

# LAND AT DURRANHILL, CARLISLE, CUMBRIA



## INTERIM ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CP. No: 1335/10

18/11/2010

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**DOCUMENT TITLE:** Land at Durranshill, Carlisle, Cumbria  
**DOCUMENT TYPE:** Archaeological Evaluation Report  
**CLIENT:** Persimmon Homes Limited  
**CP NUMBER:** 1335/10  
**SITE CODE:** DHC-A  
**PLANNING APP. NO:** 10/0792  
**OASIS REFERENCE:** northpen3-86725  
**PRINT DATE:** 18/11/2010  
**GRID REFERENCE:** NY 4289 5526

## *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

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North Pennines Archaeology Limited (NPA Ltd) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Durranhill, Carlisle, Cumbria (NGR NY 4289 5526). This work follows a planning application (Planning Application No. 10/0792) for the construction of new housing. Previous archaeological work undertaken in a field immediately to the south west of the proposed development area, exposed evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British activity and revealed the archaeological potential of the adjacent land.

An archaeological desk-based assessment further highlighted the potential for archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period in the area and the geophysical survey revealed evidence for possible prehistoric and later features existing across the proposed development area. Given the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey and the high potential for prehistoric and Romano-British remains across the site, it was recommended that a series of trial trenches were excavated, targeting both the geophysical anomalies, and also testing areas apparently devoid of archaeological features.

The Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken over five days between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and involved the excavation of twelve trenches, comprising 720m<sup>2</sup> of the proposed 1.41ha development area. A total of five trenches (1, 3, 7, 8 and 12) were devoid of archaeological activity though subsoil was encountered within three of them and unstratified Roman pottery was recovered from trench 12. The remaining seven trenches all contained archaeological features which comprised ditches, gullies, pits and possible trackways dating from at least the Roman period. In the western part (trenches 4 and 5) of the site phased remains of ditches and pits were encountered which dated from the Roman period and possibly earlier and may have been formed boundary delineations associated with a putative trackway depicted on the geophysical survey. In the eastern part of the site (trench 9) an isolated ditch demarcated a boundary and towards the northern portion of the field (trenches 10 and 11) several features may have provided evidence for structural remains and a possible holloway. Isolated features were also encountered in two further trenches (trench 2 and 6) located roughly in the central part of the site.

The presence of significant archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period in the immediate vicinity and Romano-British activity within the proposed development area illustrate the high potential for further archaeological activity to exist across the proposed development site. It is therefore recommended that any future work on the site be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPA Ltd) would like to offer thanks to John Jackson of Persimmon Homes Limited for commissioning the project. NPA would also like to thank Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer for Cumbria County Council, for his assistance throughout the project.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Catrin Jenkins, Sue Thompson, Sean Jackson, Charles Rickerby, Jo Beaty and Helen Noakes. The report was written by Catrin Jenkins and the drawings were produced by Catrin Jenkins and Sue Thompson. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Frank Giecco, Project Manager for NPA Ltd.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In October 2010 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological fieldwork which included an archaeological desk-based assessment, geomagnetic survey and archaeological evaluation of land on the south side of Scotby Road at Durranhill, Carlisle (NGR NY 4289 5526). This work was undertaken to provide the planning authority with further information following a planning application for a new residential development at the site (Planning Application No. 10/0792). The assessment and survey were undertaken in advance of the evaluation in order to provide further information with which to locate the trenches. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) and its successor *PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE6).
- 1.1.2 The land lies directly to the north east of a previously excavated prehistoric settlement which is likely to extend into the current study area. In this previous excavation, evidence for several phases of palisaded enclosures were noted, dated from the pottery finds to the Iron Age and Romano-British period; evidence for Bronze Age occupation was also recorded. Therefore the potential for encountering prehistoric archaeology at the site was high.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the evaluation works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design for a programme of archaeological fieldwork was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Limited (NPA Ltd) in response to a request by John Jackson of Persimmon Homes Limited, for a programme of archaeological fieldwork on land at Durranhill, Carlisle, Cumbria (NGR NY 4289 5526). Following acceptance of the project design by Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer for Cumbria County Council, NPA 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. Following an archaeological desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, the land was subjected to an evaluation.

### 2.2 THE FIELD EVALUATION

- 2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of twelve trenches across the 1.41ha area, comprising 720m<sup>2</sup> of the proposed development area in total. These trenches were excavated in order to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity and were located to target both geophysical anomalies and apparently 'sterile' areas. All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (2002).
- 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 Turf and topsoil were removed by mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recorded according to the North



Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2003).

- 2.2.4 All finds encountered were retained, including those from excavated topsoil, and were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F. Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director).
- 2.2.5 Deposits deemed suitable for environmental sampling were sampled up to a maximum of 40 litre samples where possible.
- 2.2.6 The twelve evaluation trenches were backfilled following completion of archaeological recording and in accordance with the requirements of the County Archaeology representative.
- 2.2.7 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2<sup>nd</sup> 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 an appropriate repository, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Carlisle, Cumbria available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA10, DHC-A, CP 1280/10.
- 2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology Limited and Cumbria County Council, 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

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### 3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The site is located within a field on the eastern side of Scotby Road at Durranhill, Carlisle, Cumbria (centred on NGR NY 4289 5526). The land lies at a height of between approximately 25 and 35 metres above Ordnance Datum. The portion of the field adjacent to the road is largely flat with a gentle slope as the field extends to the south and east. The field is bounded by a combination of hedgerows, fencing and brick walls and the Newcastle to Carlisle railway runs to the south of the land with the Durranhill Beck flowing in a northerly direction to the west.
- 3.1.2 The proposed development is located in an area which has been characterised by the Countryside Commission as the Solway Basin. The basin consists of a broad, lowland plain landscape fringed by the low, rugged, relatively remote coastline of the Solway Firth and the Irish Sea (Countryside Commission 1998, 19).
- 3.1.3 The bedrock geology of the area comprises mainly mudstones and sandstones of the Permo-Triassic age ('New Red Sandstone'). Erosion of the comparatively weak Permo-Triassic and Jurassic rocks reduced much of the Solway Basin to an area of low relief prior to the onset of the last glaciations. In this period ice-sheets crossed the area from Scotland and the Lake District, and carried vast quantities of rock debris deposited as boulder clay (till), both beneath the ice and from within it as it melted. The surface of the boulder clay has been locally moulded into drumlins with the glacial melt waters depositing spreads of sand and gravel, some in the form of long esker ridges (*ibid*, 21).

### 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 specific to the study area.
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric:* The earliest known evidence for occupation within the area around Carlisle is likely to date to the Mesolithic period when coastal and riverine areas were exploited through woodland clearance and game hunting. Woodland clearance became more widespread in the Neolithic period as evidenced by the large numbers of stone axes and other objects discovered in north Cumbria and at Carlisle, many made of stone quarried at Great Langdale in the Lake District. Evidence for agricultural activity

from this period has also been recorded in Carlisle at Blackfriars Street and Lowther Street (McCarthy 1990, 13 and 1993, 1).

