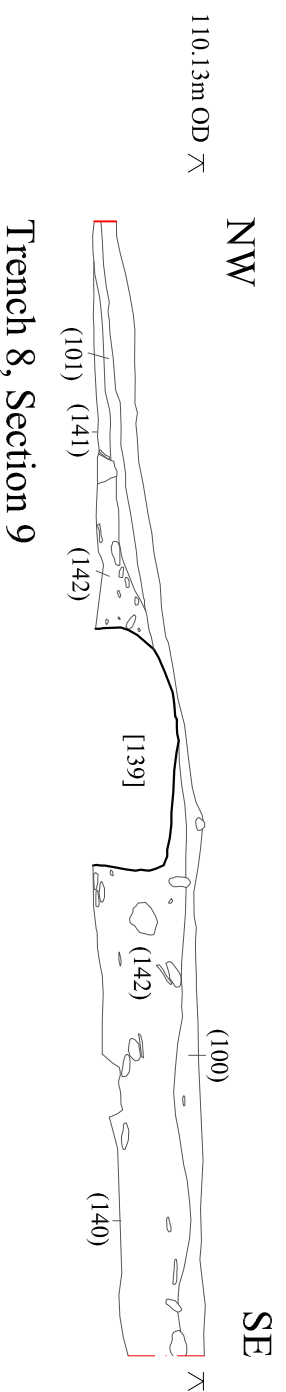
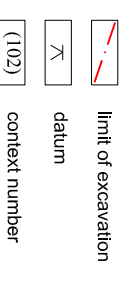
North Pennines Archaeology  
2008  
Gatesgarth Farm, Buttermere,  
Lake District National Park

COMMISSIONED BY:

Edwin Thompson

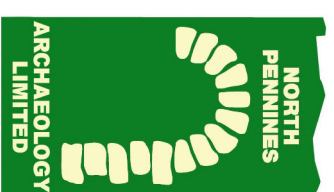
Scale 1:40 at A3

DRAWN BY: MDR  
DATE: February 2008



Report No: CP 597/08  
Figure No: 26

Figure 26 : Sections of Trenches 8, 9 and 10







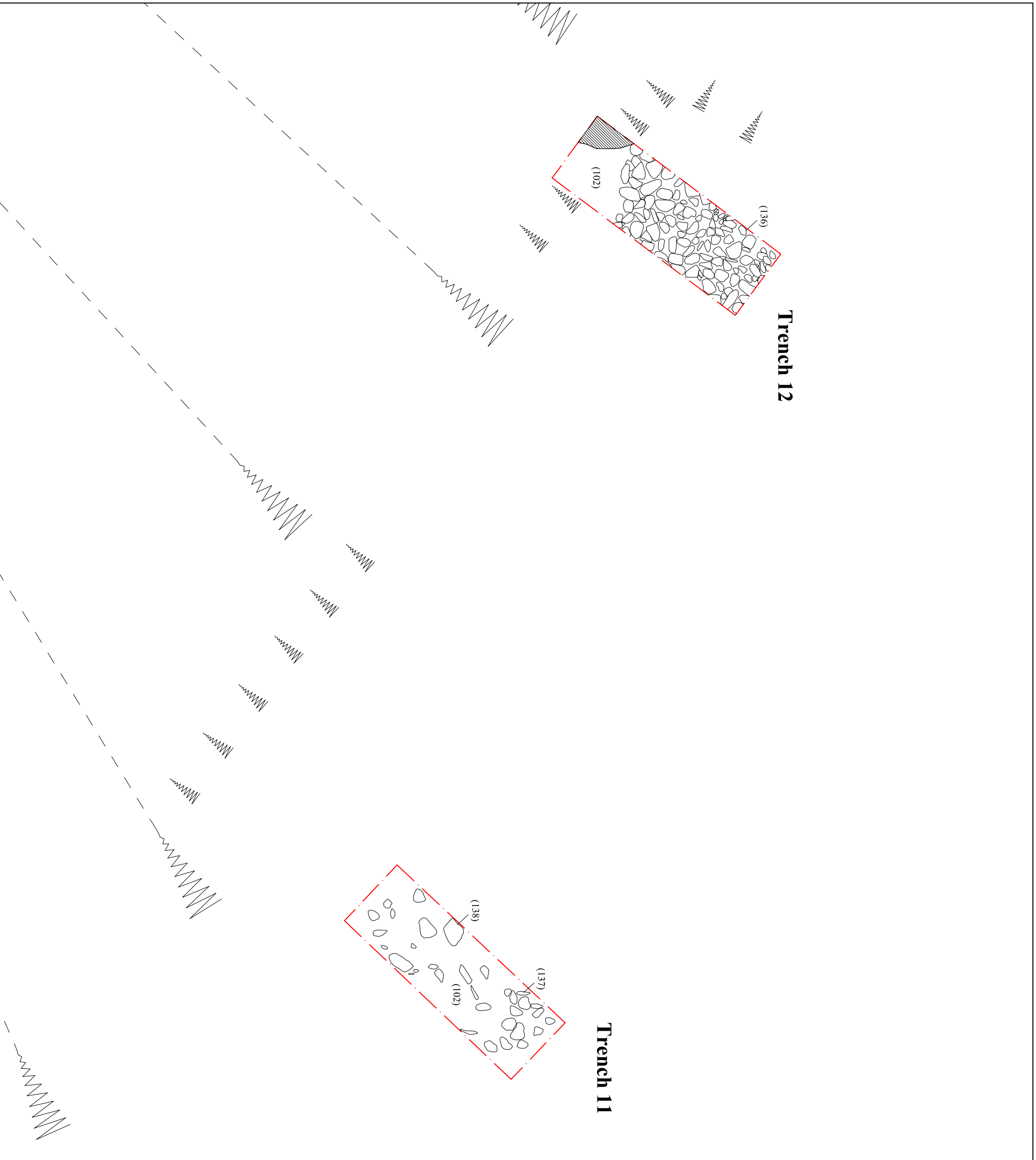
North Pennines Archaeology  
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COMMISSIONED BY:  
 Edwin Thompson

