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Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route Balmedie-Tipperty

Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie-Tipperty Lot 4 – Fastlink Invasive Archaeological Investigations

Mitigation Excavation

AWPR/B-T/FL/005

Report No. 3190



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Author | Magnus Kirby MA AIfA |
| Illustrator | Tamlin Barton MA |
| Editor | Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MIfA |
| Employer | Aberdeen City Council |
| Consultant | Jacobs UK Ltd |
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Lot 4 – Fastlink
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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

As part of a programme of mitigation investigations along the Fastlink section of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie-Tipperty, a strip, map and excavate investigation was completed to the south of North Rothnick, site AWPR/B-T/FL/005. Thirty-two features were excavated and are interpreted as stone-holes. Evidence of earlier agricultural activity was apparent in the form of cultivation furrows.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of strip, map and excavate undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between April and June 2014 at trench AWPR/B-T/FL/005 (abbreviated to FL/005 in this report) for the Fastlink section (Lot 4) of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie-Tipperty (AWPR/B-T).
- 1.1.2 Trench FL/005 is located just to the south of North Rothnick at (NGR NO 8734 9507, Fig. 1).
- 1.1.3 The employer for this project was Aberdeen City Council and overall responsibility for its delivery lies with the AWPR/B-T Managing Agent. Jacobs UK Ltd was appointed as the Consultants, CFA Archaeology Ltd was the Contractor for this part of the programme of works, and the curator was Historic Scotland.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie-Tipperty is being developed by Transport Scotland in partnership with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. These two projects were individually identified as proposed transport interventions within the Modern Transport System (www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/transport_streets/roads_pavements/transport_projects/roa_wrp_mts.asp) and developed separately through the statutory process. In November 2010 the Scottish Government confirmed its intention to procure both projects under a single Non Profit Distributing contract.
- 1.2.2 The two major improvements to the trunk-road network are close to each other and together will provide significant benefits to the north-east of Scotland by reducing journey times and cutting congestion within Aberdeen City. They comprise four sections: a Northern Leg from North Kingswells to Blackdog; a Southern Leg from Charleston to North Kingswells; a Fastlink from Stonehaven to Cleanhill Junction; and the Balmedie to Tipperty improvements. The work undertaken during the construction of these four sections will consist of 34.6km of wholly new dual carriageway around the outskirts of Aberdeen along with an 11.5km Fastlink running from the A90 at Stonehaven and joining the AWPR/B-T near to Maryculter. An additional 9km of new dual carriageway will also be constructed during the Balmedie to Tipperty part of the project along with 3km of on-line improvements.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 Previous archaeological work was undertaken in 2012 and consisted of a programme of non-invasive archaeological investigations comprising a desk-based assessment, topographic surveys, photographic surveys, palaeoenvironmental assessment, geophysical surveys, field walking, metal detecting and building recording. These were carried out in areas with suitable ground conditions within the Land Made Available (LMA) for the AWPR/B-T project. The general aim of these archaeological investigations was to identify

the extent and character of known and unknown archaeological remains in order to enable a programme of further archaeological evaluation and mitigation to be designed.

- 1.3.2 Chapter 43 (Part D: Fastlink) of the Environmental Statement (ES) (Jacobs 2007) undertaken for the project identified 43 cultural heritage sites within a study area extending c.250m either side of the centreline of the road alignment. Sites of potential early prehistoric date included Cantlayhills Cairn (Site 28) and Kempstone Hill Complex (Site 491).
- 1.3.3 Archaeological sites in the near vicinity of site FL/005 consist mainly of farmsteads related to post-improvement agriculture. Cairnfields, field boundaries and rig-and-furrow remains, and a possible standing stone are recorded at Berry Top about 1km to the north-west of North Rothnick.
- 1.3.4 Topographic surveys were carried out in November 2012 (Headland Archaeology 2012c) at Howieshill Farmstead (Site 32), Burnhead Cairns (Site 121) and Crossley Cairn (Site 506). A further survey should have been carried out in relation to the Scottish North Eastern Railway (Site 257), but this was postponed due to health and safety reasons.
- 1.3.5 The geophysical survey carried out in December 2012 (Headland Archaeology 2012a) identified several anomalies, notably those in close proximity to the former village of Cowie (Site 490). Thirty-five trenches excavated as part of the invasive archaeological investigations were positioned to target these anomalies.
- 1.3.6 A palaeoenvironmental survey carried out in October 2012 (Headland Archaeology 2012b) identified areas of peat within Red Moss Wetland (Site 67) and Blackburn Moss Wetland (Site 119). The earlier find of a Late Bronze Age sword reportedly from the base of the peats at Red Moss indicates peat formation in this area may be relatively late, beginning in the Late Bronze Age. However, the initial estimate for peat formation in Aberdeenshire is 10,600–9800 cal BP (Tipping 2007) possibly suggesting that the depth at which the sword was recovered was not accurately recorded. This early date for peat formation was supported by palaeoenvironmental sampling and analysis carried out by CFA at Blackburn Moss Wetland as part of this programme of works. The report on this has been produced under separate cover (Cressey and McCulloch 2013).
- 1.3.7 A programme of intrusive trial trenching was undertaken by CFA in 2013 within Lot 4 (Fastlink) of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (Kirby 2014). Crossley Cairn lay within the road corridor and was excavated as part of this programme of works.
- 1.3.8 Four sites were revealed by the trial trenching, including: two areas of pits and linear features (trenches FL0034 and FL0242); a possible alignment of shallow pits (trench FL0381); and a stone spread or surface (trench FL0328) which was situated on the site of a farmstead annotated 'Broomhill' on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1868). A sherd of prehistoric pottery was

recovered from one of the areas of pits and linear features, but lithics from the other area of pits and linear features proved undiagnostic, and there was no secure dating evidence from the pit alignment.

- 1.3.9 Following the trial trenching, nine sites were identified for further mitigation works. These consisted of four sites identified during trial trenching (FL/001, FL/003B, FL/004, FL/005), two cairns identified as upstanding features (FL/002, FL/006), and an additional three areas identified by Jacobs following the trial trenching programme (FL/003A, FL/007, FL/008).
- 1.3.10 It was agreed with the Consultant, and with the approval of Historic Scotland, that the mitigation measures relating to the two cairns, one located at Fishermyre and the other located near Stranog Hill, would take the form of a topographic survey, followed by hand excavation. The results of the topographic surveys of FL/002 and FL/006 are covered in separate reports (See Mitchell 2014a and 2014b).
- 1.3.11 It was agreed with the Consultant, and with the approval of Historic Scotland, that the mitigation measures relating to the other sites identified during and following trial trenching should take the form of a strip and record, with hand excavation of any features revealed subject to further agreement. These are reported under separate cover.
- 1.3.12 The areas which required further mitigation work are summarised below.

| Mitigation site ref | Trench Number | Description |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| AWPR/B-T/FL/001 | FL0034/FL0034a | Pit and curvilinear feature |
| AWPR/B-T/FL/002 | N/A | Cairn (near Fishermyre NO 870 903) |
| AWPR/B-T/FL/003A | N/A | Historical map evidence for earlier settlement |
| AWPR/B-T/FL/003B | FL0328 | Stone surface (Broomhill Farm) |
| AWPR/B-T/FL/004 | FL0242/FL0242a | Pit/linear feature. Prehistoric pottery |
| AWPR/B-T/FL/005 | FL0381 | Pit alignment |
| AWPR/B-T/FL/006 | N/A | Cairn (near Stranog Hill NO 870 969) |
| AWPR/B-T/FL/007 | N/A | Historical map evidence for earlier settlement |
| AWPR/B-T/FL/008 | N/A | Historical map evidence for earlier settlement |

Sites requiring further mitigation

- 1.3.15 This report covers the mitigation for trench FL/005, as agreed with the Consultant. This consisted of strip and map followed by hand excavation of the features.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Specification (Schedule 1) contained within ITT Vol.2 (Aberdeen City Council 2013) which set out the framework for the methodologies/requirements of this programme of mitigation excavation.
- 2.1.2 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork.
- 2.1.3 A terrestrial photographic condition survey was undertaken prior to and immediately after the investigation. All equipment and footwear was cleaned and disinfected prior to entry on to any areas of land. An Ecological Clerk of Works conducted walkover surveys prior to any work commencing and consulted regularly to ensure that any ecological matters were dealt with promptly and correctly.

