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Interpretation, Design & Display

**48 Castle Terrace
Berwick-upon-Tweed
Northumberland**

Archaeological Works

Report No. 3174

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Berwick-upon-Tweed
Northumberland**

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SUMMARY

An evaluation trench constituting the foundation trench for a proposed extension was excavated at 48 Castle Terrace (Cheviot House), Berwick-upon-Tweed. Cheviot House is understood to be located on the site of the medieval Church of St Lawrence within the area of Bondington Deserted Medieval Village and it was considered that there was a strong possibility of encountering medieval features associated with this ecclesiastical establishment. Two wall alignments were uncovered, but these are thought to be field or yard walls and are considered most likely to be post-medieval in date.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in June 2014 at 48 Castle Terrace (Cheviot House), Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland (NGR: NT 98785 53975) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Edwin Thompson and was carried out as a predetermination measure in advance of submitting a planning application for an extension to the aforementioned property. This archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (dated 19 June 2014) which was produced by CFA and was designed to meet the requirements of the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT). The measures outlined in the WSI were based on a Heritage Statement for the proposed development, which was produced by CFA in April 2014 (Lightfoot 2014).

1.2 Site Location and Description

The proposed development consists of an extension to a large detached stone-built Victorian house (Cheviot House) which lies on the western outskirts of Berwick-upon-Tweed at an altitude of c.60m above the Ordnance Datum. The house is situated adjacent to the A6105 (Fig.1, NGR: NT 98785 53975) at the western end of a row of similar properties and is set well back from the road within a walled garden. When this evaluation was undertaken in June 2014, the location for the proposed extension consisted of a fairly level area to the north-east corner of the house. This area was formerly occupied by two smaller extensions, one of which was a coal store.

1.3 Archaeological Background and Previous Work

The proposed development is understood to be on the site of the former medieval (parish) Church of St Lawrence within the area of Bondington Deserted Medieval Village. The remains of this church were discovered when Cheviot House was built in c.1868. A number of graves have also been discovered within and around the grounds of the house indicating that there may have been a fairly extensive burial ground associated with the church. To the west of the house, an excavation undertaken in 2007 (Jones 2007) identified possible burgrave plots which may have been associated with Bondington Deserted Medieval Village. Burnt daub was also uncovered during this excavation suggesting a possible kiln within the area. Other significant sites

within the vicinity of 48 Castle Terrace include the scheduled Nunnery of St Leonards and the 12th century church of St Mary. Further details of these sites together with other sites within close proximity to the proposed development are contained within the Heritage Statement (Lightfoot 2014).

1.4 Project Aims

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

2.2 Trial Trench

Following a visual inspection of the proposed development area, the evaluation trench was laid out by the contractor along the proposed footprint of the extension. It was then excavated using a mini-digger equipped with a 0.9m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All ground-breaking operations were undertaken under constant archaeological supervision.

It accordance with the requirements of NCCCT, where no archaeological remains were uncovered and where natural was not reached, the depth of the trench was extended to at least 0.05m below the formation depth of 0.65m.

The levels for the base of the evaluation trench above Ordnance Datum were recorded. This operation was carried out using an industry standard Trimble GPS.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold in the following text refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

The deposits throughout the area consisted of 0.3m of grey sandy-silt topsoil (**001**) overlying orangey-brown silty-sand subsoil (**003**). Deposit **003** varied in depth from 0.4m to >0.5m. Natural consisting of reddish sandy-gravel (**002**) was identified at the north-western end of the trench at a depth of 0.75m below the current ground surface and at the southern end of the trench at a depth of 0.7m, but was not uncovered in the intervening length of trench where deposit **003** continued below the limit of excavation. A number of modern services and two recent rubbish pits were identified.

A number of artefacts were recovered including a ceramic sherd, CBM, an iron bar and several pieces of vitrified material. Details of these finds are contained within section 3.3.

3.2 Archaeological Features

The archaeological features identified consisted of two lengths of wall (**004** and **005**) and a concentration of vitrified material (**006**). Details of these features are contained within the following paragraphs.