Scale 1:50 at A3

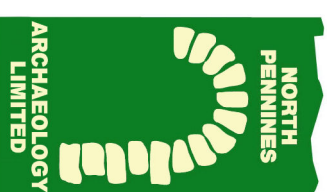
DRAWN BY: MDR  
 DATE: February 2008

-  limit of excavation
-  section location
-  context number
-  slate bedrock



Report No: CP 597/08  
 Figure No: 27

Figure 27 : Excavated features in Trench 11 and Trench 12

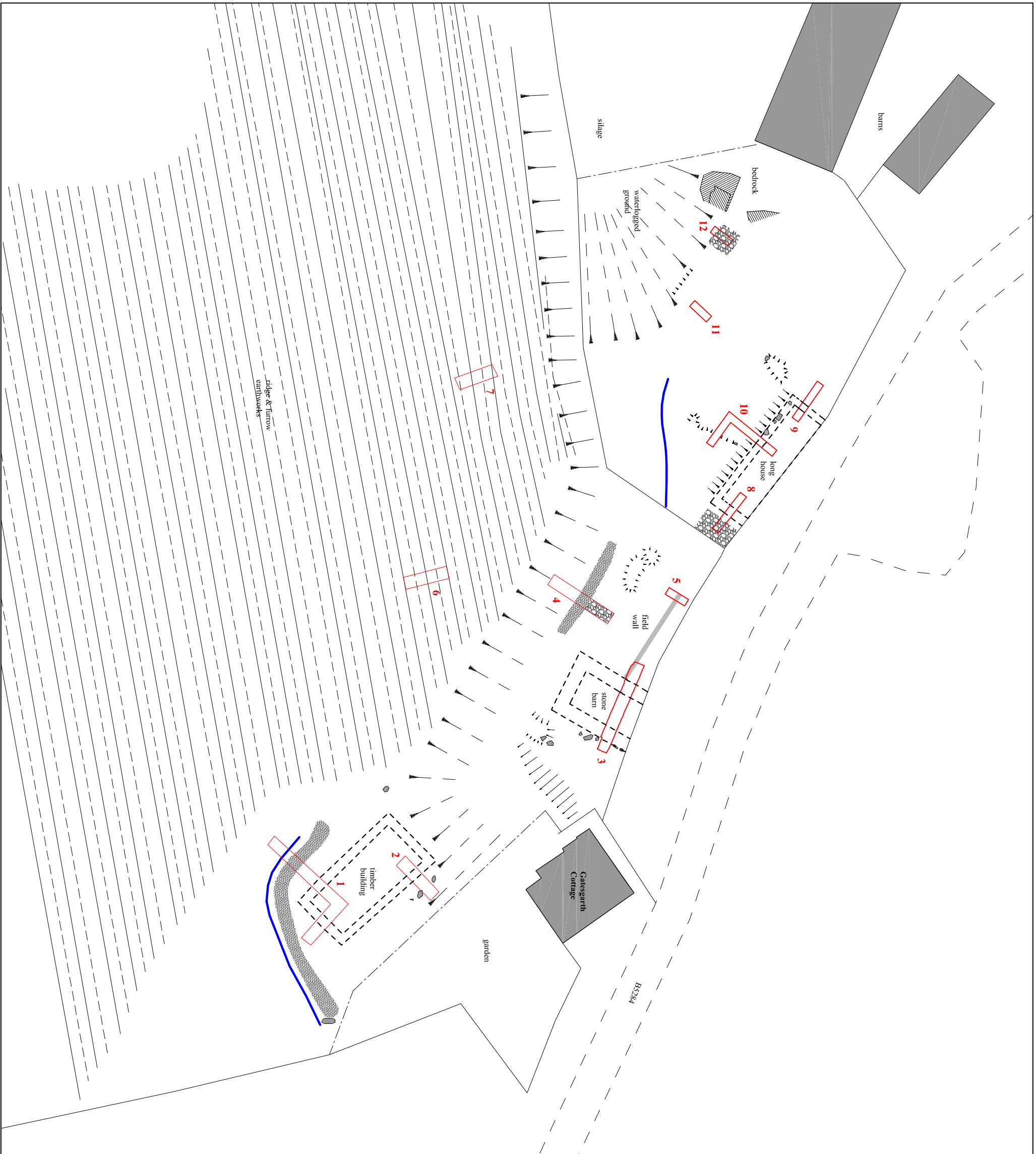


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Lake District National Park

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Edwin Thompson

Scale 1: 500 at A3

DRAWN BY: MDR  
DATE: February 2008










-  evaluation trench
-  building outline
-  cobbled yard/track
-  stoney bank
-  land drain
-  field wall
-  bedrock



Figure 28 : Archaeological interpretation diagram

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## **APPENDIX 4: POTTERY ASSESSMENT**

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# GATESGARTH FARM, BUTTERMERE, CUMBRIA

## Pottery Assessment



Client: North Pennines  
Archaeology Ltd

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February 2008



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## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Martin Railton of North Pennines Archaeology for commissioning the project, and Ian Miller of Oxford Archaeology North for assessing the medieval pottery. Jo Dawson assessed the post-medieval pottery and produced the report, which was edited by Daniel Elsworth.

## Introduction

**Project background:** Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned by North Pennines Archaeology to assess the pottery recovered during the excavation of 12 evaluation trenches at Gatesgarth Farm, Buttermere, Cumbria.

**Methodology:** all pottery was examined by eye, and information was recorded in the catalogue table of this report (*Appendix 1*; context, quantity expressed as a fragment count, fabric or ware type, description, and date range). Colour digital photographs were taken of the different ware types, many of which have been included in this report.

**The pottery:** in total, 47 fragments of pottery were recovered during the evaluation, including a few very recent breaks. Of these, seven were dated to the medieval period (in this case the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries), and the remaining 40 were dated to the post-medieval period (in this case late 17<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, although there is a possibility that some could be slightly later in date).

All the medieval pottery was recovered from Trench 10 (topsoil **100**, midden **131**, and yard surface **133**), and the post-medieval pottery was recovered from Trench 1 (unstratified), Trench 3 (topsoil **100** and barn wall foundations **111**), Trench 4 (unstratified and topsoil **100**), Trench 5 (unstratified), and Trench 8 (topsoil **100**).