2.2 Surveying

- 2.2.1 The trench location was provided by the Consultant, as shown on Fig. 1. The location was accurately surveyed as excavated and tied in with the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Datum using a GPS with a survey grade accuracy of $\pm 10\text{mm}$.
- 2.2.2 Precision topographic mapping was achieved through the use of GNSS/GPS systems. The survey achieved real-time GNSS/GPS positioning accurate to 0.01m horizontal and 0.03m vertical, through the use of a Trimble R6 GNSS system with a TSC3 controller running Trimble Access surveying software. This equipment provides centimetre-accurate RTK corrections using the Trimble VRS Now RTK GNSS service to plot / stake-out features etc within Access.
- 2.2.3 Data collection and survey control was integrated with the overall plans for the invasive investigations.
- 2.2.4 Survey data was exported from Trimble Access on the TSC3 controller to dxf format, retaining individual point feature codes and associated attributes, and processed in AutoCAD 2013. Model space in CAD was in metres at 1:1 and standard CFA layers and feature codes were used.

2.3 Mechanical Excavation

- 2.3.1 All topsoil/subsoil was stripped from the agreed area by a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All groundbreaking operations were undertaken under the direct and continuous supervision and control of the Contractor. Mechanical excavation ceased either at the first archaeological horizon or at the level of the natural geological deposits where it could be demonstrated that no archaeological horizon existed.

- 2.3.2 Immediately after the removal of the topsoil and any other overburden, the whole area was hand cleaned and inspected for archaeological features. The suspected features then received further cleaning and were assigned feature numbers. A list of the features was then presented to the Consultant along with a plan showing their respective positions within the trench. After further consultation with the Consultant, all of the features were partially excavated in order to determine the character, condition, quality and date of any archaeological features. The cleaning extended for 10m beyond any archaeological feature.
- 2.3.3 An overall plan of all visible features was prepared by instrument survey and, where appropriate, hand planning. The plan also showed any areas of visible damage or destruction of the archaeology caused by recent activity e.g. service trenches, quarry pits etc. The survey data and any hand-drawn plans were accurately tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Datum.
- 2.3.4 Following the completion of the topsoil stripping, a composite drawing showing information from the instrument survey and the hand planning was prepared and submitted to the Consultant. Features shown on the drawing were annotated with a preliminary archaeological interpretation. The drawing was submitted to the Consultant with detailed costings and programme for undertaking excavation of features present, and for a post-excavation assessment and preparation of a post-excavation assessment report. Following agreement with the Consultant, the mitigation excavations were then undertaken as described in Section 2.4.
- 2.3.5 Topsoil and subsoil were segregated into separate spoil heaps on either side of the trench. Spoil from the excavation of any archaeological features was stored on the subsoil side. All backfilling was undertaken following inspection by, and with the prior agreement of, the Consultant. The material was backfilled in reverse order of removal in a series of layers no more than 250mm thick, each layer compacted as appropriate by the mechanical excavator prior to placement of the next layer.

2.4 Hand Excavation and Recording

- 2.4.1 Hand excavation was undertaken of all the archaeological features required by the Consultant, as follows:
- 50% of each pit or post-hole (half-sections or two quarter-sections as appropriate). Where necessary to obtain dating evidence or sufficient material for soil samples, such features were then fully excavated.
 - at least 20% of each simple linear feature within the whole stripped area with no individual section being less than 1.0m wide.
- 2.4.2 All excavated contexts were fully recorded by detailed written context records giving details of location, composition, shape, dimensions, relationships, finds, samples, cross-references to other elements of the record and other relevant contexts. At least one plan and at least one section were drawn at an

appropriate scale. Photographic records in digital form were taken of all trenches and archaeological features using a camera with a minimum resolution of ten megapixels. Feature locations were surveyed using a GPS with a survey survey-grade accuracy of $\pm 10\text{m}$ (horizontal)/ $\pm 30\text{mm}$ (vertical). All artefacts were recovered from site for specialist examination and analysis. All soil from the excavation of archaeological features was metal detected.

2.5 Archiving

- 2.6.1 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited at the RCAHMS and will conform to current guidelines in MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006). The deposition of paper and digital archives with RCAHMS will comply with their current requirements (RCAHMS 1996a, 1996b) and with the Archaeological Archives Forum (Brown 2007), ADS guidelines for digital archives (Richards and Robinson 2001), and the Cifa's 'Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials' (Cifa 2013).
- 2.6.2 A summary statement of the results of this survey will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* once all archaeological works are completed (Appendix 5). An *OASIS Scotland* entry will be completed.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.
- 3.1.2 A summary of the excavated features is contained in Appendix 4 and the locations of the features are shown on Figs. 2-4.
- 3.1.3 The deposits within the trench predominantly consisted of between 0.3m and 0.5m of dark brown/black sandy silt topsoil (**001**). The natural geology consisted of mid brown sandy gravels with areas of silty clay (**002**). A large outcrop of natural bedrock lay roughly in the centre of the stripped area. All features were isolated, cut in to natural and lay under topsoil.

3.2 Features

Pit-like features

- 3.2.1 A sub-circular pit (**003**) measured a maximum of 0.40m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.22m (Fig. 2). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt (**004**), similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.2 An oval pit (**005**) (Figs. 2, 5 & 6) measured 0.30m by 0.25m in plan and survived to a maximum depth of 0.05m. The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt (**006**), similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.3 A sub-circular pit (**007**) measured a maximum of 0.25m in diameter and survived to a depth of 0.09m (Figs. 2 & 5). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt (**008**), similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.4 An oval pit (**009**) measured a maximum of 0.60m in length and 0.40m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.13m (Figs. 2, 3 & 5). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt (**010**), similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.5 A circular pit (**011**) measured a maximum of 0.35m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.15m (Fig. 2). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt (**012**), similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.6 A sub-circular pit (**013**) measured 0.55m in diameter and survived to a depth of 0.10m (Fig. 3). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt (**014**), similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.7 A sub-circular pit (**015**) (Figs. 4 & 7) measured 0.45m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.08m. The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt (**016**), similar to the topsoil. This feature is the same as feature 003 recorded in the evaluation.

