

**LAND AT FERGUSON'S
TRANSPORT YARD,
SOUTH ROAD,
WOOLER,
NORTHUMBERLAND**



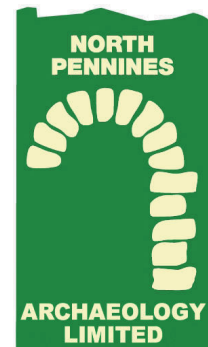
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT**

CP. No: 1151/10

21/04/2010

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were invited by Box 22 Limited, on behalf of their clients, Silvercoin Investments Ltd, to undertake an archaeological trial-trench evaluation on land at the former Ferguson (Redpath) Transport Premises, South Road, Wooler, Northumberland (NGR NT 9940 2794), in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the site. A planning application is being submitted for a development at the site comprising construction of a foodstore and tourist kiosk, with associated access, parking and landscaping.

An archaeological desk-based assessment and building assessment was undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd of the proposed development site. This previous archaeological work highlighted the site to be of local industrial significance. Furthermore, the area around Wooler is known to have been an important focus for prehistoric activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, with further evidence dating to the Mesolithic period also discovered in the area. Given the significant potential of both archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains on the site, Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT) advised that a programme of archaeological work be undertaken, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved by NCCCT (ref: B37/3: 10478).

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over five days between the 12th April and the 16th April 2010. The evaluation involved the excavation of five trial trenches, comprising a 5% sample of the 0.93ha site, or equating to 260m² of trenching. Two further 2m x 2m test-pits were also excavated within the northernmost building on the site.

No archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains relating to the prehistoric or later periods were noted during the evaluation. The trial trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 2m, exposing a series of sands and gravels underlying relatively recent made ground. The presence of these extensive fluvial/glacial deposits is not surprising given the site's location on an extensive flood plain immediately west of Wooler Water, within the Milfield Basin.

Whilst the present study area may have been an attractive location for milling activity, as evidenced by the buildings on the site, it is unlikely that this extensive flood plain provided the same attraction for any sustained settlement activity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to offer thanks to Chris White of Box 22 Ltd, on behalf of Silvercoin Investments Ltd, for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to David Passmore and Nick Best, Northumberland County Council Conservation Team, for their assistance during this project.

NPA Ltd would also like to thank local residents of Wooler for their oral histories concerning the site. Special thanks are due to Ian Colbertson of Glendale Engineering (Milfield) Ltd for all his hard work during the project.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Joanne Wilkinson and Sue Thompson under the supervision of David Jackson. The report was written by David Jackson and the drawings were produced by Joanne Wilkinson and Sue Thompson. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for NPA Ltd, who also edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In April 2010 North Pennines Archaeology were invited by Box 22 Limited, on behalf of their clients, Silvercoin Investments Ltd, to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land at the former Ferguson (Redpath) Transport Premises, South Road, Wooler, Northumberland (NGR NT 9940 2794; Figure 1), in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the site. The proposed works lie within an area which is on the fringe of the medieval town of Wooler. An archaeological desk-based assessment and building assessment of the proposed development site undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd highlighted the site to be of local industrial significance (Wooler 2010). Furthermore, the area around Wooler is known to have been an important focus for prehistoric activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods and to a lesser extent, the Mesolithic period. As a result, the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT) advised that the site be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16).
- 1.1.2 All stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the specification provided by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (Best 2010) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the evaluation work undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (Railton 2010) in response to a request by Box 22 Limited, on behalf of Silvercoin Investments Ltd, for an archaeological evaluation of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT), North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE FIELD EVALUATION

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of five trial trenches, covering approximately 5% of the proposed 0.93ha development area, approximating to 260m² of trenching. Two further 2m x 2m test-pits were also excavated within the northern most building on the site. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals. All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).

2.2.2 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 were 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.

2.2.3 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2003).

2.2.4 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, 1991).

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited within the Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne, with copies of the report sent to the Northumberland Historic Environment Record, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **NPA10, FYW-A, CP/1151/10**.