- 3.2.3 Within closer proximity to the site, two polished stone axes were found at Botcherby, directly to the west of the site and to the east of the site at Aglionby and Wetheral (Anon 1935, 171-172). There have also been extensive antiquarian and later finds recorded in the area dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age which have included funerary urns and further stone axes.
- 3.2.4 *Roman:* A timber fort defended by a rampart of turf and timber was constructed at Carlisle between AD 72 to 73. A second timber fort was built in around AD 103 to 105 and in AD 165 a stone fort was constructed. The fort was part of a network of forts linked by roads across northern Britain (McCarthy 1993, 3). The Roman town of *Luguvalium* adjoined the fort and is believed to have been 40 to 60 acres in size. Roman law forbade burial in populated areas, and so cemeteries developed along roads leading to and from settlements. The discovery of burials outside *Luguvalium* suggests possible routeways, though the paucity of finds from secure archaeological contexts means that the exact alignments of Roman roads cannot be determined without further excavation. Burials, tombstones and cremations have been found at Murrell Hill (Dalston Road), Woodruffe Terrace, London Road, Botchergate, and Botcherby, which do provide some evidence for the main roads leading into the Roman town (Perriam 1992, 5).
- 3.2.5 Two burials dating to the Roman period were found at Botcherby at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting that there was a main road leading into the city near the Botcherby/Durranhill area. (Ferguson 1880, 325).
- 3.2.6 The only other reported finds of Roman date discovered within the area around Durranhill, were the surface find of a *Sestertius* coin issued for Domitian during the reign of Titus (AD 80-1) found at Botcherby Mill (Shotton 1984, 263), and at Wheelbarrow Hall, a beehive quern may have been ploughed up from a Romano-British site in the vicinity. A further upper quern stone of possible Roman date was also noted to have been found at Aglionby, although the exact provenance is not known (Caruana 1987, 263-264).
- 3.2.7 *Medieval:* The early medieval period in the area around Durrahhill is represented solely by the discovery of a silver hoard in 1855, at Scotby, which has a postulated deposition date of AD 935 to 940 (Kruse 1986, 79-83). Place name evidence suggests that there was a settlement at Botcherby from at least the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and Botcherby, along with Scaleby and Rickerby, have been described as strategically important lordships,

safeguarding the approaches to Carlisle following the Norman Conquest (Jones 1976, 82).

- 3.2.8 Botcherby lay outside the walls of Carlisle and was therefore prone to attack from the Scots during the medieval period. It suffered in all the major sieges to which Carlisle was exposed, and was burned down on several occasions (McIntire 1930-39).
- 3.2.9 *Post-medieval and Modern:* During the Civil War, Carlisle was well prepared to withstand attack as a Royalist stronghold. Siege works were located at various strategic sites around the city, including Botcherby to the south east of the city (Perriam 1992, 30). The exact location of the Parliamentary works at Botcherby is unknown and contemporary accounts from the same time record Durranhill as being used for little more than cattle grazing.
- 3.2.10 During the Jacobite Risings, Carlisle was laid siege to in 1745 and a fort was built at Botcherby with the surrounding villages being occupied by Prince Charlie's troops (McIntire 1930-1939). However, the exact location of the fort is unknown and as yet there is no archaeological evidence for the occupation of the area around Botcherby, which may have included the high ground at Durranhill.
- 3.2.11 In 1830 construction works for the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway commenced and the western section between Blenkinsop and Carlisle was opened to traffic in 1836 (Robinson 1986, 8).
- 3.2.12 Durranhill House directly opposite the site is believed to have been constructed by Richard Lowery in around 1811, though there may have been an earlier property in the same location prior to this date. The house and estate were sold in 1906 and an order of nuns used the house as charitable home and convent. The house subsequently became a nursing home until 2002 and the site is now purely residential (Wooler and Railton 2010, 31).
- 3.2.13 Following the 1906 sale of the Durranhill estate, the park was let out for grazing (apart from six acres immediately surrounding the house) and a golf course opened in a section of the park in 1908. The park was later purchased by the Ministry of Defence and in 1942 it was laid out as an infantry training camp (*ibid*).
- 3.2.14 The last use of Durranhill Camp was in 1960, and the Botchergate premises of the farmstock business, Harrison and Hetherington, chose Durranhill, as their base in 1974. The M6 motorway opened in the early 1970s, and Durranhill was selected as the ideal location for an industrial estate. New houses were then constructed grouped around small 'village' greens with a predominance of trees and Durranhill Beck, which was landscaped and crossed by walkways (Perriam 1999).

### 3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.3.1 There have been several excavations in the surrounding area in recent years and evidence has been exposed for both prehistoric and Romano-British period settlements directly adjacent to the site on Scotby Road and at Botherby Nurseries to the west of Durranshill.
- 3.3.2 *Scotby Road, Durranshill, Carlisle:* The earliest phase of the site, excavated in 1998, comprised a palisade slot which enclosed a roughly ovoid area of approximately 205m<sup>2</sup>. It was succeeded by a second palisade enclosure which enclosed some 344m<sup>2</sup>. During the final phase of activity, a ditch thought to be of Roman date, may have represented a field boundary or perhaps part of a further enclosure. Numerous undated pits and gullies were also exposed, though many of these were unable to be attributed to particular phases and over 40 sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered, possibly dating from the Iron Age.
- 3.3.3 *Botcherby Nurseries, Carlisle:* In 1998, an area of 1,400m<sup>2</sup> was stripped, revealing a number of prehistoric postholes and post pits, and a ditch believed to be of Roman date. At the western end of the site, 44 postholes were exposed, some of which contained possible Bronze Age pottery. In the central area a sub-circular structure that measured 9m in diameter was exposed. The precise function of this site and the structure remains unclear.
- 3.3.4 *Geomagnetic survey on land at Durranshill:* The survey undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Limited in advance of the evaluation which this report details revealed a range of features (Wooler and Railton 2010). These included: several positive linear magnetic anomalies interpreted as probable soil filled ditches; a number of discrete positive magnetic anomalies which could represent soil-filled features, such as pits; a negative linear magnetic anomaly, that potentially provides evidence for phased remains; a number of other very weak positive linear magnetic anomalies possibly representing narrow soil-filled features or land drains; and an intermittent weak positive curvilinear magnetic anomaly.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over a period of five days between the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2010.

4.1.2 A total of twelve evaluation trenches were excavated across the site, which all measured 30m long, 2m wide and up to 1m deep. The trenches were located across a field with a fenced portion in the western part of the area, where formerly allotments were located. The remainder of the field consists of slightly sloping rough grassed land interspersed with patches of nettles. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were located within the fenced area which was not subject to the geophysical survey due to the presence of concrete bases which were deemed unsuitable for survey. The remaining trenches were located within the grassed area.

### 4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 **Trench 1:** This trench was located in the western portion of the field and was oriented north west to south east. The natural subsoil (102) comprised a variegated yellow to grey mixed sand and silt, which was exposed at a level of 34.52m OD and was sealed by a brown silty clay subsoil (101). The dark grey silt topsoil (100) which was 0.45m thick overlay the subsoil. The trench was devoid of archaeological features and the only artefacts recovered were unstratified and consisted of a post-medieval pottery sherd, a fragment of CBM and Fe recovered during metal detecting of the spoil heaps.

4.2.2 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was sited approximately 5m to the north east of trench 1 in the eastern corner of the former allotment area. It was oriented north east to south west and the natural subsoil (201) which comprised orangey brown clayey silt was exposed at a level of 34.97m OD. A small area of burning (202) was recorded above the natural subsoil in the south west end of the trench. It measured 0.26m by 0.24m and was 0.11m deep. The grey brown sand topsoil (200) sealed deposit 202 and was 0.24m in depth. Artefactual remains recovered from the trench were restricted to metal detecting finds from the spoil heap and consisted of two Pb objects. (Plate 1) (Figures 2 and 3)