- 3.2.8 A sub-circular pit **(017)** measured 0.29m in length and 0.28m in width, and survived to a maximum depth of 0.12m (Figs. 2 & 5). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(018)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.9 A sub-oval pit **(019)** measured 0.38m in length and 0.19m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.05m (Figs. 2 & 5). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(020)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.10 A sub-oval pit **(021)** measured 0.50m in length and 0.4m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.12m (Figs. 2 & 5). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(022)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.11 A sub-oval pit **(023)** measured 0.50m in length and 0.40m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.12m (Figs. 2 & 5). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(024)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.12 An oval pit **(025)** measured 0.60m in length and 0.45m in width and survived to a depth of 0.16m (Fig. 3). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(010)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.13 An oval pit **(027)** measured 0.40m in length and 0.22m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.05m (Figs. 3 & 4). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(010)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.14 A circular pit **(030)** measured 0.20m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.04m (Figs. 3, 4 & 5). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(031)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.15 A sub-circular pit **(032)** measured 0.90m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.40m (Figs. 3, 4 & 5). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(033)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.16 A sub-circular pit **(036)** measured 0.25m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.05m (Figs. 3 & 4). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(037)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.17 An oval pit **(039)** measured 0.35m in length and 0.17m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.07m (Figs. 3 & 4). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(040)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.18 A sub-circular pit **(041)** measured 0.25m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.05m (Fig 3). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(042)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.19 A sub-circular pit **(043)** measured 0.40m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.07m (Fig. 3). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(044)**, similar to the topsoil.

- 3.2.20 A sub-circular pit **(045)** measured 0.20m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.04m (Fig. 3). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(046)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.21 A sub-circular pit **(047)** measured 0.25m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.08m (Fig. 3). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(048)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.22 A sub-circular pit **(049)** measured 0.15m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.05m (Figs. 3 & 5). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(050)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.23 A sub-circular pit **(051)** measured 0.55m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.03m (Figs. 3 & 4). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(052)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.24 A sub-circular pit **(054)** measured 0.30m in length and 0.25m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.07m (Fig. 3). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(055)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.25 A sub-circular pit **(056)** measured 0.20m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.05m (Fig. 3). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(057)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.26 An oval pit **(058)** measured 0.40m in length and 0.30m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.1m (Fig. 3). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(059)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.27 An irregular-shaped pit **(060)** measured 4.30m in diameter, 1.5m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.40m (Fig. 3). The pit contained a single soil fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(061)**, similar to the topsoil. The pit also contained numerous stones up to 0.50m in diameter, which were of the same rock type as the natural bedrock outcrop. It is possible this was a large pit excavated in order to remove large stones for agricultural land improvement.
- 3.2.28 A sub-circular pit **(064)** measured 0.20m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.06m (Fig. 3). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(065)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.29 A sub-circular pit **(067)** measured 0.80m in diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.20m (Figs. 3 & 5). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(068)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.30 A large irregular pit **(073)** (Figs. 3, 4 & 8) measured 4m in length, 3.20m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.53m. The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(074)**, similar to the topsoil. At the base of the pit was exposed bedrock, suggesting this pit was possibly excavated in order to clear outstanding extrusions of bedrock from the surface of the area.

- 3.2.31 Sub-circular pit **(075)** measured 0.45m in maximum diameter and survived to a maximum depth of 0.08m (Fig. 2). The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/black sandy silt **(076)**, similar to the topsoil.
- 3.2.32 An oval pit **(077)** measured 0.70m in length, 0.50m in width and survived to a maximum depth of 0.15m (Fig. 2). The pit contained a single fill which comprised of dark brown/black sandy silt **(078)**, similar to the topsoil.

Deposits

- 3.2.33 Deposit **(029)** was an oval spread of dark brown/black peaty/sandy material filling in a depression in natural substrate **(002)** (Figs. 3 & 4). **(029)** measured 1.00m in length and 0.45m in width, and was around 0.10m in depth. This deposit was deemed to be of natural origin.
- 3.2.34 Deposit **(034)** (Figs. 4 & 7) was an oval spread of dark brown/black peaty/sandy material filling in a depression in natural substrate **(002)**. **(034)** measured 0.40m in length and 0.30m in width, and was around 0.03m in depth. This deposit was deemed to be of natural origin.
- 3.2.35 Deposit **(035)** was a sub-circular spread of dark brown/black peaty/sandy material filling in a depression in natural substrate **(002)** (Figs. 3 & 4). **(035)** measured 0.95m in diameter, and was around 0.05m in depth. This deposit was deemed to be of natural origin.
- 3.2.36 Deposit **(038)** was a sub-circular spread of dark brown/black peaty/sandy material filling in a depression in natural substrate **(002)** (Figs. 3 & 4). **(038)** measured 0.90m in length, 0.80m in width, and was around 0.09m in depth. This deposit was deemed to be of natural origin.
- 3.2.37 Deposit **(053)** was a sub-circular spread of dark brown/black peaty/sandy material filling in a depression in natural substrate **(002)** (Fig. 4). **(053)** measured 3.80m in length, 2m in width, and was around 0.07m in depth. This deposit was deemed to be of natural origin. The deposit was truncated by a rubble field drain running north-east to south-west roughly through the centre of the feature.
- 3.2.38 Deposit **(062)** was a sub-circular spread of dark brown/black peaty/sandy material filling in a depression in natural substrate **(002)** (Fig. 3). **(062)** measured 3.00m in length, 1.40m in width, and was at maximum 0.35m in depth. This deposit was deemed to be of natural origin.
- 3.2.39 Deposit **(063)** was a sub-circular spread of dark brown/black peaty/sandy material filling in a depression in natural substrate **(002)**. **(063)** measured 0.15m in diameter, and was at maximum 0.05m in depth (Fig. 3). This deposit was deemed to be of natural origin.
- 3.2.40 Deposit **(066)** was a sub-circular spread of dark brown/black peaty/sandy material filling in a depression in natural substrate **(002)** (Fig. 4). **(066)**

measured 0.15m in diameter, and was at maximum 0.05m in depth. This deposit was deemed to be of natural origin.

Cultivation Furrows

- 3.2.41 Furrow **(069)** (Figs. 2, 3, 4 & 5) ran roughly north to south throughout the site, and contained a single fill of firm mid brown silty sand **(070)**. The furrow was maximum 1.70m wide, and survived to a depth of 0.15m. Another section was excavated through furrow **(071)** (Fig. 5). This furrow again ran north to south, and was a maximum of 1.80m wide and 0.20m deep, containing a single fill **(072)**.
- 3.2.42 Numerous field drains of either ceramic pipe or rubble fill were present, aligned in varying directions.

4. ASSESMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDINGS

- 4.1 The trial trenching evaluation exposed five possible pits in Trench FL0381. Soil samples produced quantities of charcoal and hazelnut shell. Small quantities of glass and wood charcoal were recovered from some of these features. The size and alignment of these pits was considered to be perhaps indicative of post-holes for some kind of stockade or fence, or alternatively a line of stone-holes where rounded stones have been pulled out during ploughing and the holes left filled with topsoil. Trench FL0381 was encompassed by the trench for the follow-on mitigation excavations (Trench FL/005).
- 4.2 The 32 pit-like features excavated within trench FL/005 were irregular in shape and all contained a single homogenous fill indistinguishable from topsoil. These features are interpreted as negative features left behind following the removal of a stone embedded within the natural substrate, due to the irregular shape of the feature and the similarity of the fills to the topsoil. After removal of the stones, the holes left would have filled with the overlying material, in this case topsoil (001). The natural substrate was stony and larger stones embedded into the natural were observed throughout the trench, along with outcrops of bedrock.
- 4.3 The removal of larger stones from the natural substrate could either reflect stones being dragged out through ploughing activities or the deliberate removal of stones from agricultural land to improve it; some of these stones may have been gathered to provide building materials for the consumption dykes and field boundaries recorded in the area.
- 4.4 Seven spreads of peaty sand/silt were also excavated. These features were single context deposits within natural shallow depressions in the geological substrate and it is likely that these deposits were formed by natural processes of vegetation and soil transformation.
- 4.5 Rig-and-furrow cultivation was identified during the excavation. There were also field drains running north-west to south-east across the trench. These features indicate the landscape has been intensively modified in the post-medieval period reflecting a process of agricultural improvements which likely began in the 17th century and continued throughout the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 4.6 No samples were taken and no finds were recovered from FL/005
- 4.7 The overall results of this programme of works indicate that the landscape through which the Fastlink route will pass has been intensively utilised during the post-medieval period with a large number of features relating to post improvement agriculture. These largely consisted of field drains (ceramic and rubble), other linear drainage features, rig-and-furrow cultivation, stone extraction, and areas of clearance stones. While areas of possible prehistoric activity have been identified, the scarcity of prehistoric remains is perhaps a reflection on the level of post-improvement activity which has taken place along the route.