2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and Northumberland County Council Conservation Team, support the **Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The town of Wooler is located within Glendale in north Northumberland. The core of the town is perched on the western side of Wooler Water, a tributary of the River Till, on a site providing panoramic views across the Cheviots to the west and the Milfield Plain to the north-west. The main road (A697) from Morpeth to Coldstream passes beneath Wooler, to the east side (Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 The proposed development area is situated to the east side of the town, at the base of the steep hill on which the historic core of Wooler is located, on the west side of Wooler Water and immediately to the north side of Wooler Bridge and The Peth. The site consists of a large expanse of flat ground between Tower bank and South Road. The site is presently occupied by several buildings centrally placed within the proposed development area, surrounded by tarmac and gravelled ground, with the remains of seemingly earlier buildings located in the south-west corner of the site, at the foot of Tower Bank (Figure 2). The proposed development area is located within Wooler Conservation Area.
- 3.1.3 Like a number of smaller settlements on the Cheviot fringe, Wooler lies at the break of slope between two very distinctive geologies and landscapes. To the west is the massif of the Cheviot Hills formed of the enduring Andesites and other volcanic rocks of Old Red Sandstone Age which define the physical aspect of these uplands. To the east, the Cementstone Group of Lower Carboniferous age, formed of a mix of limestone, mudstone and sandstone, is a much softer geology, and was already eroded in pre-glacial times to a reduced elevation. This levelling facilitated the subsequent progression of glaciers across the area east of the Cheviots, which deposited thick sheets of boulder clay over the former surface. At the end of the Ice Ages, this spread of boulder clay was striated in deep channels by periglacial meltwaters which in turn deposited extensive spreads of sands and gravels. Finally, temporary lakes formed by the meltwater filled with lacustrine clays and sands. Parts of the Milfield Basin, to the north of Wooler, have been levelled with up to 160m of these deposits (Finlayson and Hardie 2009).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments around the study area. References to the Northumberland County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) are included where known.
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** the area around Wooler contains a wealth of evidence for prehistoric activity. There are, for example, scatters of Mesolithic flint tools, including tiny composite blades known as microliths, from Common Burn to the west and from Wooler Common to the south of the town. There are Neolithic and Bronze Age monumental sites on the Milfield Plain, and cup and ring marked stone to the north on Doddington Moor, as well as Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements in the foothills of the Cheviots including hillforts at Yeavering and Humbleton. Just to the south of Wooler lies The Kettles (HER No. 1546), an extensive and intricate complex of earthworks, which date to the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods (Beckensall 1975).
- 3.2.3 Within the town of Wooler itself, the only evidence for prehistoric activity is from the discovery of a cist burial, found in the garden on the west side of Cheviot Street in 1872. The stone-lined cist contained a human skeleton in the foetal position, accompanied by a jet button (HER No. 1542). The HER also records findspots of incised stones characteristic of the prehistoric period. A boulder with incised cup and rings was revealed during the demolition of an unspecified house in the town in the 19th century (HER No. 1534), and a further sculptured stone, suggested to date to this period, was found built into a wall on Ramsey's Lane (HER No. 1561). The provenance of both these carved stones, however, is unknown (Wooler 2010).
- 3.2.4 It must be noted that there is some evidence of prehistoric activity on lower lying land to the east of Wooler, on the site of the town's Cricket Ground, where a cropmark characteristic of a henge dating to the Neolithic period (4000BC to 2200BC, HER No. 3330) was noted by aerial photography (*op cit*).
- 3.2.5 **Romano-British:** the only site dated to this period, which is recorded in the HER within a 1km radius of the proposed development area, is The Kettles, situated to the south-west of the town. This is the site of a large hill fort divided into two portions by triple ramparts crossing the neck of a promontory. The HER entry notes that Roman coins and a broken sword (HER No. 1546) were found on the site (*op cit*).
- 3.2.6 **Medieval:** although there is no certain evidence for pre-Conquest occupation at Wooler, a number of pieces of worked stone of the 10th and 11th centuries found within or in the near vicinity of the town suggest there may have been as yet unspecified activity during the early medieval period. Wooler formed

one of the ancient baronies into which Northumberland was divided after the Norman Conquest in the 11th century. Graham suggests that at this time, Wooler was probably a waste and that the building of the castle may have provided a nucleus around which the village grew (Graham 1982).