*Plate 1: North east facing view of deposit 202 in trench 2*

- 4.2.3 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was situated in the northern corner of the former allotment area just to the north west of and perpendicular to trench 2. All of the trees across the proposed development area were subject to Tree Protection Orders (Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Town and Country Planning Regulations 1999) and trench 3 was stepped slightly in order to avoid a small tree. The trench was aligned north west to south east and the natural orange clayey sand subsoil (302) was exposed at a level of 34.95m OD. It was sealed by a dark to mid grey brown sandy silt subsoil (301) that was 0.2m in thickness and was overlain by grey brown sandy silt topsoil (300) that measured 0.2m in depth. The trench was devoid of archaeological features and no artefactual material was recovered during the excavation. (Figure 2)
- 4.2.4 **Trench 4:** Trench 4 was located directly to the south of the former allotments extending on a north east to south west alignment. The natural subsoil comprised orangey brown silty sand (413) and was exposed at a depth of 36.55m OD. At the south eastern end of the trench, three features cut into the natural subsoil. A north west to south east oriented gully (407) was exposed which was U-shaped with a concave base. It measured 0.6m wide, 0.16m deep and contained a single fill of mid brown sand (406). Directly to the north of and on the same alignment as the gully was a ditch (410). The ditch measured 1.64m wide, 0.5m deep and had a U-shaped profile with a concave base. The primary fill within the ditch comprised a loose mid brown sand (408) which was 0.3m thick. Sealing fill 408 was a secondary fill that was composed of light yellowish brown sand (409) which measured 0.26m in depth. Some 2.5m to the north east of the ditch was a feature which was only partially exposed within the trench. It has been interpreted as a pit (412) and measured 0.86m wide and 0.16m deep. The pit had gradually sloping sides,

a concave base and was filled with light brown clayey sand (411) which contained a single sherd of Roman reduced greyware pottery dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. A shallow layer of subsoil (401) that was 0.1m thick and comprised brown silty clay sealed these features. The subsoil was cut at the south west end of the trench by a probable pit (403), which was sub-oval with concave sides and an uneven to concave base. A total of 1.10m of its extent was exposed within the trench and it measured 1.8m wide and 0.66m deep. It was filled with mid brown sand (402) and had been cut by a modern field drain. Grey silty topsoil (400) sealed the field drain and measured in 0.3m thickness. (Plate 2) (Figures 2 and 3)



*Plate 2: View of south west end of trench 4 showing pit 412 in the foreground, with ditch 410, gully 407 and pit 403 in the background*

**4.2.5 Trench 5:** Trench 5 was sited in the south corner of the field on land which gradually sloped southwards. It was aligned north west to south east and the natural orange sand subsoil (502) was exposed at a depth of 36.08m OD. The natural subsoil was varied and there was a deposit of gravel (505) in the north west portion of the trench which may have formed the remains of a cobbled surface. The gravel deposit was cut in the northern part of the trench by a large ditch (503) which was 2.32m wide, 1.17m deep and U-



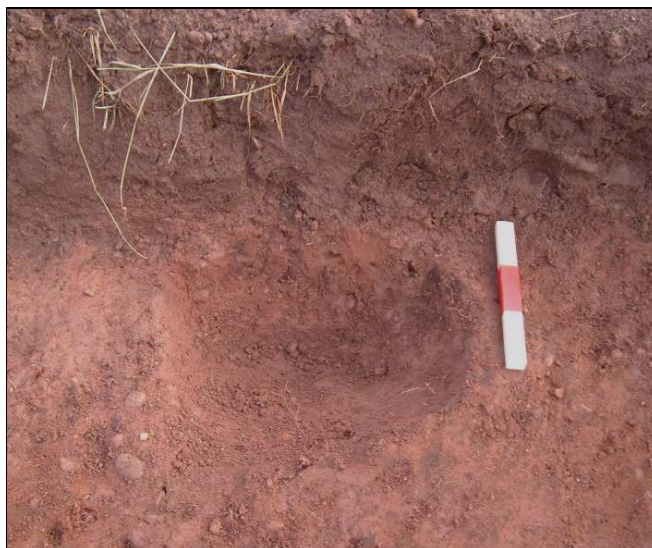
shaped in form. It was filled with a single deposit of brown orangey grey silty sand (504) from which several sherds of 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD Roman pottery and CBM were recovered. It was sealed by brown silty sand subsoil (501) which was generally 0.4m thick, though it was substantially thicker up to 0.6m, towards the south eastern extent of the trench. The dark grey brown silt topsoil (500) sealed this subsoil and measured 0.5m thick. Artefactual material recovered during metal detecting included Fe and Cu alloy objects and a musket ball. (Plate 3) (Figures 2 and 3)



*Plate 3: South east facing view of ditch 503*

**4.2.6 Trench 6:** Trench 6 was situated to the north east of trench 5 in the central portion of the field. It was oriented approximately north to south and the natural subsoil of orangey brown silty sand (606) was exposed at a level of 33.29m OD. At the northern end of the trench the natural subsoil was cut by two possible pits 604 and 602. The more northerly pit (604) was irregular in plan and had gradual sides and a flat base. It measured 0.8m by 0.44m and was 0.22m deep and was filled with orange yellow clayey sand (605). The other pit (602) was sub-oval in plan with a U-shaped profile and concave base. The fill (603) comprised mid brown sandy silt and measured up to 1.6m in diameter and 0.22m deep. A layer of dark brown silty clay subsoil (601) sealed these features and measured 0.26m in depth. It was overlain by the dark grey silt topsoil (600) which was 0.16m in depth. An Fe object was

recovered during metal detecting of the spoil heaps. (Plate 4) (Figures 2 and 5)



*Plate 4: North east facing view of pit 604 in trench 6*

- 4.2.7 **Trench 7:** This trench was located just to the north of the south eastern field boundary and was oriented approximately north to south. The natural subsoil of orangey brown silty sand (701) was exposed at a depth of 31.51m OD. This was sealed by greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (700) which was 0.3m thick. Although no archaeological activity was recorded within the trench, an unstratified sherd of Roman pottery was recovered during cleaning and some Fe objects were also recovered during metal detecting of the spoil heaps. (Figure 2)
- 4.2.8 **Trench 8:** Trench 8 was sited just to the north east of trench 7 and also just to the north of the south eastern site boundary. It was oriented north west to south east and the natural subsoil of orange brown gravelly sand (802) was exposed at a depth of 31.64m OD. It was sealed by a layer of subsoil that comprised brown silty sand (801) and measured 0.25m thick. This layer was overlain by the grey brown silt topsoil (800) that was 0.2m in depth. The trench was devoid of archaeological features though a single unstratified fragment of Roman CBM was recovered during cleaning.
- 4.2.9 **Trench 9:** This trench was located in the eastern corner of the field and was aligned north west to south east. The natural subsoil was mixed orangey brown clay and silty sand (900) and was exposed at a depth of 31.72m OD. It was cut at the south east end of the trench by a north east to south west oriented ditch (902) which had sharp sloping sides and a flat base. The ditch measured 2m wide, 0.3m deep and was filled with mid brown sandy clay (903). Topsoil sealed the ditch fill and comprised grey orangey brown sand

(901) that was 0.4m in depth. No stratified artefactual material was recovered from the trench and only the only finds were Fe objects recovered during metal detecting of the spoil heaps. (Plate 5) (Figures 2 and 5)



*Plate 5: South east facing view of ditch 503*

**4.2.10 Trench 10:** Trench 10 was situated towards the northern corner of the field and oriented approximately east to west. The brownish orange clayey sand natural subsoil (1001) was exposed at a level of 34.04m OD. It was cut at the eastern end of the trench by a small gully (1002). The gully was oriented roughly north to south and measured 0.42m wide and 0.32m deep with sharply sloped sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid brown clayey sandy silt (1003) which contained Industrial waste/slag and CBM. Some 4m to the west of the gully was a small pit (1004) which was sub-oval in form with sharp sloping sides and a concave base. The pit was filled with assorted sub-rounded and rounded river cobbles which were up to 180mm by 75mm in size (1005) (Plate 6). These were overlain by a fill of mid brown sandy silt (1006) which was between 0.1m and 0.15m in depth. Directly to the west of the pit was a substantial linear feature (1007) which was 3.60m wide, 0.72m deep and filled with orange brown sandy silt (1008). It had gradually sloping sides and appeared to be aligned east to west. The natural subsoil the linear cut into was very stony in comparison to the natural in the rest of the trench. The remaining portion of the trench was devoid of archaeological activity though a field drain was recorded towards its western extent. A mid to dark brown sandy silt topsoil (1000) sealed all of the features within the trench it was 0.3m thick. Several unstratified Fe



objects were recovered during metal detecting of the spoil heaps (Figures 2 and 6)