- 4.8 The majority of the post-medieval and modern sites along the route are related to 18th/19th century agricultural improvements and consist of farmsteads, clearance cairns, consumption dykes and field systems. These improvements saw the creation of the larger enclosed fields that dominate the agricultural landscape within the road corridor. Seven farmsteads (Sites 32, 42, 45, 47, 87, 94 and 97) were identified within the study area as well as three consumption dykes (Sites 505, 508 and 510) (Jacobs 2007). Other known post-medieval agricultural features include four groups of clearance cairns (Sites 121, 506, 507 and 524), and the Redmoss Relict Field Boundary (Site 509), probably marking the edge of the moss (*ibid.*).

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The mitigation excavation of FL/005 near North Rothnik identified 32 irregular, oval and circular pit-like features of varying size. These features all had a single fill which was indistinguishable from the topsoil, and were identified as stone extraction holes for the purposes of agricultural land improvement. Seven spreads of peaty sand/silt were also excavated. These features were single context deposits within natural shallow depressions in the geological substrate and it is likely that these deposits were formed by natural processes of vegetation and soil transformation. There were also cultivation furrows present from earlier phases of agriculture in the area.
- 5.2 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the Aberdeenshire Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 5.3 A summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (See Appendix 5) and the investigation will be reported through *OASIS Scotland*.
- 5.4 No further work or reporting is required in relation to site FL/005.

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APPENDIX 1: Context Register

| Context | Fill of | Description |
|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 001 | | Topsoil |
| 002 | | Natural |
| 003 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 004 | 003 | Dark brown humus fill of pit 003 |
| 005 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 006 | 005 | Fill of pit 005 |
| 007 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 008 | 007 | Fill of pit 007 |
| 009 | | Cut of pit |
| 010 | 009 | Fill of pit 009 |
| 011 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 012 | 011 | Fill of pit 011 |
| 013 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 014 | 013 | Fill of pit 013 |
| 015 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 016 | 015 | Fill of pit 015 |
| 017 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 018 | 017 | Fill of pit 017 |
| 019 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 020 | 019 | Fill of pit 019 |
| 021 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 022 | 021 | Fill of pit 021 |
| 023 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 024 | 023 | Fill of pit 023 |
| 025 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 026 | 025 | Fill of pit 025 |
| 027 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 028 | 027 | Fill of pit 027 |
| 029 | | Dark brown peaty spread on natural |
| 030 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 031 | 030 | Fill of 030 |
| 032 | | Cut of large stonehole/pit |
| 033 | 032 | Fill of pit 032 |
| 034 | | Peaty spread/deposit on natural soil |
| 035 | | Peaty spread/deposit on natural soil |
| 036 | | Cut of small pit/stonehole |
| 037 | 036 | Fill of pit 036 |
| 038 | | Peaty spread/deposit on natural soil |
| 039 | | Cut of small pit/stonehole |
| 040 | 039 | Fill of pit 039 |
| 041 | | Cut of small pit/stonehole |
| 042 | 041 | Fill of pit 041 |
| 043 | | Cut of small pit/stonehole |
| 044 | 043 | Fill of pit 044 |
| 045 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 046 | 045 | Fill of pit 045 |
| 047 | | Cut of small pit/stonehole |
| 048 | 047 | Fill of pit 047 |
| 049 | | Cut of small pit/stonehole |
| 050 | 049 | Fill of pit 049 |
| 051 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 052 | 051 | Fill of pit 051 |
| 053 | | Peaty spread/deposit on natural soil |
| 054 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |

| Context | Fill of | Description |
|----------------|----------------|---|
| 055 | 054 | Fill of pit 054 |
| 056 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 057 | 056 | Fill of pit 056 |
| 058 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 059 | 058 | Fill of pit 058 |
| 060 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 061 | 060 | Fill of pit 060 |
| 062 | | Spread of peaty soil on natural/poss. Topsoil |
| 063 | | Spread of peaty soil on natural |
| 064 | | Cut of small pit/stonehole |
| 065 | 064 | Fill of pit 064 |
| 066 | | Small peaty/stone deposit |
| 067 | | Cut of small pit/stonehole |
| 068 | 067 | Fill of pit 067 |
| 069 | | Cut of Rig & Furrow |
| 070 | 069 | Fill of Rig & Furrow 069 |
| 071 | | Cut of Rig & Furrow |
| 072 | 071 | Fill of Rig & Furrow 071 |
| 073 | | Cut of large pit |
| 074 | 073 | Fill of pit 073 |
| 075 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 076 | 075 | Fill of pit 075 |
| 077 | | Cut of pit/stonehole |
| 078 | 077 | Fill of pit 077 |

APPENDIX 2: Digital Photograph Register

Strip & Map

| Photo No. | Contexts/description | Taken From |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| 001 | F002 | E |
| 002 | F003 | E |
| 003 | F004 | E |
| 004 | F005 | E |
| 005 | F006 | E |
| 006 | F007 | NE |
| 007 | F008 | E |
| 008 | F009 | NE |
| 009 | F010 | E |
| 010 | F011 | NE |
| 011 | F012 | NE |
| 012 | F013 – Possible previously half sectioned pit | NW |
| 013 | F014 | SW |
| 014 | F015 | SE |
| 015 | F016 | SE |
| 016 | F017 | E |
| 017 | F018 | E |
| 018 | F019 | SE |
| 019 | F020 | SE |
| 020 | F021 | E |
| 021 | F022 | SE |
| 022 | F023 | SE |
| 023 | F024 | SE |
| 024 | F025 | SE |
| 025 | F026 | E |

| Photo No. | Contexts/description | Taken From |
|------------------|--|-------------------|
| 026 | F027 | SE |
| 027 | F028 | SE |
| 028 | F029 | E |
| 029 | F030 | E |
| 030 | F031 | E |
| 031 | F032 | E |
| 032 | F033 | E |
| 033 | F034 | E |
| 034 | F035 | SE |
| 035 | F036 | E |
| 036 | F037 | W |
| 037 | F038 | E |
| 038 | F039 | E |
| 039 | F040 | E |
| 040 | F041 | SE |
| 041 | F042 | E |
| 042 | N - S Running furrow 043 | S |
| 043 | N - S Running furrow 044 | N |
| 044 | N - S Running furrow 045 | N |
| 045 | N - S Running furrow 046 | N |
| 046 | N - S Running furrow 047 | N |
| 047 | N - S Running furrow 048 | N |
| 048 – 052 | General shots of Plot 005 post-cleaning; N – S | E |