- 3.2.7 The remains of a castle on Tower Hill (HER No. 1549), located to the north-west of the proposed development site, on high ground, has been suggested to be on the site of a Norman motte and bailey, of which all fortifications have been lost. As early as 1255, Wooler was recorded as having a '*waste motte of no value*' (Long 1967). It has been suggested, however, that this '*waste motte*' could have referred to Green Castle, a prominent mound topped with a ringwork located approximately one kilometre to the west of the town (Finlayson and Hardie 2009).
- 3.2.8 A tower at Wooler is mentioned in a list of Holds in 1509, when it was stated that it could house 20 horsemen, and in 1526 a '*new castel at Wooler*' is mentioned. By the 1580s, the tower was in need of repair, despite forming part of a line of defences in 1584 (Long 1967). What survives today is little more than a pile of rubble.
- 3.2.9 The town of Wooler is believed to have medieval origins, as suggested by the characteristic linear burgage plots forming rows to each side of the High Street, as seen on 19th century cartographic sources and aerial photographs (HER No's 1577 and 1685), although the precise extent of the medieval town is not known (Wooler 2010).
- 3.2.10 During the medieval period, Wooler became an early centre of the woollen industry, and was noted to have been one of the richest townships in Northumberland in the 13th century (Graham 1982). There is also reference to a water mill at Wooler during the medieval period. It has been noted that a mill existed at the foot of '*The Tory*' since this date, and the site continued to be used for milling until 1935 (Fairnington and Miket 2004).
- 3.2.11 ***Post-medieval and Modern:*** the 16th century, like the centuries before, was a troubled time for Wooler with cross Border strife becoming endemic, frequently at local level (Wooler 2010). It has already been noted that a new castle in the town is referred to in 1526, and in a survey of the Borders in 1541 it was described as '*mervelous convenient place for the defence of the country thereabout*' (Finlayson and Hardie 2009). A pictorial map of the town, dating to the 16th century, shows a tower as a dominant feature, located on high ground along with the church (Wooler 2010).
- 3.2.12 It has been suggested that the development of the town during the post-medieval period may have been hindered by the instances of fire which destroyed the town on several occasions, including 1693 when 54 houses were burnt down, and again in 1722 (*op cit*). In 1862, Wooler was once again

almost destroyed by fire (Tomlinson 1909). Thirteen properties were completely destroyed in the fire and a further seven were badly damaged. After this destruction the Earl of Tankerville, Lord of the Manor, took the opportunity for a more significant rebuild, and within a few years a new High Street emerged with the old thatched houses replaced. New buildings in Wooler were predominantly constructed of pink sandstone from local quarries at Doddington. Pantiles became the predominant roofing material, replacing thatch (Finlayson and Hardie 2009).

- 3.2.13 Before the 18th century, various mills were established around Wooler, with five mills mentioned within a two mile strip bordering Wooler Water, including Coldgate, Earle, the Carding and Dye Mills and Wooler Mill (Wooler 2010). The Dye Mill within the western boundary of the proposed development area, was a pantiled building located at the bottom of the Peth. Two dyers, David Isaac and Andrew Corbet, are mentioned in the militia list of 1762, and Isabella Turner is listed as dyer and bleacher in a trade directory of 1827 (Parson and White 1827). Collier and Stewart note that the Dye Mill had deteriorated by the early part of the 20th century, and was, according to them, eventually demolished (Collier and Stewart 1986). Near to the Dye Mill was Wooler Mill, a three-storied building. The leat, which served all these mills, came from a weir across Wooler Water and filled a pond above Earle Mill (*ibid*).
- 3.2.14 The Dye Mill at Wooler was noted to have been utilised for the dying and bleaching of cloth in the 18th century. The Dye Mill was also referred to as a 'Walk Mill', indicating that fulling of the cloth was also undertaken on the site (Wooler 2010).
- 3.2.15 Wooler Steam Laundry stood near the Dye Mill and was, for a period of time, the philanthropic project of Countess Tankerville, but on the 1st November 1902 the building was transferred to Mrs Booth of the Salvation Army and run for the rehabilitation of fallen women (*op cit*). About 1920 the building was apparently demolished down to the lower storey, then incorporated into offices for Redpath's 'Northern Farmers' Trading Association'. It was seriously damaged by fire on the 14th July 1927 (Fairnington and Miket 2004).
- 3.2.16 In later years, the proposed development site was in use as Ferguson's transport yard, with the northernmost building on the site being used as a garage. It is unclear as to when the buildings went out of use, although the former dye works building to the west of the site was apparently occupied until the 1960's, and the concrete hardstanding and tarmac was laid down as recently as the 1970's and 80's respectively (Alan Thompson *pers. comm.*).

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

3.3.1 Several schemes of archaeological work have been undertaken within the past seven years within a 1km radius of the proposed development area on South Road. The following table provides a brief description of each of these works:

HER Ref	Site	Event Type and Contractor	Summary	NGR
362	New Wooler Evangelical Church, Cheviot Road	<i>Watching Brief</i> Bernicia Archaeology 2003	The new church lies in an area that probably functioned as the rear of medieval burgage plots. No archaeological remains predating the 18 th century were disturbed or exposed during the works. The local stratigraphy was cultivation soils overlying a colluvium deposit, which in turn overlay undisturbed glacial silts, clays and sands	NT 992 279
13515	The Old Joiner's Yard, The Peth	<i>Trial Trench</i> Archaeological Research Services 2005	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of the construction of a dwelling. It comprised the excavation of a single trench measuring 10m by 2m, orientated east-west on empty ground used as a garden for at least 70 years. The trench exposed a series of linear and circular features, all of which provided artefacts from the modern era	NT 9927 2788
13519	Land to the rear of 5 & 6 Market Place	<i>Trial Trench</i> Alan Williams Archaeology 2004	Archaeological evaluation was carried out in a yard and within standing structures to the rear of 5 & 6 Market Place. Three test pits were excavated in the yard and two within	NT 9919 2804