Wall 004

Wall **004** was on a NE to SW alignment and consisted of a single line of stones sitting directly on the natural (Fig.4). It was of drystone construction, had a width of c.0.3m, and was constructed from stones measuring up to 0.3m in length. Generally, it only survived as a single course located c.0.75m below the current ground surface, but up to three courses (Fig. 5) were visible in section (c.0.3m in height) with the top of the uppermost course being c.0.5m below the current ground surface. This wall had been sealed by subsoil **003**. Several finds were recovered from deposit **003** within close proximity to this feature.

Wall 005

Wall **005** was on a NNE to SSW alignment. It potentially measured up to 1.1m in width, but it is unclear if the large stone to the east of the stone alignment (Fig. 7-9) actually represents part of the wall or if it was either random or placed there for some other purpose.

The stone alignment was of drystone construction, had a width of up to 0.4m and was constructed from stones measuring up to 0.4m in length. It survived as a single course located 0.5m below the current ground surface. Unlike wall **004**, wall **005** sat on top of subsoil **003**, with further deposits of the same material building up around the sides and sealing it. The large stone measured 0.6m by 0.6m by 0.3m and also appeared to sit on top of subsoil **003**. Several smaller stones located between the large stone and

the stone alignment may indicate that they were part of the same feature, but the limited nature of the work undertaken made it impossible to ascertain this.

Concentration of Vitrified Material 006

A concentration of vitrified material was identified at the north-eastern corner of the evaluation trench sealed within subsoil **003** at a depth of c.0.7m below the current ground surface. A number of pieces of vitrified material were retained for analysis. These pieces of vitrified material are probably fuel ash slag and therefore cannot be considered indicative of early industrial activity within the area.

3.3 Finds (Christina Hills)

Context no.	Find Type	Count	Weight (g)	Notes
006	Vitrified material	7	403	
003	Iron	1	22	Flat tapered bar- unknown fitting
003	CBM- Tile	1	7	
003	CBM- Brick	1	88	
003	Ceramic	1	12	Post Med./ Medieval

A small number of finds were retrieved from the site. The vitrified material from **006** is magnetic but low density leading to the conclusion that it is probably fuel ash slag. Therefore its presence cannot be interpreted as definite evidence of industrial activity.

The rest of the artefacts were all from **003** and included a small sherd of tile and an abraded fragment of brick, as well as an unidentified iron object; these finds are of a modern date.

The ceramic found in **003** is a small undiagnostic sherd of a red gritty ware with evidence of soot on one side. This sherd is possibly of a medieval date.

4. DISCUSSION

Although the proposed development area is understood to be on the site of the former medieval Church of St Lawrence and its associated burial ground, there was no clear evidence that the walls uncovered relate to this ecclesiastical establishment. Indeed, the small-scale nature of these walls together with the lack of any kind of bonding mortar makes it very unlikely that they represent the remains of the church itself. Walls of a very similar nature were discovered by Headland Archaeology to the west of Cheviot House. These walls to the west of Cheviot House represented the latest phase on the site and sat on top of slope-wash deposits sealing medieval features associated with the Deserted Medieval Village of Bondington. Jones (2007) describes these walls as single courses of foundation stones, probably for rubble walls of dry-stone construction and has suggested that they represent either field walls or yard enclosure walls. An 18th century date has been suggested for these walls and it is possible that the walls discovered within the proposed development area are of a similar post-medieval date.

5. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 48 Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed on the site of the former medieval parish Church of St Lawrence. The evaluation identified two wall alignments. These walls are considered most likely to represent the foundation courses of field walls or yard enclosure walls and are thought to be post-medieval in date. No evidence of the medieval church or its associated burial ground was discovered.

6. REFERENCES

Jones, E. 2007 *Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, Results of an Archaeological Excavation: Area 1*, Headland Archaeology, March 2007

Lightfoot, M. 2014 *48 Castle Terrace, Berwick-upon-Tweed: Heritage Statement*
CFA Report No.Y143/14