*Plate 6: Plan view of pit 1004 showing stone deposit 1006*

**4.2.11 Trench 11:** This trench was located just to the east of trench 10 adjacent to the field's north eastern boundary. It was oriented north west to south east and the natural orange clay and sand subsoil (1101) was exposed at a depth of 32.49m OD. In the north western half of the trench a possible post hole (1106) cut into the natural subsoil. It was circular with a diameter of 0.31m and was 0.08m deep. The sides were steep with a rounded base and it was filled with mid grey brown sandy silt (1107) which contained stones which were up to 100mm in size. Just to the south of the post hole was a gully (1104) which was oriented north east to south west and had sharply sloped sides with a flat base. It measured 0.55m in width and was 0.16m deep with a fill of orangey brown sandy silty clay (1105). Approximately 5.5m to the south east of the gully was a further gully (1102), which measured 0.2m wide and 0.16m deep. It was aligned north east to south west and had steep sides with a concave base. It was filled with orangey brown sandy silty clay (1103). A grey brown silt topsoil (1100) sealed the features within the trench which was 0.35m in depth. With the exception of several Fe objects recovered during metal detecting of the spoil heaps no artefactual material was recovered from the trench. (Plate 7) (Figures 2 and 7)



*Plate 7: North facing view of pit 1106*

4.2.12 **Trench 12:** Trench 12 was located in the central part of the field. The natural subsoil of orange brown silty clay (1201) was sealed by grey silt topsoil (1200). Aside from a field drain the trench was found to be devoid of archaeological features, although a single unstratified sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the trench. (Figure 2)

## 5 FINDS

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### 5.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

- 5.1.1 A total of 73 finds from 14 different contexts were recovered during the evaluation. These included 2 sherds of Roman pottery and 2 sherds of Post-medieval pottery from an unstratified context, 1 sherd of Roman pottery from **(411)** in trench 4 and 9 sherds of Roman pottery from **(504)** in trench 5.
- 5.1.2 The finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F.Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director). The metalwork was placed in a stable environment and was monitored for corrosion.

### 5.2 ROMAN CERAMIC VESSELS

- 5.2.1 In total 14 fragments of Roman ceramic vessels were recovered; of these 1 sherd derived from reduced greywares, 5 sherds were of Black-Burnished Ware Type 2, 3 sherds were of Mortarium made with an orange fabric and white slip, 3 sherds were of a central Gaulish Samian body sherd and 2 sherds were of locally produced oxidized orange ware, with a white/cream slip.
- 5.2.2 The reduced greywares were recovered from one context; context **(411)**. Both secured contexts are occupation levels within the lower strata of the site. The suggested dating for this assemblage is roughly the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.
- 5.2.3 The Black Burnished (Type 2) Ware was also recovered from one single context: Context **(504)**. This context **(504)** was the fill of a linear ditch. The dating range for this Type 2 assemblage is roughly the mid to late 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, based on the acute lattice decoration on the pottery. Believed to be developed in the Thames Estuary area around 120AD, Black Burnished Ware type 2, reached its height during 139-193AD and was traded on the Antonine Wall, but became uncommon after 250AD.
- 5.2.4 The Mortarium were recovered from trench 5 context, **(504)** and dated to the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. The mortarium appeared to be locally produced with a sandy orange fabric and a white slip.
- 5.2.5 Three pieces of central Gaulish Samian pottery was found in **(504)** a fill of linear gully **[503]**. The date range for Samian pottery reaches up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, at which point it ceased to be manufactured. Samian was produced mainly on the continent, although there were centres of production in England, such as in York, London and Colchester, which

operated on a smaller scale to the European contemporaries. The dating of Samian is always tenuous, due in part to the fact that Samian appears in later contexts and seems to be an item which had specific social values attached to it and was often handed down for use by the next generation.

- 5.2.6 There were two sherds of local orange ware with a white slip, Fabric 4 (fabric series identified by Carlisle Archaeological Unit). As with the Mortarium it appeared to be made from a sandy orange fabric by using available materials.
- 5.2.7 The pottery assemblage therefore, can be roughly dated to the 2nd century AD, the period of which the fort and extra-mural settlement were thought to have been established. It is not possible to ascertain a production centre for all the Roman ceramics; however the sherds of Greyware are likely to originate from local production centres most likely at Carlisle or Scaleceugh.

### 5.3 MEDIEVAL AND LATER CERAMIC VESSELS

- 5.3.1 A total of 2 sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the trench 1 and trench 5 in unstratified contexts during the evaluation.
- 5.3.2 The post-medieval assemblage consisted of a single sherd of earthenware and a single sherd of creamware. The sherds date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 5.4 METAL OBJECTS

- 5.4.1 A total of 60 Fe and objects were recovered from land at Durranhill. The majority of the Fe objects were recovered by using a metal detector to scan the spoil (see finds table, below), amongst which some are possible Roman nails, the other finds however were unfortunately too corroded to identify any further. The size of the objects ranged from small fragments of 50mm to larger heavier fragments of 100mm.

### 5.5 GLASS

- 5.5.1 A single shard of sheet glass was recovered from trench 5 in an unstratified context. This fragment had no markings and showed no signs of being of antiquity, and therefore are ascribed a date to the modern period.

Context	Trench	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
U/s	1	pottery	1	0.008	Post-medieval
U/s	1	C.B.M	2	0.071	Roman
U/s	1	Fe	4	0.141	Unknown

U/s	2	Pb	2	0.031	Unknown
411	4	pottery	1	0.026	Roman
U/s	4	pottery	1	0.011	Post-medieval
U/s	4	Fe and other	9	0.172	unknown
504	5	pottery	8	0.151	Roman
504	5	Samian	3	0.006	Roman
504	5	C.B.M	2	0.016	Roman
U/s	5	Musket ball	1	0.023	Post-medieval
U/s	5	Cu Alloy	1	0.005	Post-medieval
U/s	5	Window Glass	1	0.003	Post-medieval
U/s	5	Fe	6	0.015	Unknown
U/s	6	Fe	8	0.175	Unknown
U/s	7	pottery	1	0.007	Roman
U/s	7	Fe	5	0.072	Unknown
U/s	7	Bottle top seal	1	0.008	Post-medieval
U/s	8	C.B.M	1	0.029	Roman
U/s	9	Fe	17	1.158	Unknown
1003	10	C.B.M	2	0.003	Roman
1003	10	Ind. waste	2	0.005	Unknown
U/s	10	Fe	10	0.171	Unknown
U/s	11	Fe	4	0.115	Unknown
U/s	12	pottery	1	0.009	Roman

Table 1: Finds Table of Artefacts Recovered from the Evaluation.

## 5.6 SMALL FINDS

- 5.6.1 A total of three small finds were recovered from land at Durranhill. SF 1 was recovered from an unstratified context and was a Cu alloy token with the words 'Selby Bros' and a date of 1920, with the number 12 at the centre. It is not clear what the token was used for as the reverse does not appear to have anything on it. SF 2 was 1908 King Edward penny recovered from trench 7 by using a metal detector to scan the spoil. SF 3 was a 1920 King George penny recovered from trench 1 and again was recovered by using a metal detector to scan the spoil. With both coins being dated within 8 years of each other it shows the land was in use during this period and the coins were perhaps lost on the golf course built in 1908.