HER Ref	Site	Event Type and Contractor	Summary	NGR
			disused buildings. All test pits indicated that a considerable depth of post-medieval and modern deposits had accumulated within the area, some of which had probably been utilised to level the site. In test pit C, a soil deposit was reached at about 1.2m to 1.3m below the yard surface, included sherds of medieval pottery but no later material. This deposit may represent the surface horizon of medieval occupation on the site. No other potential medieval deposits were located during the fieldwork	
13662	27-33 High Street	<i>Trial Trench</i> Alan Williams Archaeology 2005	Archaeological evaluation undertaken to the rear of the properties in advance of proposed mixed developments. Seven trenches were excavated across the site: a considerable depth of Post Medieval and Modern garden soils had accumulated, overlying a medieval soil horizon and features in Trenches A and F.	NT 9906 2805
13685	The Builder's Yard, Cottage Farm	<i>Trial Trench</i> Archaeological Research Services 2006	Three evaluation trenches were excavated prior to residential development. No archaeological remains were revealed. The site appeared to have been levelled	NT 988 285

HER Ref	Site	Event Type and Contractor	Summary	NGR
13936	Black Bull	<i>Test Pits</i> R Miket 2007	Evaluation by two test pits of land adjacent to the Black Bull. Each trench measured 2m by 2m and 1m deep in the footprint of two proposed dwellings. No archaeological features were observed in either test pit	NT 9919 2804
14362	Flood Alleviation Works	<i>Watching Brief</i> Tyne and Wear Museums 2009	Watching brief undertaken during flood alleviation and sewer upgrade works along High Street, in the car park of the Black Bull Hotel (up to 3m of deposits excavated), and at the junction of Church Street and South Road. In places natural subsoil was reached, however, no significant archaeological remains were discovered	NT 9903 2813

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The trial trench evaluation was undertaken over five consecutive days, between the 12th April and the 16th April 2010, and comprised the excavation of five trial trenches and two test-pits within the proposed development boundary (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 The trenches comprised a 5% sample of the proposed 0.93ha development area. The evaluation trenches were excavated to the level of the natural substrate with a CAT E70B, using a 1.6m wide ditching bucket.
- 4.1.3 The trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand, and investigated and recorded fully. A sondage was excavated to a depth of approximately 2m within all five trial trenches in order to investigate the possibility of buried soil horizons. The results of the evaluation are outlined below.

4.2 RESULTS

- 4.2.1 *Trench 1:* Trench 1 was centrally located within the proposed development area and aligned northwest to southeast, immediately west of the former steam laundry building (Figure 2). The trench measured 30m in length and 2m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth 2m revealing the natural substrate (**101**) (Plates 1 and 2). The natural substrate (**101**) measured over 1.5m in depth and was comprised of a series of fine sands, silts and coarse stoney gravels separated by deposits of iron pan. Most of the upper natural deposits were comprised of fine sands, silts and gravels and probably relate to separate flooding events. These finer fluvial deposits appear to have in-filled natural depressions within the lower glacial gravels. The natural fluvial deposits (**101**) were sealed by a c.0.2m deposit of dark brown silty clay (**100**). This deposit probably once formed the topsoil surface around the site until at least the 1970's. The former topsoil (**100**) was sealed by a c.0.3m dark brown/black silty clay rubble layer (**103**). This was in turn sealed by a 0.16m deposit of hardcore (**107**) and tarmac surface (**102**). Several services were noted within Trench 1 (Plate 2, Figure 3).
- 4.2.2 *Trench 2:* Trench 2 was located within the northwest corner of the proposed development area and aligned west-northwest to east-southeast, approximately 40m north of Trench 1 (Figure 2). The trench measured 25m in length and 2m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m revealing natural gravels, sands and silts (**101**), which measured over 1.5m in depth (Plate 3). The natural glacial/fluvial deposits (**101**) were sealed by a

c.0.2m deposit of the dark brown silty clay (100). Within the western most 2.8m of Trench 2, the silty clay (100) and the natural glacial/fluvial deposits (101) had been cut by a U-shaped linear feature which measured over 2.8m in width and 0.47m in depth. The U-shaped cut [109] was filled by a deposit of mid-grey/brown silty sand (110) (Plate 4). Based on both cartographic and oral evidence, it would appear that the linear feature [109] represents the mill leat which once fed all of the mills on South Road. The leat had probably ceased as a free-flowing watercourse by the mid-1960's (Jack Redpath *pers. comm.*). The linear feature [109] was sealed by c.0.4m of hardcore (107) and c.0.3m of concrete hardstanding (111) (Figure 3).