The condition of the fragments varied largely with the degree of firing, as would be expected, so the low-fired wares, particularly the medieval pottery, were highly abraded, and the high-fired wares, such as porcelain, were crisp. The size of the fragments was also influenced to some extent by the thickness and form of the vessel walls. However, allowing for the variation in the hardness of the different fabrics, and the thickness and form of the vessel walls, the fragments appeared to have been exposed to fairly similar amounts of disturbance in the ground. Most of the fragments were relatively small in size, and showed wear only when the softness of the fabric allowed this. The sherd to vessel ratio was in almost all cases very low, when very recent breaks are ignored. The major exception to this was 16 refitting fragments from a factory-produced slipware bowl, recovered from the topsoil of Trench 8.

Ten of the fragments were unstratified, and the remaining 37 were from stratified deposits, all of which were dateable. With the exception of features in Trench 10, which were thought to be medieval and produced only pottery of medieval date, all the contexts from which pottery was retrieved were believed to be post-medieval in date. A single medieval pottery fragment was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 10, but otherwise only post-medieval pottery was recovered from contexts believed to be post-medieval in date.



## Medieval Pottery

The quantity of medieval pottery was very small, representing three vessels all in different fabrics, all from Trench 10. The first was an oxidised coarse sandy ware fragment probably from a jug, the vessel type inferred from the presence of a good quality glaze (Plates 7-10). This was recovered from the topsoil (**100**), and was dated to possibly the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, but more likely the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Midden **131** produced four freshly broken refitting fragments from a single abraded sherd of partially reduced ware dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century, possibly continuing in use into the 15<sup>th</sup> century (Plates 1-3). This may have been from a jar, due to the lack of glaze and relatively thick walls, but the abraded nature of the sherd means that it is not clear if glaze might originally have been present. Below midden **131** was yard surface **133**, and this produced one sherd of glazed oxidised medium coarse sandy ware from a jug with zoomorphic decoration, and a fragment probably from the same vessel (Plates 4-6). This was dated to possibly the late 13<sup>th</sup>, but more likely the 14<sup>th</sup>, century.

This is thought to be the first medieval pottery to be recovered from Buttermere valley (I Miller pers comm.) and it is all probably locally produced, meaning it was made within a 12 mile radius of the site. It is probably part of the Cumbrian coastal plain ceramic tradition (McCarthy and Brooks 1992, 35, fig 10), within which the extensive use of decoration is notable (Leach forthcoming). The nearest large assemblages are from Cockermouth, which is located 10 miles from Buttermere, the most notable site being 75-87 Main Street, which produced in excess of 3,500 sherds of medieval pottery, most of which were from stratified deposits (Leach forthcoming).

It has been suggested that within the Carlisle pottery tradition, some rural communities may have continued to rely heavily on non-ceramic tablewares and containers, thus explaining the small quantities of pottery found on rural sites (McCarthy and Brooks 1992, 36). Another alternative is that pottery was not generally allowed to accumulate in middens in the yards and around the buildings, and was disposed of in the fields (*ibid*). Whatever the reason, such small quantities of medieval pottery from rural Cumbrian sites do not appear to be unusual.



Plates 1-3: Partially reduced ware, showing sections and interior and exterior abraded surfaces (**131**)



Plates 4-6: Oxidised medium coarse sandy ware, showing interior and exterior surfaces and sections (**133**)



Plates 7-10: Oxidised coarse sandy ware, showing interior and exterior surfaces and section (Trench 10 **100**)

## Post-medieval Pottery

Of the post-medieval pottery assemblage, just over half (21 out of 40) of the fragments were finewares, but this was largely because 16 of those were refitting from a single vessel. In general the finewares could be dated more closely than their coarseware counterparts, as the former were more subject to changing fashions (Table 1). The coarsewares present were red earthenware (black-glazed (Plates 15-16) and brown-glazed (Plate 14), dated to the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century), and black-glazed buff-colour earthenware (Plates 11-13; dated to the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century). The vessel types, where they could be identified, appeared to be crocks.

Ware type	Date range	Quantity
Glazed buff-coloured earthenware	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 18 <sup>th</sup> century	2
Black-glazed red earthenware (coarseware)	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	16
Brown-glazed red earthenware (mainly coarseware)	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century	3
Pearlware/creamware/white earthenware	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> century	18
Bone china	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>40</b>

Table 1: Post-medieval pottery

The earliest post-medieval finewares were essentially fineware versions of the main coarsewares present, and comprised brown-glazed red earthenware (late 17<sup>th</sup> century to early 20<sup>th</sup> century; Plate 14, right hand side), and glazed buff-coloured earthenware (the base of a slip-decorated dish, dated to the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 18<sup>th</sup> century; Plates 11-13). This latter was still fairly heavy and crude, but was presumably intended for the table, even if it was the kitchen table.