Small Finds Number	Context	Object	Period
SF 1	Unstratified	Cu Alloy Token	20 <sup>th</sup> century
SF 2	Unstratified (Trench 7)	1908 King Edward Penny	20 <sup>th</sup> century



SF 3	Unstratified (Trench 1)	1920 King George Penny	20 <sup>th</sup> century
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*Table 2: Small Finds Recovered From The Evaluation on Land At Durranhill.*

## 6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 6.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at Durranhill, twelve trenches were excavated covering 720m<sup>2</sup> of the proposed 1.41ha development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, with the evaluation trenches located to target both geophysical anomalies and apparently 'sterile' areas. All trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural substrate.
- 6.1.2 A total of five trenches (Trenches 1, 3, 7, 8 and 12) were devoid of archaeological features. Three of these trenches (Trenches 1, 3 and 8) contained a layer of subsoil, which may have represented a former plough soil in the case of trench 8 and a former garden soil in the case of trench 1 and 3, located in the former allotments. Unstratified artefactual material was recovered from all of the trenches aside from trench 3, which was largely metal detecting finds from the spoil heaps. Trenches 1 and 3 were not subject to the geophysical survey. Trenches 7, 8 and 12 appeared to contain positive geomagnetic anomalies though upon excavation no evidence for these was encountered.
- 6.1.3 In trench 2 an area of burning was exposed above the natural subsoil. The nature and depth of the burning would tend to suggest something more substantial and earlier than simply a bonfire from the former allotments. However, there was no dating material to provide further information for the event and it was exposed in isolation leaving little room for interpretation.
- 6.1.4 At the south west end of trench 4 several features were exposed which may have been of a Roman or earlier date. These features corresponded with positive geomagnetic anomalies suggested to be soil filled ditches revealed during the geomagnetic survey. The earliest features exposed were a ditch, a gully and a small pit. A sherd of possible Roman pottery was recovered from the pit, though its function and relationship to the ditch and gully is unclear. The ditch and gully may have provided a double boundary delineation common to land demarcation in the Roman and earlier periods. These features were sealed by a layer of subsoil which a later pit cut into. This pit though later in date than the other features contained a fill whose composition was similar to the fills within the gully and the ditch. Also the colour leaching from the soil apparent in the deposit is indicative of some age, though the pit was cut by a modern field drain and no artefactual material was recovered from it with which to provide further information.

- 6.1.5 In trench 5 the natural subsoil was very mixed and at the north west end of the trench, a deposit of compacted gravel interpreted as natural in origin, may have been deposited deliberately in the form of a surface. It is suggested that gravel may represent the linear negative response depicted in the geomagnetic survey results. However, the large ditch which cuts into this deposit reveals that the gravel extends to a depth similar to that of the ditch cut, which may preclude this interpretation. The large ditch contained Roman pottery and may be interpreted as either a boundary delineation or in association with the gravel spread a roadside ditch. The depth of the subsoil within this trench was substantial in places and could have resulted from either hillwash due to the sloping nature of the topography or dumping associated with the former allotments
- 6.1.6 Within trench 6, two features were exposed cutting into the natural subsoil. These were not conclusively determined to be anthropogenic in origin and no artefactual material was recovered from them. The trench contained a substantial subsoil layer which sealed the features and although a positive linear geomagnetic anomaly was recorded within the trench, no evidence for this was encountered upon excavation.
- 6.1.7 Within trench 9, a large ditch was exposed in the south east end of the trench, which corresponded to a positive linear anomaly recorded during the geophysical survey. It appeared to be on the same alignment as the current field boundary and it could be suggested that it may have provided an earlier delineation of the same boundary or an earlier property demarcation, though the lack of artefactual material impedes further interpretation.
- 6.1.8 A number of features were exposed within trench 10. At the east end of the trench, a small gully was exposed which contained CBM and Industrial waste. The steep sides and flat base of the gully may have been structural though with only a small portion of it exposed within the trench this interpretation is uncertain. The stone filled pit to the west of the gully was undated and the stone did not appear compact enough to form anything suggestive of a post pad or other structural component so at this stage its function is unclear. Directly to the west of the pit was a large linear feature which was very wide and was cut into a deposit of very stony natural. It could be conjectured that the feature formed some type of holloway though it also could be interpreted as a wide ditch creating a boundary demarcation. The linear feature and the pit appeared to correspond to a positive anomaly encountered during the survey, though the gully was not revealed during this stage of work.
- 6.1.9 Several features were exposed in trench 11 which included two gullies and a small pit interpreted as a post pit. The post pit and western gully were in close proximity to one another and may have been related though further

interpretation is limited. It could be suggested that the post pit may have been a structural component though it appears in isolation, and also that the form of the gully is perhaps being indicative of drainage. The eastern gully corresponded to a positive geomagnetic anomaly and the steep sides and concave base of the feature may be suggestive of a structure though as with the post pit and the other gully the lack of further related features or finds limits this interpretation.

## **6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.2.1 The purpose of this archaeological field evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground remains within the proposed development area according to the planning condition. It is clear from the programme of archaeological works that significant archaeological remains dating from at least the Roman period exist in several areas across the site. From earlier work it is highly likely that features of Bronze Age and Iron Age date will also be present making this an important multi-period rural site. It is recommended that a further programme of archaeological mitigation be undertaken prior to development in order to elucidate and enhance the results of the evaluation.
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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 1
101	Deposit	Layer of subsoil in trench 1
102	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 1
200	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 2
201	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 2
202	Deposit	Burnt area in trench 2
300	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 3
301	Deposit	Layer of subsoil in trench 3
302	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 3
400	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 4
401	Deposit	Layer of subsoil in trench 4
402	Deposit	Fill of pit 403
403	Cut	Cut of pit
404	Deposit	Fill of field drain
405	Cut	Cut of field drain
406	Deposit	Fill of gully 407
407	Cut	Cut of gully
408	Deposit	Primary fill of ditch 410
409	Deposit	Secondary fill of ditch 410
410	Cut	Cut of ditch
411	Deposit	Fill of 412
412	Cut	Cut of pit
413	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 4
500	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 5
501	Deposit	Layer of subsoil in trench 5
502	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 5
503	Cut	Cut of ditch
504	Deposit	Fill of ditch
505	Deposit	Possible surface
600	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 6
601	Deposit	Layer of subsoil in trench 6
602	Cut	Cut of pit
603	Deposit	Fill of pit 602
604	Cut	Cut of pit
605	Deposit	Fill of pit 604
606	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 6
700	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 7
701	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 7
800	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 8
801	Deposit	Layer of subsoil in trench 8
802	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 8
900	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 9
901	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 9
902	Cut	Cut of ditch
903	Deposit	Fill of ditch 902
1000	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 10
1001	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 10
1002	Cut	Cut of gully
1003	Deposit	Fill of gully 1002
1004	Cut	Cut of pit
1005	Deposit	Fill of pit 1004

1006	Deposit	Stone fill of pit 1004
1007	Cut	Linear cut
1008	Deposit	Fill of linear cut 1007
1100	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 11
1101	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 11
1102	Cut	Cut of gully
1103	Deposit	Fill of gully 1102
1104	Cut	Cut of gully
1105	Deposit	Fill of gully 1104
1106	Cut	Cut of pit
1107	Deposit	Fill of pit 1107
1200	Deposit	Topsoil in trench 12
1201	Deposit	Natural subsoil in trench 12

*Table 3: List of Contexts issued during the Evaluation*



## APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd  
2010

PROJECT: Land at Durrnall, Carlisle  
SCALE: 1:50 000 at A4  
REPORT No: CP1335/10  
CLIENT Persimmon Homes Limited  
DRAWN BY: FW  
DATE: November 2010  
FIGURE: 1

KEY:

 Site Location



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

Figure 1: Site Location



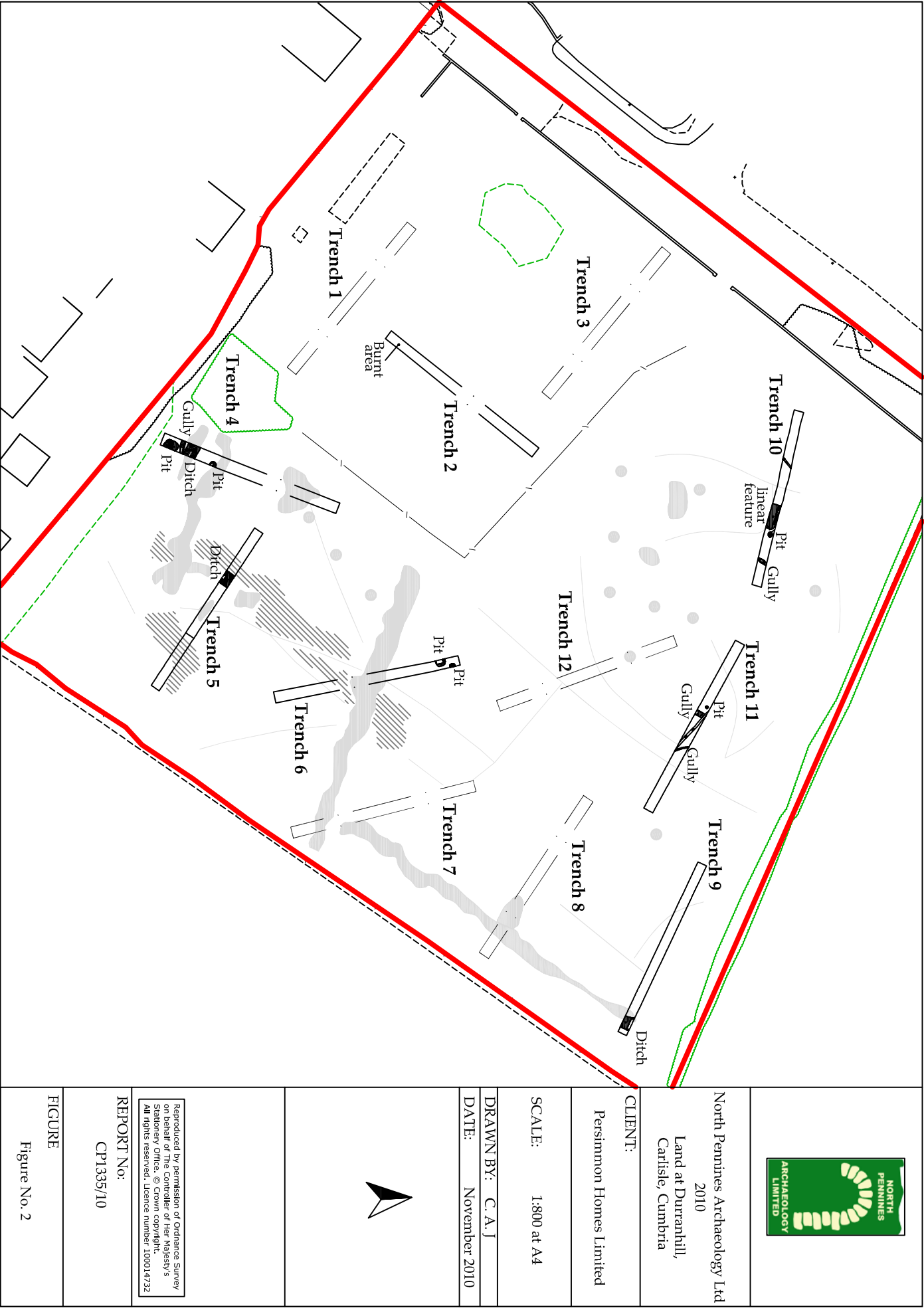


Figure 2 : Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical anomalies

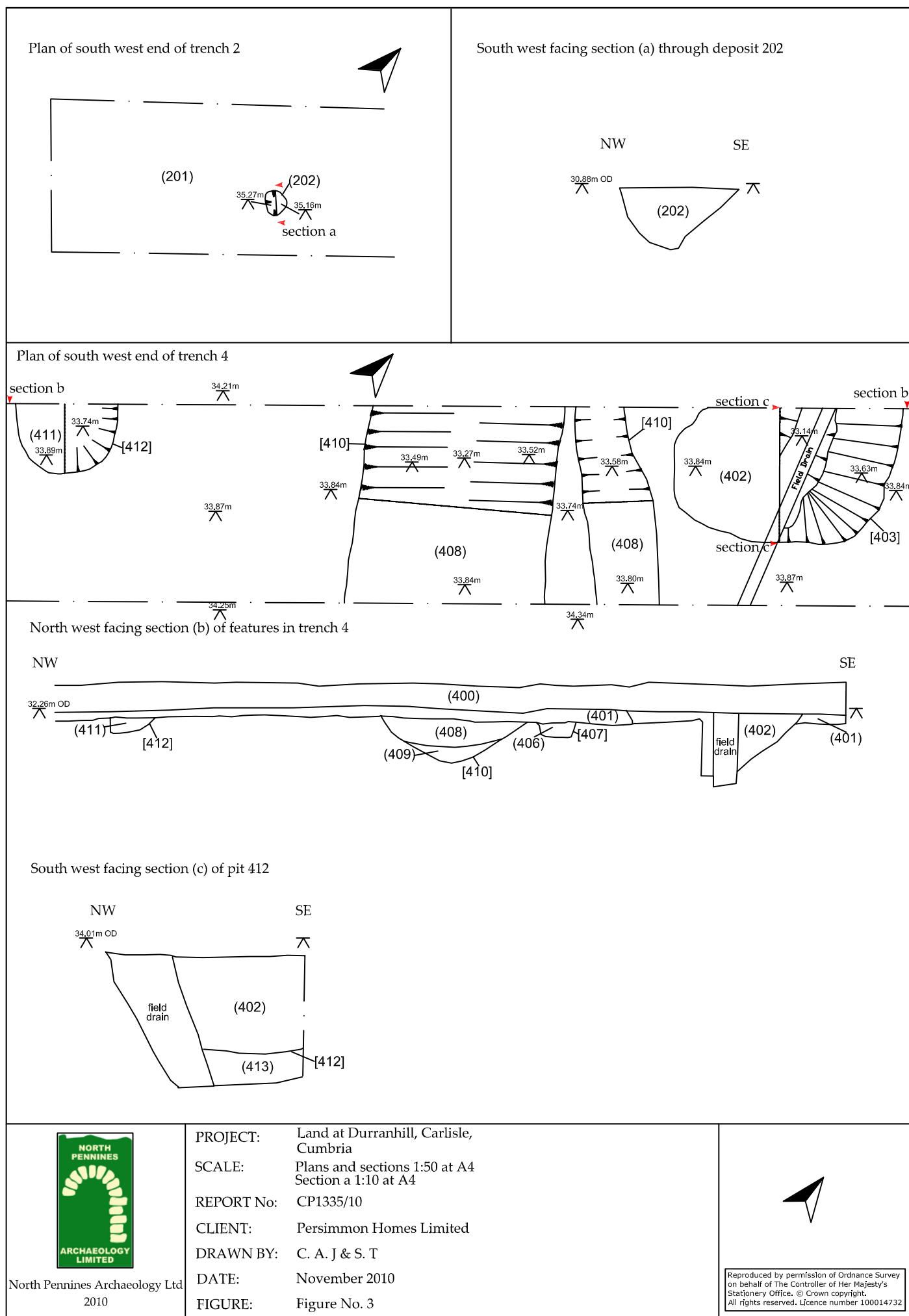


Figure 3 : Plans of south west ends of trenches 2 and 4 and sections in trenches 2 and 4