Plate 1: View southeast of Trench 1

4.2.3 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was located along the eastern boundary of the proposed development site and aligned north-northwest to south-southeast, parallel with South Road (Figure 2). The trench measured 25m in length and 2m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.85m revealing natural gravels, sands and silts (101), which measured over 1.5m in depth. The natural glacial/fluvial deposits (101) were sealed by a c.0.3m dark brown/black silty clay rubble layer (103). The rubble layer (103) was below a c.0.25m deposit of redbrick hardcore (108). This was further below 0.2m of hardcore (107) and tarmac surface (102). Several services were noted within Trench 3 (Plate 5, Figure 3).



Plate 2: Northeast facing section of sondage within Trench 1



Plate 3: View northwest of Trench 2



Plate 4: North facing section of Trench 2 showing probable mill leat [109]



Plate 5: View south-southeast of Trench 3

- 4.2.4 **Trench 4:** Trench 4 was located approximately 30m south of Trench 3 and aligned north-northwest to south-southeast, toward the southeast corner of the proposed development area (Figure 2). The trench measured 25m in length and 2m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.8m revealing natural gravels, sands and silts (101), which measured over 1.1m in depth (Plates 6 and 7). The natural glacial/fluviol deposits (101) were sealed by a c.0.2m deposit of dark brown silty clay (100). This was further sealed by c.0.4m of hardcore (107) and tarmac surface (102) (Figure 4).
- 4.2.5 **Trench 5:** Trench 5 was located approximately 15m south of Trench 4 and aligned north-northwest to south-southeast, along the southern boundary of the proposed development area (Figure 2). The trench measured 25m in length and 2m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m revealing natural gravels, sands and silts (101), which measured over 1.3m in depth (Plate 8). The natural glacial/fluviol deposits (101) were sealed by a c.0.2m deposit of dark brown silty clay (100) (Plate 9), which was further sealed by a c.0.3m dark brown/black silty clay rubble layer (103) and c.0.2m of hardcore (107) and tarmac surface (102) (Figure 4).



Plate 6: View west-northwest of Trench 4

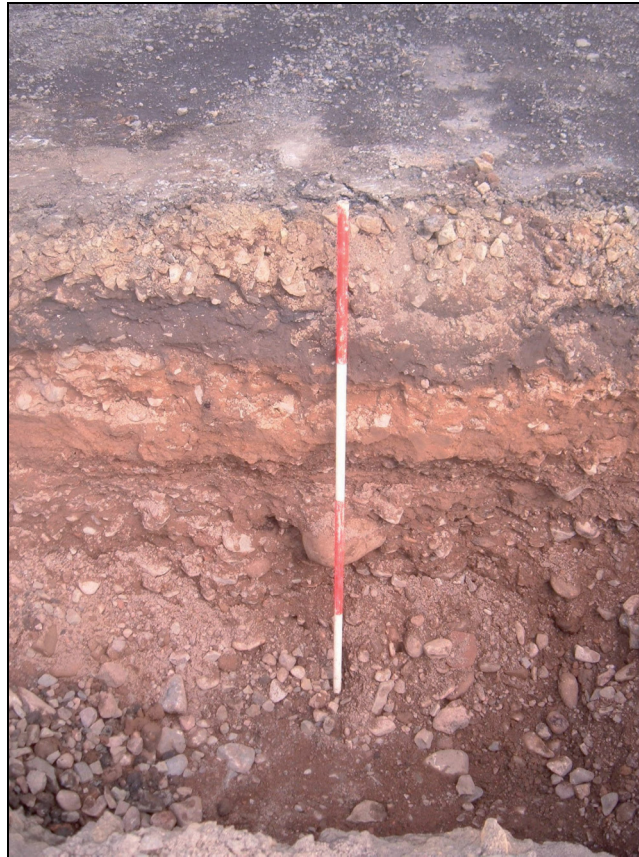


Plate 7: South-southwest facing section of sondage within Trench 4 showing glacial/fluvial deposits (101)

- 4.2.6 **Test-Pit 1:** Test-pit 1 was located toward the northwest corner of the northern most building within the proposed development area (Figure 2). The test-pit measured 2m x 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m revealing a natural gravel deposit (101), which measured over 0.75m in depth. The natural glacial deposit (101) was sealed by 0.35m of dark brown/black silty clay rubble (103) and c.0.2m of concrete surface (111) (Plate 10, Figure 4).
- 4.2.7 **Test-Pit 2:** Test-pit 2 was located approximately 18m southeast of Test-pit 1, toward the southeast corner of the northern most building within the proposed development area (Figure 2). The test-pit measured 2m x 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m revealing a deposit of glacial gravel (101) which measured over 0.5m in depth and was sealed by a c.0.5m deposit of fine fluvial silty sand (101). This was further sealed by c.0.3m of silty clay rubble (103) and concrete surface (111) (Plate 11, Figure 4).