The factory-produced finewares present were dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and comprised possible creamware, pearlware, white earthenware (none of these were particularly diagnostic or early; Plate 17), and bone china dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century (Plates 18-19). The decoration on the earthenwares was factory-produced slip patterns, and the bone china had a painted enamel stripe.

The main significance of the post-medieval pottery is in relation to its ability to help date the contexts from which it derives (most of which is topsoil from different trenches), and activity on the site in general. It is a very small assemblage, but this is perhaps to be expected due to its rural location.



Plates 11-13: Buff-coloured earthenware, showing top and bottom surfaces and sections, undecorated base from Trench 4 (topsoil **100**), slipware base from Trench 5 (unstratified)



Plate 14: Brown-glazed red earthenware, from left to right from Trench 4 (unstratified, **100**) and context **111**



Plates 15 and 16: Small selection of black-glazed red earthenware, Plate 15 showing rim from Trench 4 (unstratified), base from Trench 3 (**100**), and refitting base from Trench 5 (unstratified); Plate 16 showing selection of fabrics in section, from top to bottom from Trench 4 (**100**), (**111**), base from Trench 5 (unstratified), and rim from Trench 4 (unstratified)





Plate 17: White earthenwares, including possible creamware and pearlware, from left to right from Trench 4 (**100**), Trench 8 (**100**), and Trench 1 (unstratified)



Plates 18 and 19: Bone china cup handle from Trench 4 (**100**)

## Dating

It was hoped that assessing the pottery from the evaluation would help to date the possible medieval long house on the site. This has largely been achieved; however there is a severe shortage of comparative rural assemblages, let alone ones with similar pottery from securely dated contexts. Therefore, any dating has had to be based on descriptions of similar pottery from securely dated urban contexts, in this case from a relatively prolific site in Cockermouth (Leach forthcoming). The Cockermouth site was excavated in the 1980s, and remains unpublished, but the draft, un-illustrated, publication text was available. The pottery archive was not available for comparison with the Gatesgarth finds within the timescale of the assessment.

What is striking about the dates of the assemblage as a whole is that there is an absence of late material, and this helps to give a tighter date range to the otherwise only broadly dated context **111**. However, due to the very small size of the assemblage, it is perhaps not easy to draw too many conclusions from any perceived absences.

Context	Notes	Date
Post-medieval barn foundations <b>111</b>	Single coarseware body fragment, not particularly diagnostic (late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century)	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> century? (due to absence of later diagnostic finewares over the entire site)
Midden <b>131</b> associated with the longhouse	Single abraded recently broken sherd, no diagnostic features in terms of body shape, glaze no longer (?) present, or glaze not present	13 <sup>th</sup> – mid 14 <sup>th</sup> century (possibly into the 15 <sup>th</sup> century)
Yard surface <b>133</b> , beneath midden <b>131</b> , south-east of long house	Single decorated sherd and fragment from the same vessel, glaze at odds with the lack of development in the fabric	(Late 13 <sup>th</sup> ) – 14 <sup>th</sup> century

Table 2: Non-topsoil contexts containing pottery, with possible date ranges

From Table 2, above, it can be seen that the levelling deposit forming the yard surface was probably laid down sometime during the 14<sup>th</sup> century, with the midden accumulating very shortly afterward. These dates must be taken with some degree of caution, since they rely on the periods of use of similar pottery in urban contexts in Cockermouth, and it is possible that it continued in use later in the much more rural setting at Gatesgarth.

There is a notable gap in the dates between the medieval pottery associated with the long house, and the post-medieval pottery from the barn foundations and the topsoil. Both the barn foundations and topsoil contained pottery dated to around the late 17<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century, clearly well after the long house had gone out of use. It would be interesting to see if further excavation could reveal continuity of settlement, and therefore if the apparent break in activity is merely due to the small size of the assemblage, or whether it represents something more significant.