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

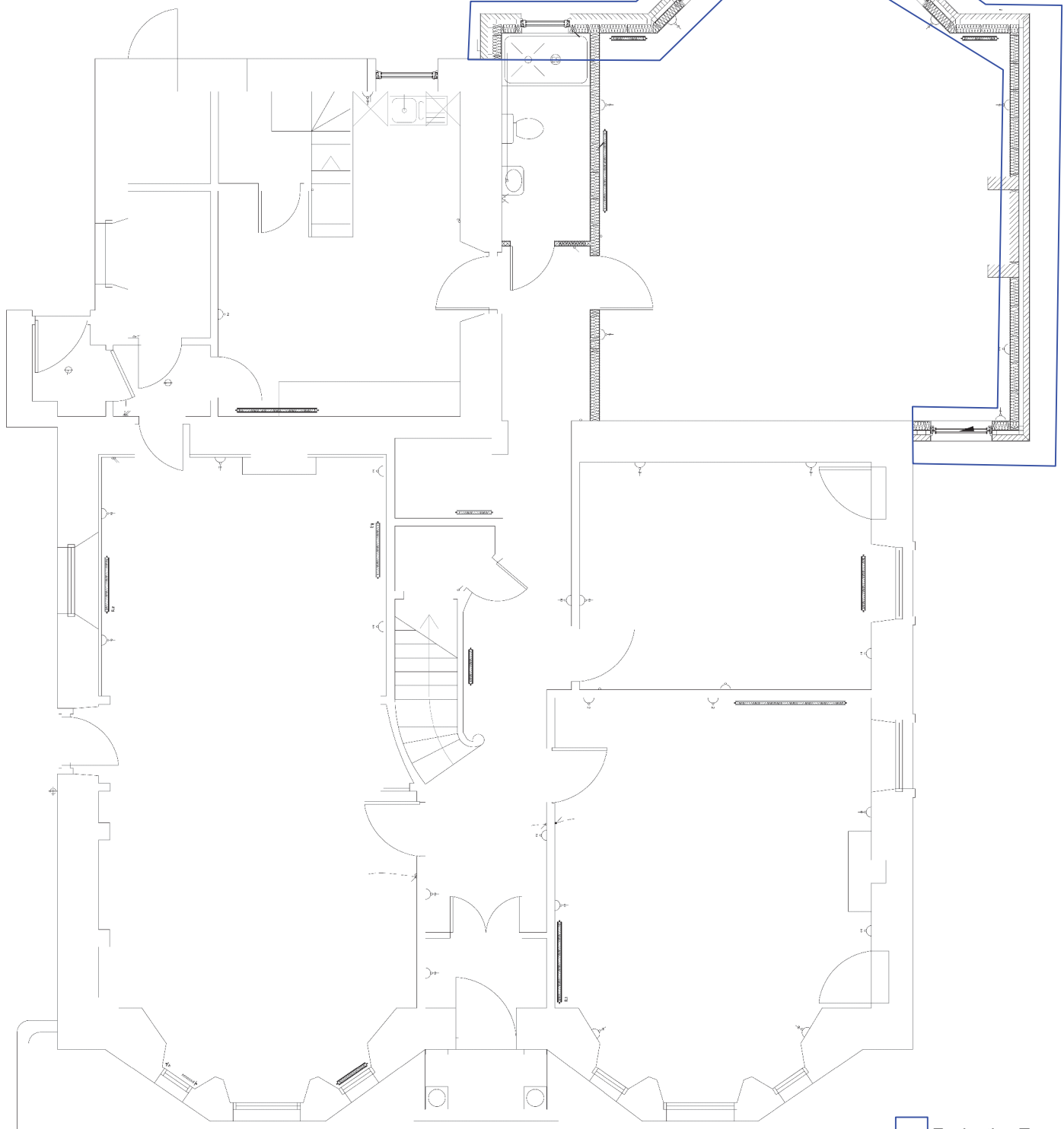
No	Feature	Description
001	N/A	Grey sandy-silt topsoil
002	N/A	Natural Subsoil (reddish sandy-gravel)
003	N/A	Orangey-brown silty-sand
004	004	Wall alignment
005	004	Wall alignment
006	N/A	Concentration of slag

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Evaluation area pre-excavation	W	Sun
2	Working shot showing bucket utilised	WNW	Sun
3	Wall alignment 004	WNW	Sun
4	Wall alignment 004	NNE	Sun
5	Wall alignment 004	SSW	Sun
6	Wall alignment 005	WNW	Sun
7	Wall alignment 005	S	Sun
8	Wall alignment 005 with large stone in foreground	SSE	Sun
9	Wall alignment 004	ESE	Sun
10	Westernmost end of evaluation trench	ESE	Sun
11	Evaluation trench	W	Sun
12	Evaluation trench showing location of walls 004 and 005	WNW	Sun
13	Wall alignment 004	ESE	Sun
14	Wall alignment 005	WNW	Sun
15	Easternmost end of northern part of evaluation trench	WNW	Sun
16	NNE to SSW aligned section of evaluation trench	NNE	Sun
17	Southernmost part of evaluation trench	ESE	Sun