Plate 8: View north-northwest of Trench 5



Plate 9: South-southwest facing section of Trench 5 showing buried topsoil (100)



Plate 10: South facing section of Test-pit 1



Plate 11: North facing section of Test-pit 2

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at the former Ferguson (Redpath) Transport Premises, South Road, Wooler, Northumberland, a total of five trial trenches and two test-pits were excavated to a maximum depth of 2m. All of the trenches and both test-pits revealed a series of sands, silts and gravels underlying relatively recent made ground. The presence of these extensive fluvial/glacial deposits is not surprising given the site's location on an extensive flood plain immediately west of Wooler Water, within the Milfield Basin.
- 5.1.2 No archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains were noted during the evaluation. All finds were classified as modern and discarded.
- 5.1.3 Although the present study area may have been an attractive location for 18th/19th century milling activity, the absence of any significant archaeological finds or features suggests that this extensive flood plain did not provide the same attraction for sustained settlement activity. It is likely that any human activity within the proposed development area prior to the 18th century was confined to sporadic visits from the higher ground to the west.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Buried Topsoil
101	Geological	Glacial/Fluvial Sands/Silts/Gravels
102	Deposit	Tarmac
103	Deposit	Dark Brown/Black Silty Clay Rubble Layer
104	Deposit	Sand
105	Deposit	Glacial Boulders
106	Deposit	Silty Sand
107	Deposit	Hardcore
108	Deposit	Redbrick Hardcore
109	Cut	Possible Mill Leat
110	Fill	Fill of [109]
111	Deposit	Concrete Hardstanding

Table 1: List of Contexts issued during the Field Evaluation


* Refers to void context numbers. Contexts (104), (105) and (106) are natural glacial/fluviol deposits (101)*

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES



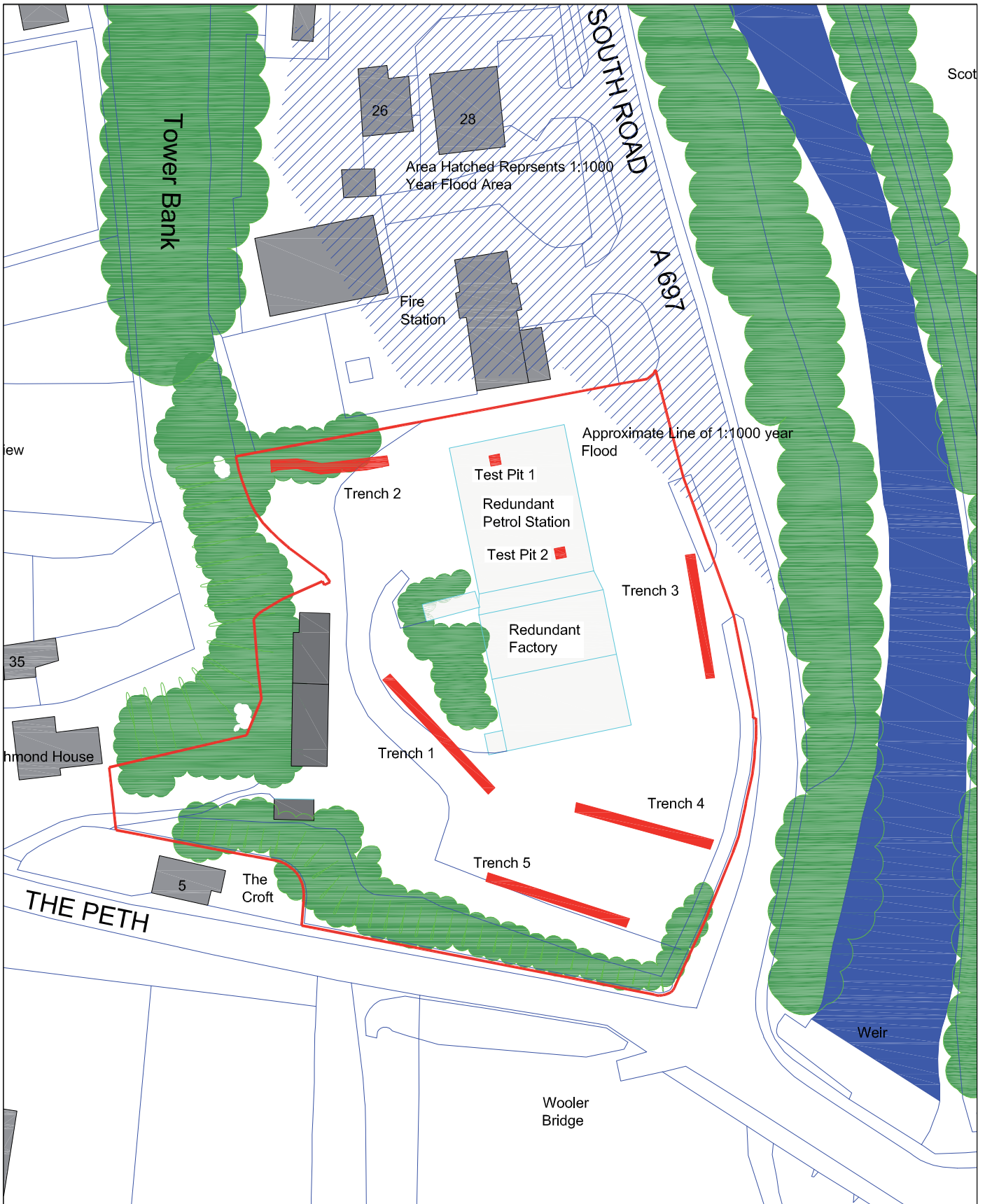
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010