Mitigation Excavations

| Photo No. | Contexts/Description | Taken From |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 001 | NNW-facing section of pit 003 | NNW |
| 002 | NE-facing section of pit 005 | NE |
| 003 | NNE-facing section of pit 007 | NNE |
| 004 | NNE-facing section of pit 009 | NNE |
| 005 | N-facing section of pit 011 | N |
| 006 | W-facing section of pit 013 | W |
| 007 | ENE-facing section of pit 015 | ENE |
| 008 | SE-facing section of pit 017 | SE |
| 009 | E-facing section of pit 019 | E |
| 010 | S-facing section of pit 021 | S |
| 011 | SE-facing section of pit 023 | SE |
| 012 | W-facing section of pit 025 | W |
| 013 | SE-facing section of pit 027 | SE |
| 014 | E-facing section of peaty spread 029 | E |
| 015 | NE-facing section of pit 030 | NE |
| 016 | NE-facing section of pit 032 | NE |
| 017 | N-facing section of peaty spread 034 | N |
| 018 | S-facing section of peaty spread 035 | S |
| 019 | SE-facing section of small pit 036 | SE |
| 020 | SE-facing section of peaty spread 038 | SE |
| 021 | SE-facing section of pit 039 | SE |
| 022 | SE-facing section of pit 041 | SE |
| 023 | N-facing section of pit 043 | N |
| 024 | ESE-facing section of pit 045 | ESE |
| 025 | SE-facing section of pit 047 | SE |
| 026 | SE-facing section of pit 049 | SE |
| 027 | SE-facing section of pit 051 | SE |
| 028 | E-facing section of spread 053 | E |
| 029 | S-facing section pit 054 | S |

| Photo No. | Contexts/Description | Taken From |
|------------------|--|-------------------|
| 030 | N-facing section pit 056 | N |
| 031 | NW-facing section of pit 058 | NW |
| 032 | S-facing section of pit 060 | S |
| 033 | S-facing section of pit 060 | S |
| 034 | W-facing section of pit 062 | W |
| 035 | SE-facing section of peaty spread 063 | SE |
| 036 | E-facing section of pit 064 | E |
| 037 | SE-facing section of peaty spread 066 | SE |
| 038 | NNE-facing section of stonehole 067 | NNE |
| 039 | N-facing section of Rig & Furrow 069 | N |
| 040 | N-facing section of Rig & Furrow 071 | N |
| 041 | SW-facing section of pit 075 | SW |
| 042 | NW-facing section of pit 077 | NW |
| 043 | N-facing section of pit 073 general | N |
| 044 | N-facing section of pit 073 Eastern detail | N |
| 045 | N-facing section of pit 073 Western detail | N |

APPENDIX 3: Field Drawing Register

| Drawing No. | Sheet No. | Description/Contexts | Section/plan | Scale |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 | 1 | NNW-facing section of pit 003 | Section | 1:10 |
| 2 | 1 | Post-ex plan of pit 003 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 3 | 2 | N-facing section of pit 011 | Section | 1:20 |
| 4 | 2 | Post-ex plan of pit 011 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 5 | 1 | Post-ex plan of pit 019 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 6 | 1 | E-facing section of pit 019 | Section | 1:10 |
| 7 | 1 | Post-ex plan of pit 021 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 8 | 1 | S-facing section of pit 021 | Section | 1:10 |
| 9 | 1 | Post-ex plan of pit 023 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 10 | 1 | SE-facing section of pit 023 | Section | 1:10 |
| 11 | 2 | W-facing section of pit 013 | Section | 1:20 |
| 12 | 2 | Post-ex plan of pit 013 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 13 | 2 | ENE-facing section of pit 015 | Section | 1:20 |
| 14 | 2 | Post-ex plan of pit 015 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 15 | 1 | Post-ex plan of pit 005 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 16 | 1 | Section of pit 005 | Section | 1:10 |
| 17 | 1 | Post-ex plan of pit 007 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 18 | 1 | Section of pit 007 | Section | 1:10 |
| 19 | 1 | Post-ex plan of pit 009 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 20 | 1 | Section of pit 009 | Section | 1:10 |
| 21 | 1 | Post-ex plan of pit 017 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 22 | 1 | Section of pit 017 | Section | 1:10 |
| 23 | 2 | W-facing section of pit 025 | Section | 1:20 |
| 24 | 2 | Post-ex plan of pit 025 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 25 | 1 | Post-ex plan of pit 027 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 26 | 1 | SE-facing section of pit 027 | Section | 1:20 |
| 27 | 1 | Post-ex plan of pit 051 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 28 | 1 | SE-facing section of pit 051 | Section | 1:10 |
| 29 | 1 | Plan of spread 038 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 30 | 1 | SE-facing section of spread 038 | Section | 1:10 |
| 31 | 2 | Post-ex plan of pit 030 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 32 | 2 | NNE-facing section of pit 030 | Section | 1:10 |
| 33 | 2 | Post-ex plan of spread 029 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 34 | 2 | Section of spread 029 | Section | 1:20 |

| Drawing No. | Sheet No. | Description/Contexts | Section/plan | Scale |
|--------------------|------------------|--|---------------------|--------------|
| 35 | 2 | Post-ex plan of pit 032 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 36 | 2 | SSE-facing section of pit 032 | Section | 1:10 |
| 37 | 2 | Post-ex plan of spread 035 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 38 | 2 | S-facing section of spread 035 | Section | 1:10 |
| 39 | 2 | Post-ex plan of pit 036 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 40 | 2 | SE-facing section of pit 036 | Section | 1:10 |
| 41 | 3 | Post-ex plan of pit 043 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 42 | 3 | S-facing section of pit 043 | Section | 1:10 |
| 43 | 3 | Post-ex plan of pit 045 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 44 | 3 | SE-facing section of pit 045 | Section | 1:10 |
| 45 | 3 | Post-ex plan of pit 047 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 46 | 3 | SE-facing section of pit 047 | Section | 1:10 |
| 47 | 4 | Post-ex plan of pit 039 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 48 | 4 | SE-facing section of pit 039 | Section | 1:10 |
| 49 | 4 | Post-ex plan of pit 041 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 50 | 4 | SE-facing section of pit 041 | Section | 1:10 |
| 51 | 4 | Post-ex plan of pit 041 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 52 | 4 | S-facing section of pit 049 | Section | 1:20 |
| 53 | 4 | Post-ex plan of spread 034 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 54 | 4 | N-facing section of spread 034 | Section | 1:10 |
| 55 | 4 | Post-ex plan of spread 053 showing bisecting field drain | Plan | 1:20 |
| 56 | 4 | E-facing section of spread 053 showing bisecting field drain | Section | 1:20 |
| 57 | 4 | Post-ex plan of pit/stonehole 067 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 58 | 4 | NNE-facing section of pit/stonehole 067 | Section | 1:20 |
| 59 | 4 | Post-ex plan of small spread 066 | Plan | 1:10 |
| 60 | 4 | S-facing section of small spread 066 | Section | 1:10 |
| 61 | 4 | Post-ex plan of small spread 063 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 62 | 4 | SE-facing section of small spread 063 | Section | 1:10 |
| 63 | 4 | Post-ex plan of stonehole 064 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 64 | 4 | E-facing section of stonehole 064 | Section | 1:10 |
| 65 | 3 | Post-ex plan of pit/stonehole 054 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 66 | 3 | Section of pit/stonehole 054 | Section | 1:10 |
| 67 | 3 | Post-ex plan of pit/stonehole 056 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 68 | 3 | Section of pit/stonehole 056 | Section | 1:10 |
| 69 | 3 | Post-ex plan of pit 058 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 70 | 3 | Section of pit 058 | Section | 1:10 |
| 71 | 3 | Post-ex plan of pit/stone dump 060 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 72 | 3 | Section of pit/stone dump 060 | Section | 1:10 |
| 73 | 3 | Post-ex plan of peaty spread 062 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 74 | 3 | Section of peaty spread 062 | Section | 1:10 |
| 75 | 5 | N-facing section of Rig & Furrow 069 | Section | 1:20 |
| 76 | 5 | N-facing section of Rig & Furrow 071 | Section | 1:20 |
| 77 | 4 | Post-ex plan of pit 075 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 78 | 4 | SW-facing section of pit 075 | Section | 1:10 |
| 79 | 4 | Post-ex plan of pit 077 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 80 | 4 | NW-facing section of pit 077 | Section | 1:10 |
| 81 | 5 | Post-ex plan of pit 073 | Plan | 1:20 |
| 82 | 5 | N-facing section of pit 073 | Section | 1:10 |