## Recommendations

Medieval pottery from rural contexts in Cumbria is scarce and has been recognised as being of great importance. One of the initiatives proposed Archaeological Research Framework for North West England is: '*Artefacts studies contrasting well dated urban assemblages with those from nearby contemporary rural sites and contrasting high status site assemblages with those from ordinary sites. This should enable insights into different patterns of interaction and breadth of contacts between different social groups*' (Newman and Newman 2007, 114, Initiative 5.46).

The results of the evaluation are worth a publication note in the *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, and this should include an illustration of the decorated sherd from yard surface **133**. If further work takes place, the medieval pottery from the evaluation, together with any recovered from the excavation, should be compared to the assemblage from 75-87 Main Street, Cockermouth.

## References

Leach, R, forthcoming *The excavation of three medieval and post-medieval burgrave plots at 75 – 87 Main Street, Cockermouth*

McCarthy, MR, and Brooks, CM, 1992 The establishment of a medieval pottery sequence in Cumbria, England, in Gaimster, D, and Redknap, M, 1992 *Everyday and Exotic Pottery from Europe: Studies in honour of John G. Hurst*, Oxford, 21-37

Newman, C, and Newman, R, 2007 The Medieval Period Research Agenda, in M Brennan (ed), *Research and Archaeology in North West England. An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England Volume 2: Research Agenda and Strategy*, Manchester, 95-114

## Appendix 1: Pottery Catalogue

Cxt	Trench	Qty	Ware type	Notes	Date range
U/S	1	1	Pearlware?	Body fragment from hollow-ware vessel with external longitudinal unfettled mould seam, fairly thick-walled	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
100	3	1	Black-glazed red earthenware	Abraded coarseware crock base fragment, uniform red fabric	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
111	3	1	Brown-glazed red earthenware	Fine hollow-ware fragment with white slip-trailed decoration	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
111	3	1	Black-glazed red earthenware	Coarseware body fragment, fabric poorly mixed leaving white clay visible within the red	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
U/S	4	3	Black-glazed red earthenware	Coarseware fragments including crock rim, two smaller fragments with uniform red fabric, rim fabric not entirely mixed	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
U/S	4	1	Brown-glazed red earthenware	Body fragment, uniform red fabric	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
100	4	1	Bone china	Tea (?) cup handle with worn off enamel painted stripe	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century
100	4	1	Factory-produced slipware (creamware / white earthenware)	Hollow-ware fragment, with machine cut decoration filled with dark brown slip and buff-coloured slip decoration elsewhere	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> century
100	4	7	Black-glazed red earthenware	Coarseware fragments, six from single vessel, probably a crock, some fresh breaks but apparently only two refitting fragments, uniform red fabric	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
100	4	1	Brown-glazed red earthenware	Abraded fragment decorated with white slip stripe, uniform red fabric	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
100	4	1	Black-glazed buff-coloured earthenware	Coarseware base fragment with external red slip coating and thick layer of settled glaze	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 18 <sup>th</sup> century
U/S	5	4	Black-glazed red earthenware	Refitting coarseware crock base and side fragments, recent breaks, fabric poorly mixed leaving red and white clay layers visible	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
U/S	5	1	Slipware	Glazed buff-coloured earthenware dish base fragment with internal red slip coating and white slip-trailed decoration	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 18 <sup>th</sup> century
100	8	16	Factory-produced slipware (pearlware?)	Refitting fragments from carinated bowl, decoration from carination upwards: three light blue stripes, two dark brown stripes, buff-coloured band, two dark brown stripes, repeating light blue motif from three-chambered slip bottle	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
100	10	1	Oxidised coarse sandy ware	Glazed fragment, glaze possibly with a small splash of copper	(Mid 13 <sup>th</sup> - ) 14 <sup>th</sup> century

<b>Cxt</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Ware type</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Date range</b>
<b>131</b>	10	4	Partially reduced ware	Refitting fragments, recently broken from single abraded body sherd	13 <sup>th</sup> – mid 14 <sup>th</sup> century (possibly into 15 <sup>th</sup> century)
<b>133</b>	10	2	Oxidised medium coarse sandy ware	Decorated zoomorphic body sherd and fragment probably from same vessel	(Late 13 <sup>th</sup> - ) 14 <sup>th</sup> century