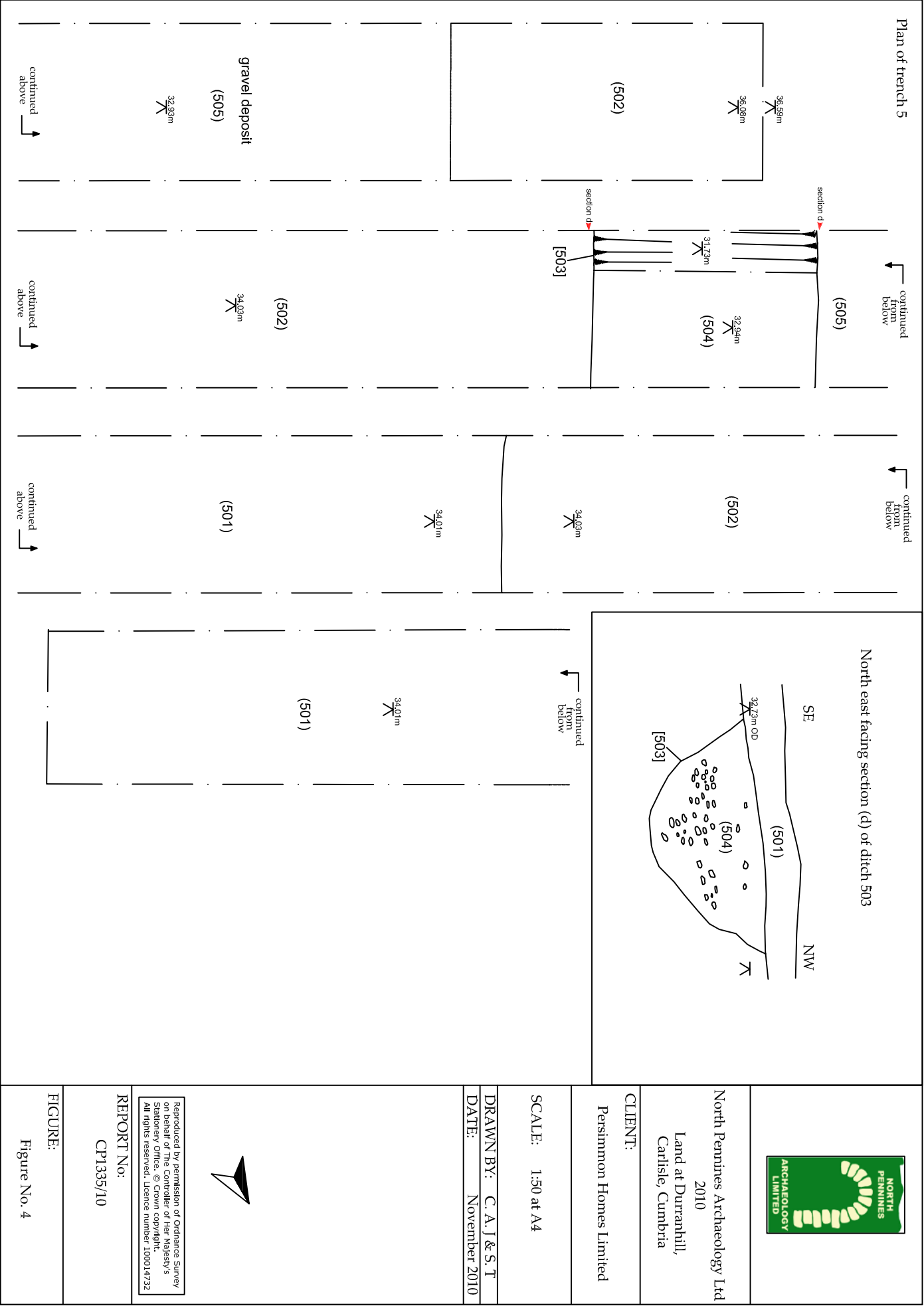


Figure 4 :Plan and section in trench 5

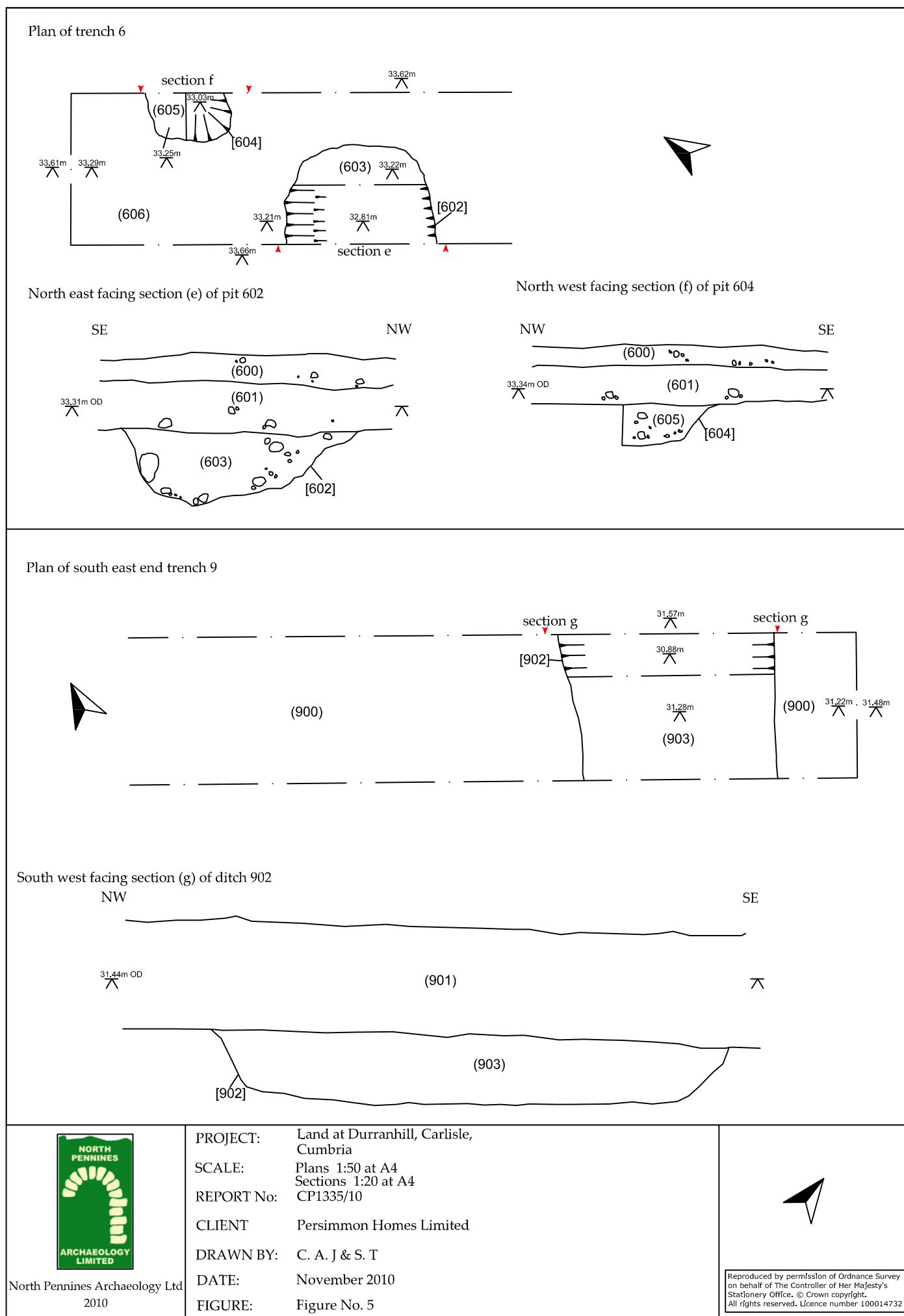
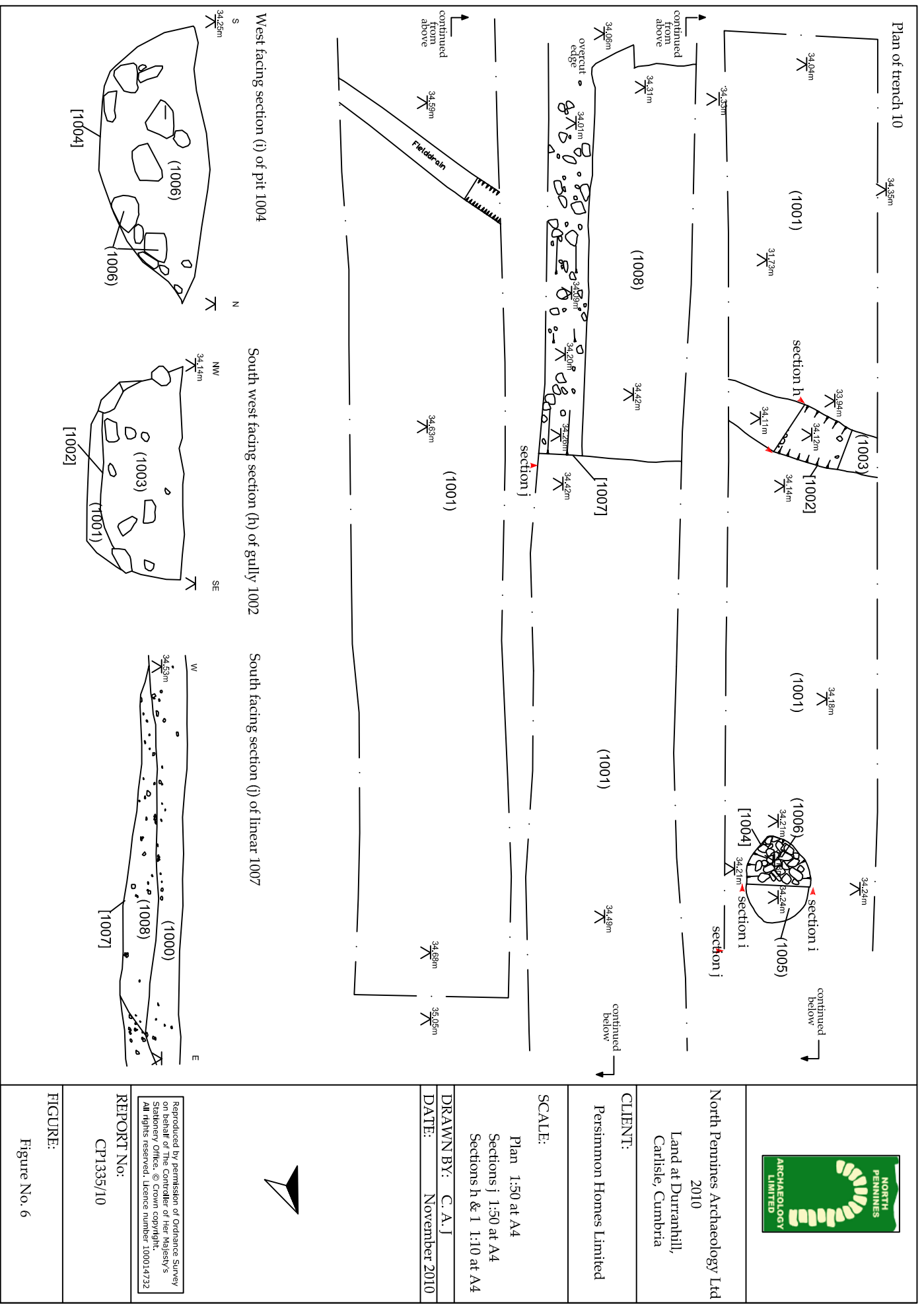