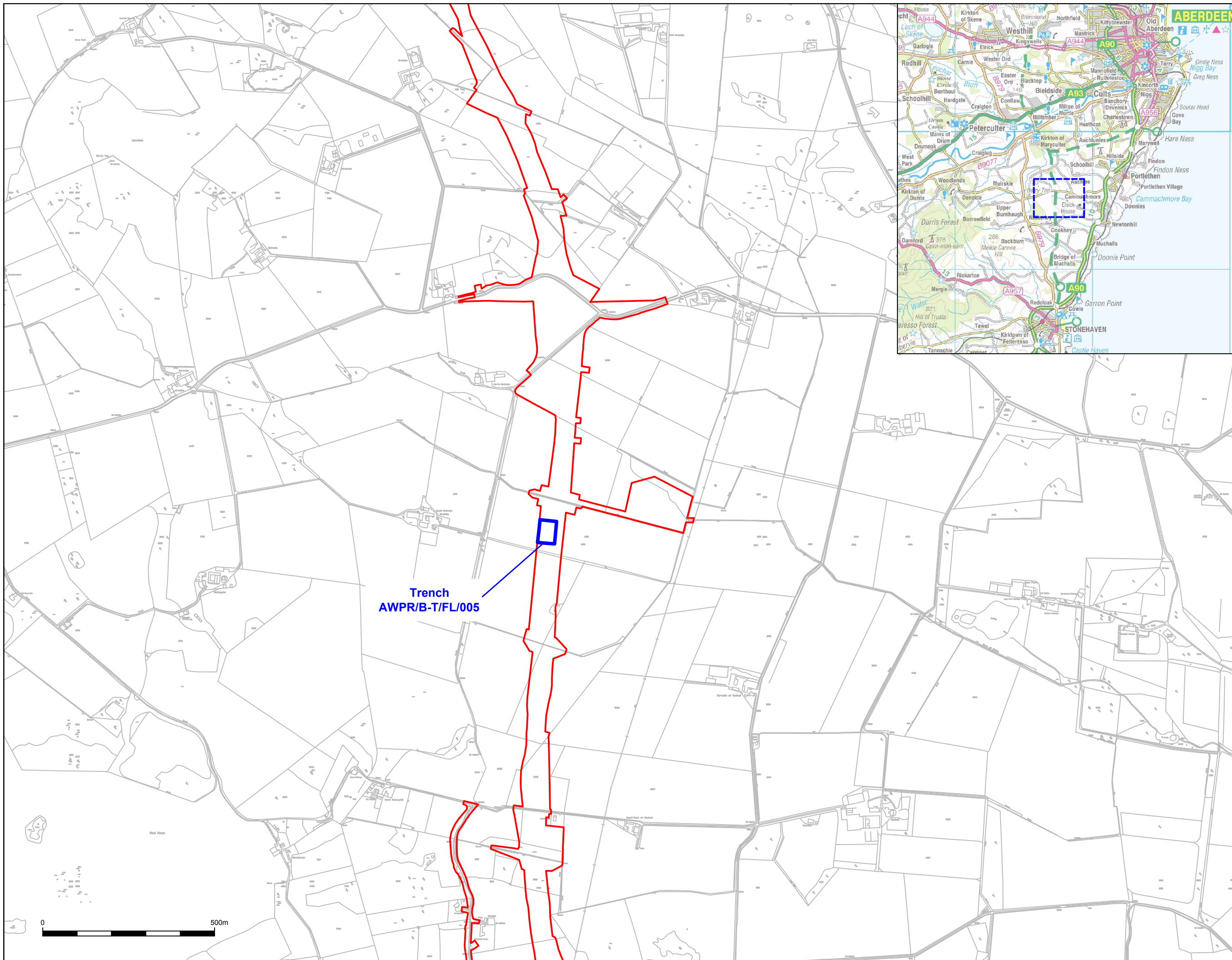
APPENDIX 4: Summary of Excavation Results

| Context | Description | Dimension | Fills/Deposit |
|---------|----------------------------|--|---|
| (003) | Sub-circular pit | 0.4m diameter; 0.22m deep | (004) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (005) | Ovoid pit | 0.3m length, 0.25m width; 0.05m deep | (006) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (007) | Sub-circular pit | 0.25m diameter; 0.09m deep | (008) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (009) | Ovoid pit | 0.60m length, 0.40m width; 0.13m deep | (010) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (011) | Circular pit | 0.35m diameter, 0.15m deep | (012) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (013) | Sub-circular pit | 0.55m diameter; 0.10m deep | (014) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (015) | Sub-circular pit | 0.45m diameter, 0.10m deep | (016) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (017) | Sub-circular pit | 0.29m length, 0.28m width; 0.12m deep | (018) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (019) | Sub-oval pit | 0.38m length, 0.19m width; 0.05m depth | (020) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (021) | Sub-oval pit | 0.50m length, 0.40m width; 0.12m depth | (022) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (023) | Sub-oval pit | 0.50m length, 0.40m width; 0.12m deep | (024) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (025) | Ovoid pit | 0.60m length, 0.45m width; 0.16m deep | (026) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (027) | Ovoid pit | 0.40m length, 0.22m width; 0.05m deep | (028) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (029) | Peaty deposit | 1.00m length, 0.45m width; 0.10m deep | - |
| (030) | Circular pit | 0.20m diameter; 0.40m deep | (031) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (032) | Sub-circular pit | 0.90m diameter; 0.40m deep | (033) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (034) | Peaty deposit | 0.40m length, 0.30m width; 0.03m deep | - |
| (035) | Peaty deposit | 0.95m diameter; 0.05m depth | - |
| (036) | Sub-circular pit | 0.25m diameter; 0.05m deep | (037) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (038) | Peaty deposit | 0.90m length, 0.80m width; 0.09m deep | - |
| (039) | Ovoid pit | 0.35m length, 0.17m width; 0.07m deep | (040) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (041) | Sub-circular pit | 0.25m diameter; 0.05m deep | (042) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (043) | Sub-circular pit | 0.40m diameter; 0.07m deep | (044) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (045) | Sub-circular pit | 0.20m diameter; 0.08m deep | (046) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (047) | Sub-circular pit | 0.25m diameter; 0.08m deep | (048) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (049) | Sub-circular pit | 0.15m diameter; 0.05m deep | (050) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (051) | Sub-circular pit | 0.55m diameter, 0.03m deep | (052) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (053) | Peaty deposit | 3.80m length, 2.00m width; 0.07m deep | - |
| (054) | Sub-circular pit | 0.30m length, 0.25m width; 0.07m deep | (055) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (056) | Sub-circular pit | 0.20m diameter; 0.05m deep | (057) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (058) | Ovoid pit | 0.40m length, 0.30m width; 0.10m deep | (059) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (060) | Irregular shaped large pit | 4.30m diameter, 1.50m width; 0.40m deep | (061) - dark brown/black sandy silt and large shattered bedrock fragments |
| (062) | Peaty deposit | 3.00m length, 1.40m width; 0.35m deep | - |
| (063) | Peaty deposit | 0.15m diameter; 0.05m deep | - |
| (064) | Sub-circular pit | 0.20m diameter; 0.06m deep | (065) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (066) | Peaty deposit | 0.15m diameter; 0.05m deep | - |
| (067) | Sub-circular pit | 0.80m diameter; 0.20m deep | (068) - dark brown/black sandy silt |