APPENDIX 3: Field Drawings Register

Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Section/Plan	Description
1	1	1:50	Plan	Plan of evaluation trench
1	2	1:20	Section	S/SSW/SW-facing section of evaluation trench



Evaluation Trench

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Title:
Location map

Project:
**48 Castle Terrace, Berwick Upon Tweed,
Northumberland**

Fig No:	1	Report:	3174	Drawn by:	GC	CKD:	LW	Date:	30/06/14
Client:		Edwin Thomson							
Scale:		1:100							



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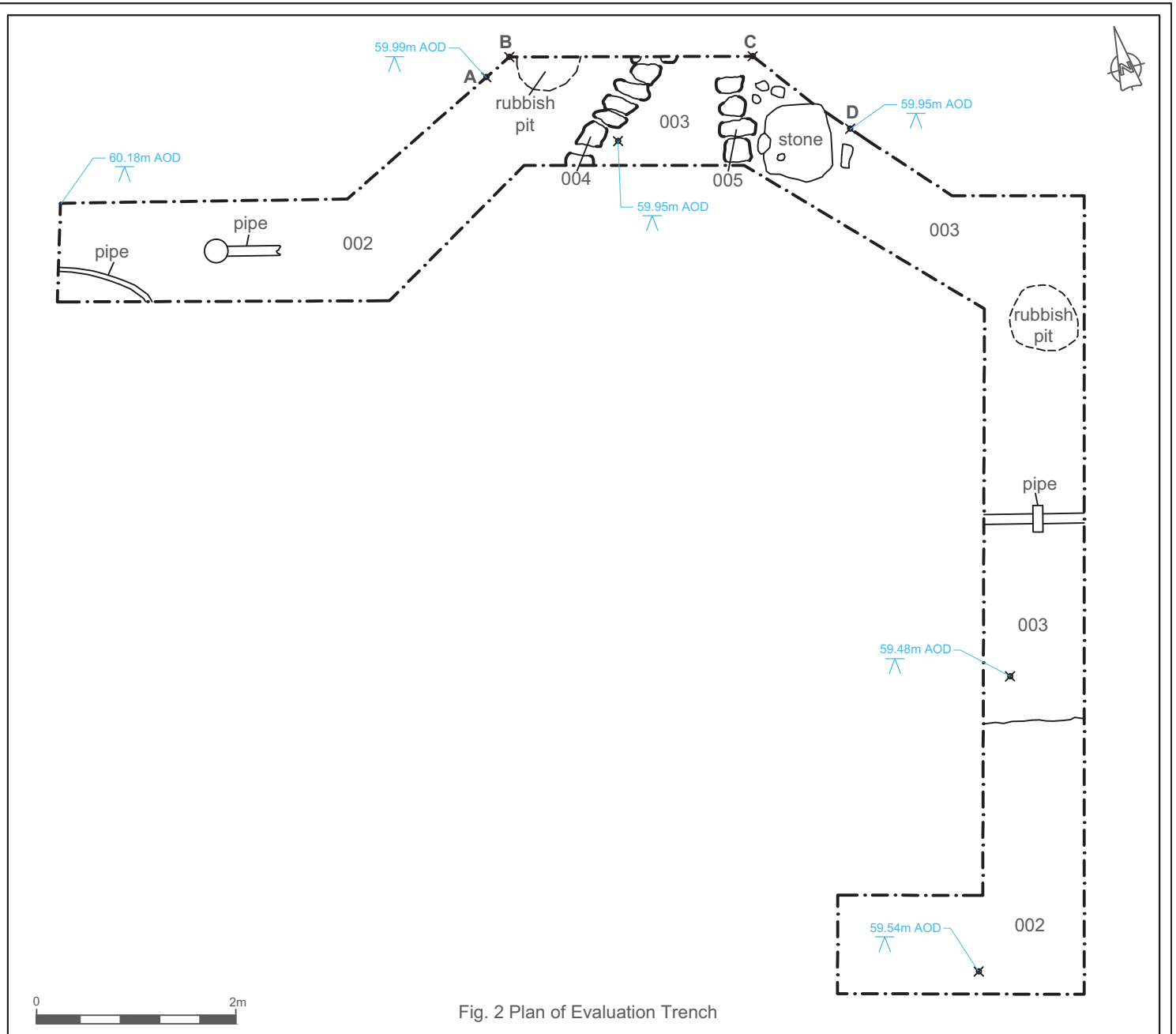