Figure 5 : Plan of north east end of trench 6 and of south west end of trench 9 and sections within trenches 6 and 9



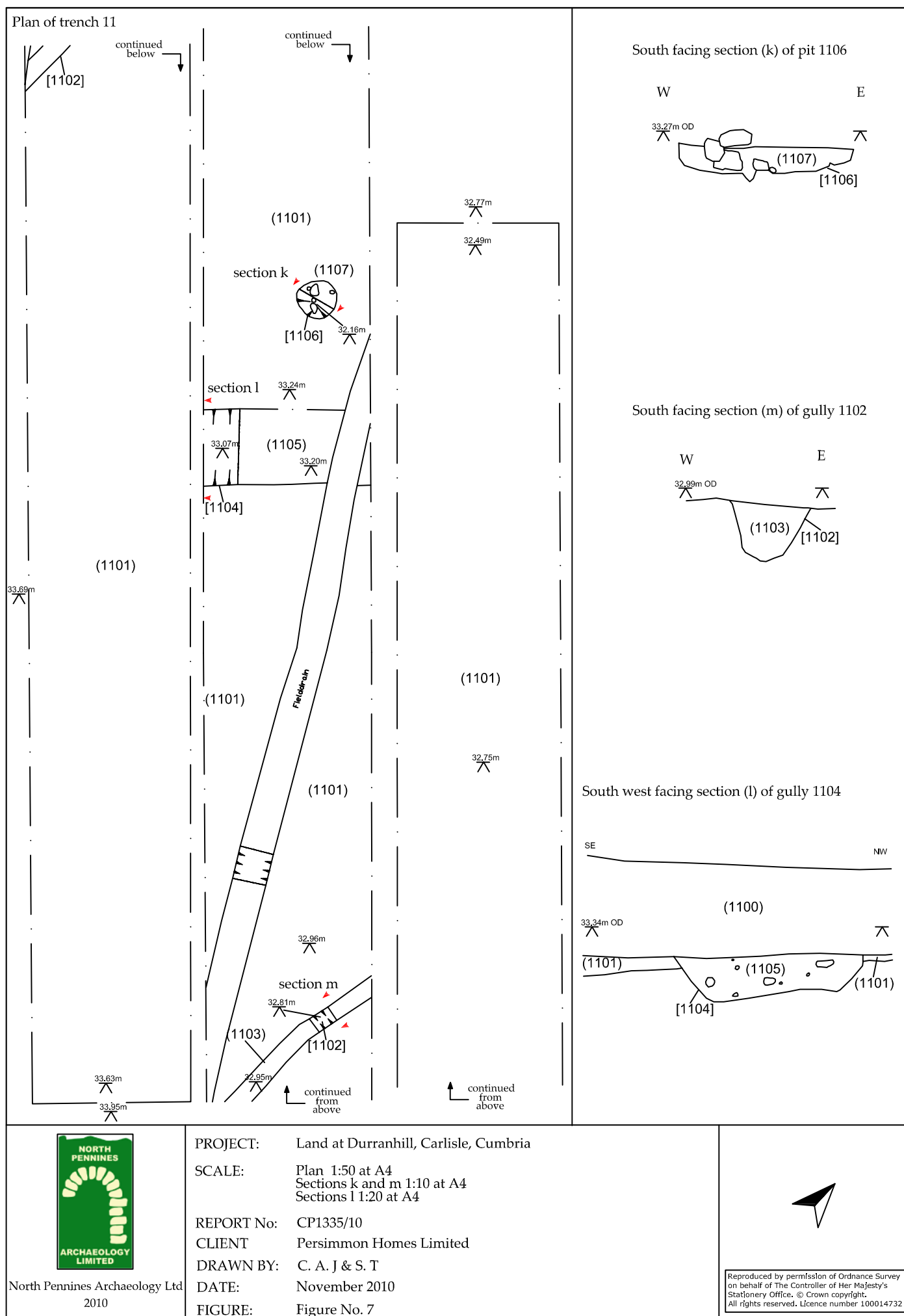


Figure 7 : Plan and sections in trench 11