| Context | Description | Dimension | Fills/Deposit |
|----------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| (069) | Cultivation furrow | 35+m length, 1.70m width; 0.15m deep | (070) - firm mid brown silty sand |
| (071) | Cultivation furrow | 35+m length, 1.80m width; 0.20m deep | (071) – firm mid brown silty sand |
| (073) | Irregular shaped large pit | 4.00m length, 3.20m width; 0.53m deep | (074) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (075) | Sub-circular pit | 0.45m diameter; 0.08m deep | (076) - dark brown/black sandy silt |
| (077) | Ovoid pit | 0.70m length, 0.50m width; 0.15m deep | (078) - dark brown/black sandy silt |

APPENDIX 5: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

| | |
|--|--|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | Aberdeenshire |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie-Tipperty, Lot 4 – Fastlink, Invasive Archaeological Investigations |
| PROJECT CODE: | FAST |
| PARISH: | Fetteresso |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Ewan MacNeilage |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | CFA Archaeology Ltd |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Strip and map, and mitigation excavation |
| NMRS NO(S): | N/A |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | N/A |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | N/A |
| NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures) | NO 8734 9507 |
| START DATE (this season) | May 2014 |
| END DATE (this season) | May 2014 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | N/A |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: | The mitigation excavation of site FL/005 near North Rothnik identified 32 irregular, oval and circular pits of varying size. These pits all had a single fill of similar material to the topsoil, and were identified as stone extraction holes for the purposes of agricultural land improvement. Seven spreads of peaty sand/silt were also excavated. These features were single context deposits all localised within natural shallow depressions in the natural geological substrate and it is likely that these deposits were formed by natural processes of vegetation and soil transformation. There were also cultivation furrows present from earlier phases of agriculture in the area. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | N/A |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | N/A |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Aberdeen City Council |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited) | Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland Aberdeenshire Council Sites & Monuments Record |



- Key:
- LMA
 - Trench



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 The Old Engine House
 Eskmills Park
 Musselburgh
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
 t: 0131 273 4380
 f: 0131 273 4381
 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Fig. No: 1 Revision: A

Title:
**Location of Trench
 AWPR/B -T/FL/005**

Project:
**Aberdeen Western Peripheral
 Route/Balmedie-Tipperty
 Lot 4/ AWPR/B-T/FL/005
 - Mitigation Excavation**

Client:
Aberdeen City Council

Scale at A3:
1:10,000

Drawn by: TB Checked: GS Report No: 3190





387354.67
795060.66

387402.48
795055.99

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069

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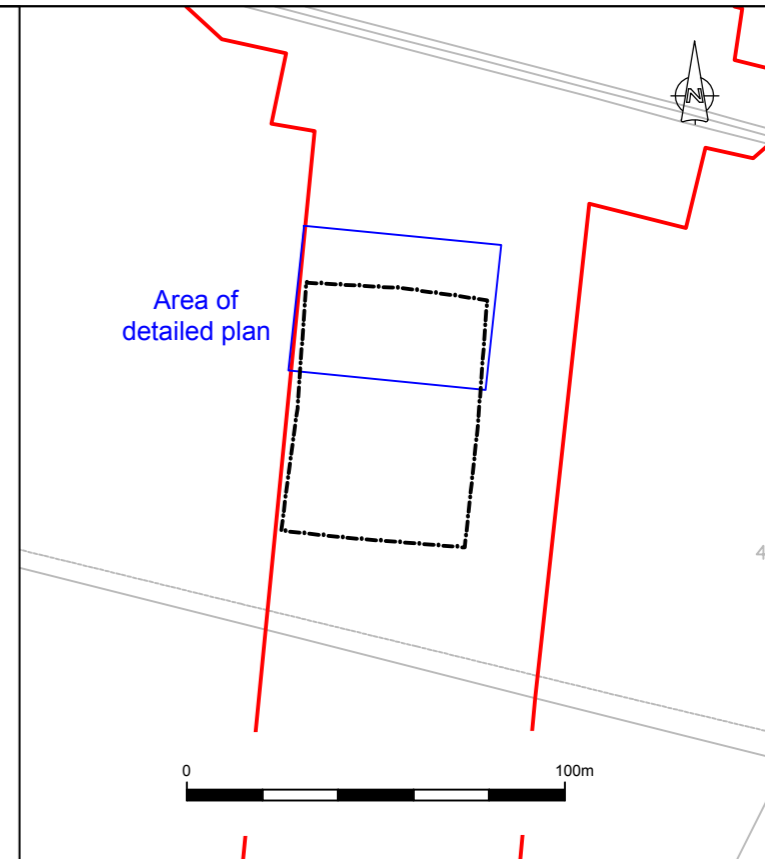
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- Key:
- LMA
 - Excavation Area
 - Evaluation Trench
 - Furrows (Rig and Furrow)
 - Field Drains
 - Features
 - Features from Evaluation

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| | |
|------------|-------------|
| Fig. No: 2 | Revision: A |
|------------|-------------|

Title:
**Plan of Trench
 AWPR/B -T/FL/005,
 1 of 3**

Project:
 Aberdeen Western Peripheral
 Route/Balmedie-Tipperty
 Lot 4/ AWPR/B-T/FL/005
 - Mitigation Excavation

Client:
Aberdeen City Council

Scale at A2:
1:2000, 1:100

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- Key:
- LMA
 - Excavation Area
 - Evaluation Trench
 - Furrows (Rig and Furrow)
 - Field Drains
 - Features
 - Features from Evaluation
 - Unexcavated Features