PROJECT: Ferguson's Transport Yard, Wooler
 SCALE: 1: 50 000 at A4
 REPORT No: CP1151/10
 CLIENT: Silvercoin Investments Ltd
 DRAWN BY: FW
 DATE: April 2010
 FIGURE: 1

KEY:
 Site Location

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Figure 1 : Site Location









 <p>North Pennines Archaeology Ltd 2010</p>	<p>PROJECT: Ferguson's Transport Yard, Wooler</p> <p>SCALE: 1:1000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP1151</p> <p>CLIENT: Silvercoin Investments Ltd</p> <p>DRAWN BY: MDR</p> <p>DATE: April 2010</p> <p>FIGURE: 2</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  outline of proposed development area  evaluation trench  flood plain  standing buildings <p>Basemap provided courtesy of Box 22 Ltd</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 2: Trench location plan



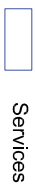
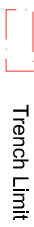





North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010

Ferguson's Transport Yard,
South Road, Wooler,
Northumberland

CLIENT:
Silvercoin Investments Ltd

SCALE:
1:100 at A3

DRAWN BY: JW
DATE: April 2010

- KEY:
-  Services
 -  Trench Limit
 -  Iron Pan
 -  Stony Gravels
 -  Pebbles
 -  Sand/ Fine Silt
 -  Rubble

REPORT No:
CP1151/10

FIGURE:

3

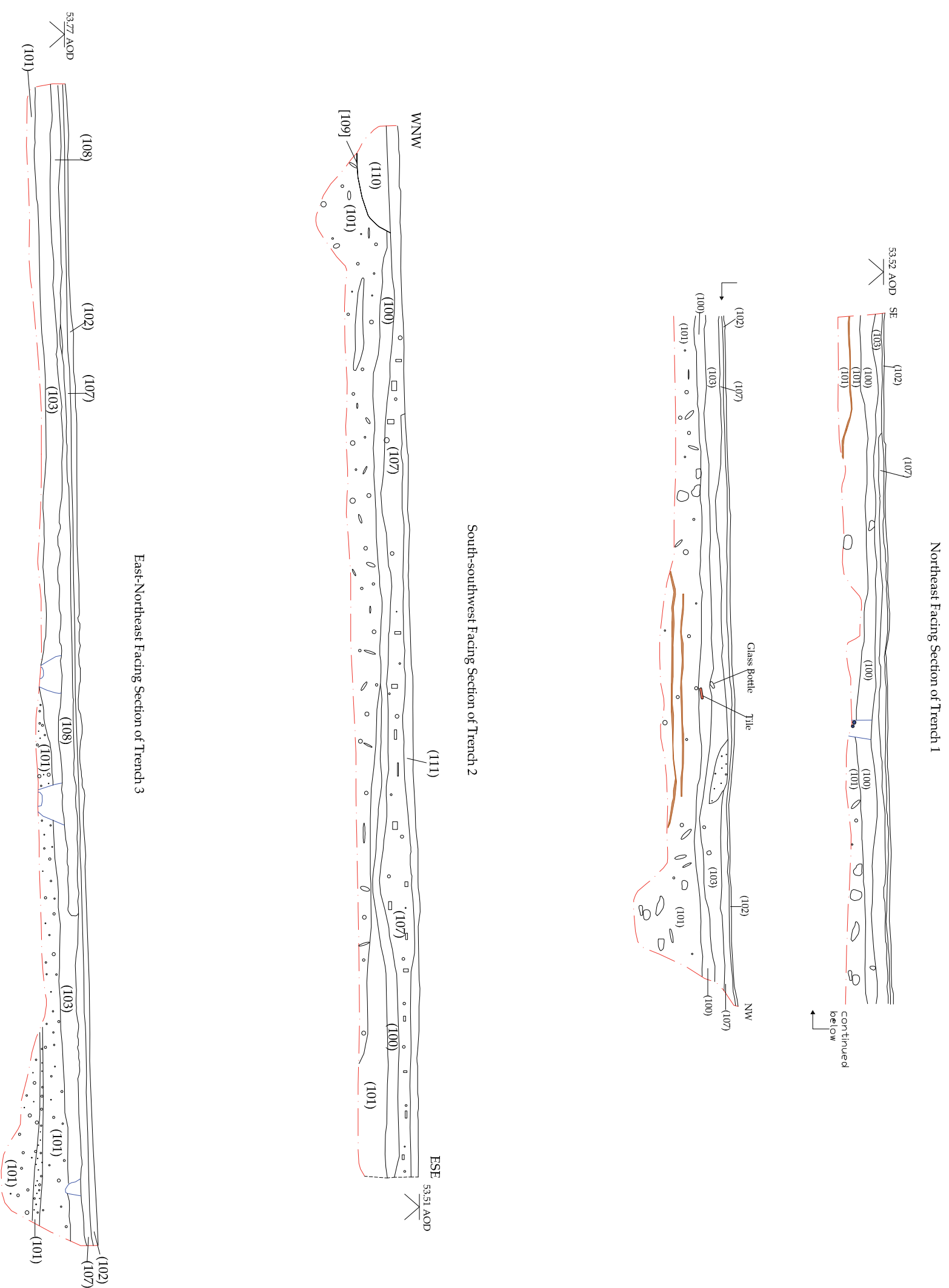


Figure 3: Sections of trench1, Trench 2 and Trench 3



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
 2010
 Ferguson's Transport Yard,
 South Road, Wooler,
 Northumberland

CLIENT:
 Silvercoin Investments Ltd

SCALE:
 1:100 at A3

DRAWN BY:
 JW

DATE:
 April 2010

- KEY:
- Fine Pebble Sand
 - Hardcore
 - Services
 - Trench Limit
 - Iron Pan
 - Stony Gravels
 - Pebbles
 - Sand/ Fine Silt

REPORT No:
 CP1151/10

FIGURE:
 4

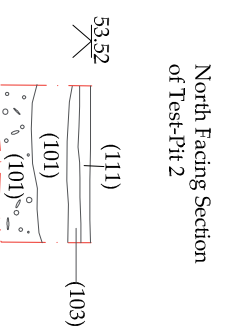
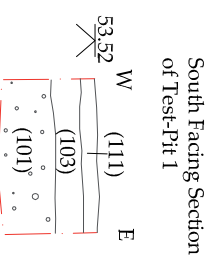
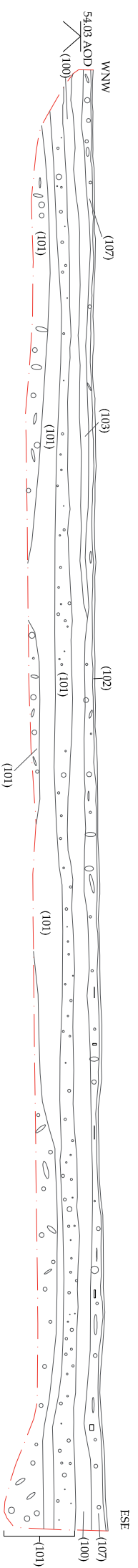
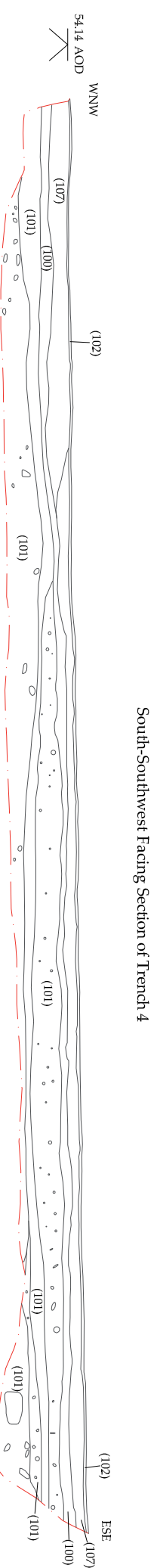


Figure 4: Sections of Trench 4, Trench 5, Test-pit 1 and Test-pit 2