Fig. 2 Plan of Evaluation Trench

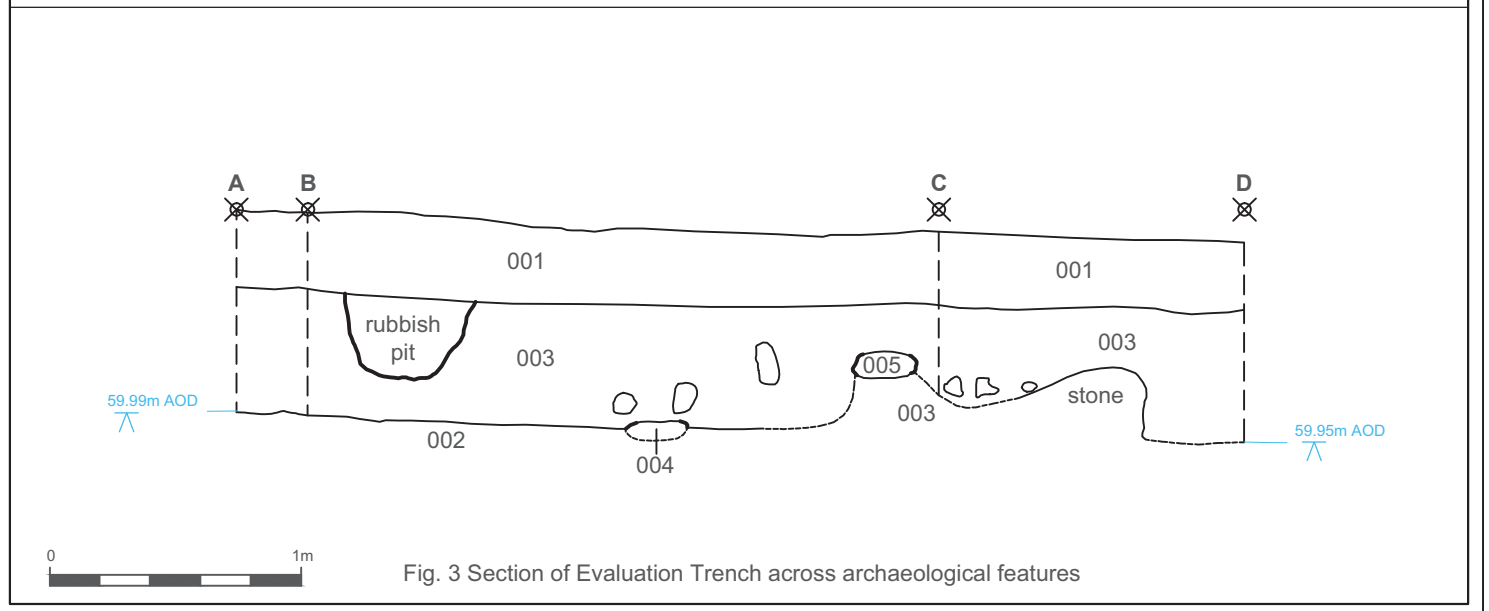


Fig. 3 Section of Evaluation Trench across archaeological features

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	2-3	3174	GC	LW	30/06/14
Project:	Client:				
	Edwin Thomson				
48 Castle Terrace, Berwick Upon Tweed, Northumberland	Scale:				
	Fig. 2 - 1:60 Fig. 3 - 1:30				
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Fig. 4 – Wall alignment 004 from the east-south-east



Fig. 5 – Wall 004 within east-north-east facing section



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Fig. 6 – Wall 004 within east-north-east facing section



Fig. 7 – Wall 005 from the west-north-west





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Fig. 8 – Wall 005 from the south



Fig. 9 – Wall 005 from the south-south-east

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