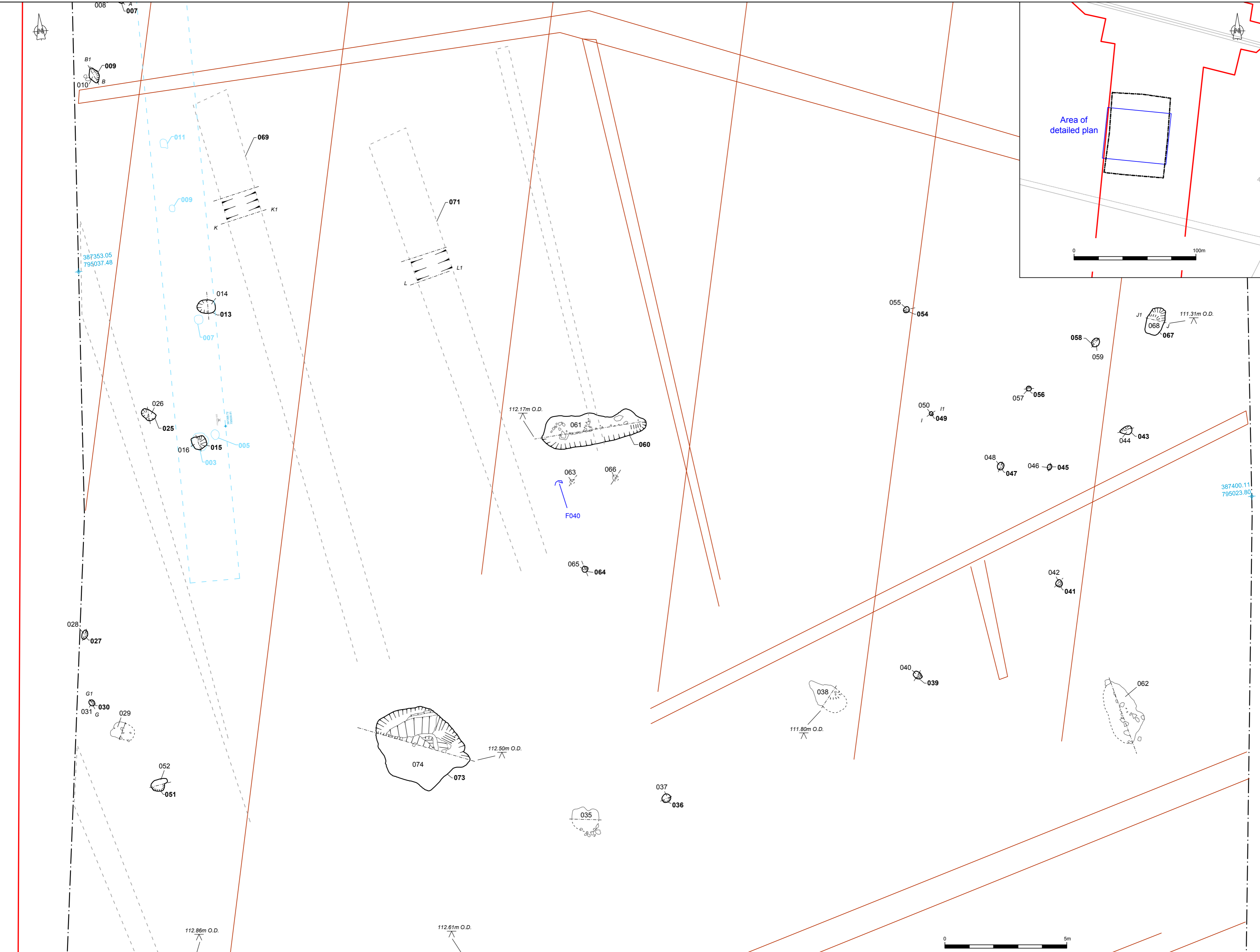
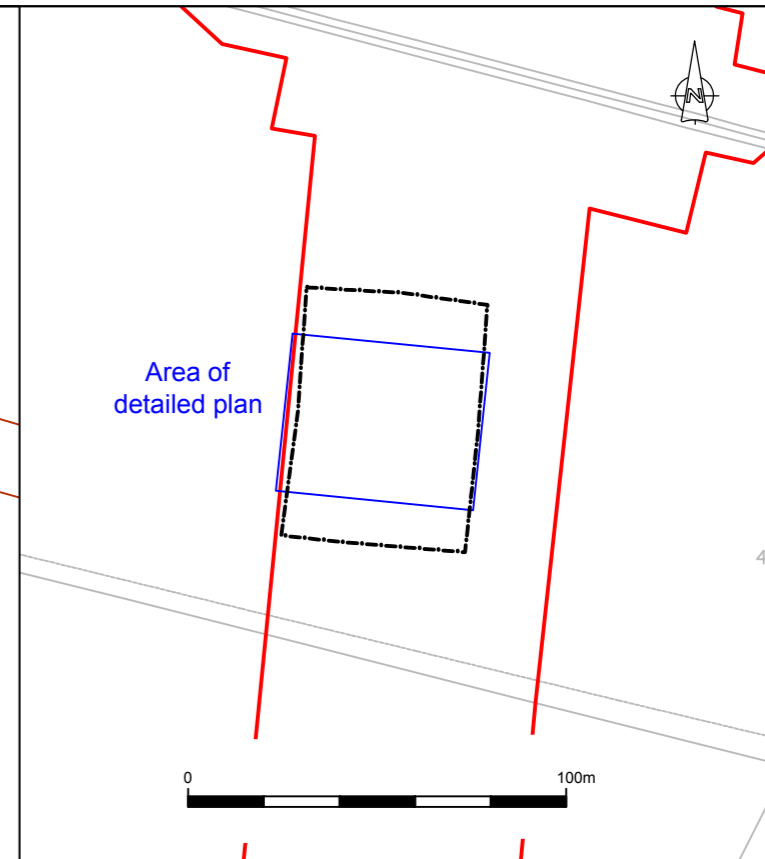


Fig. No: 3 Revision: A

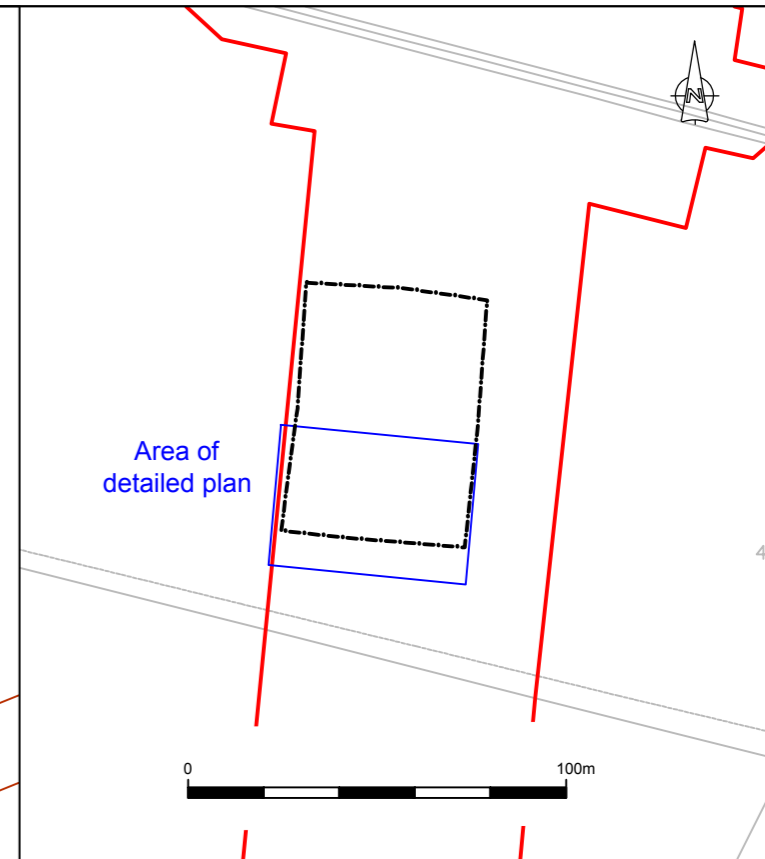
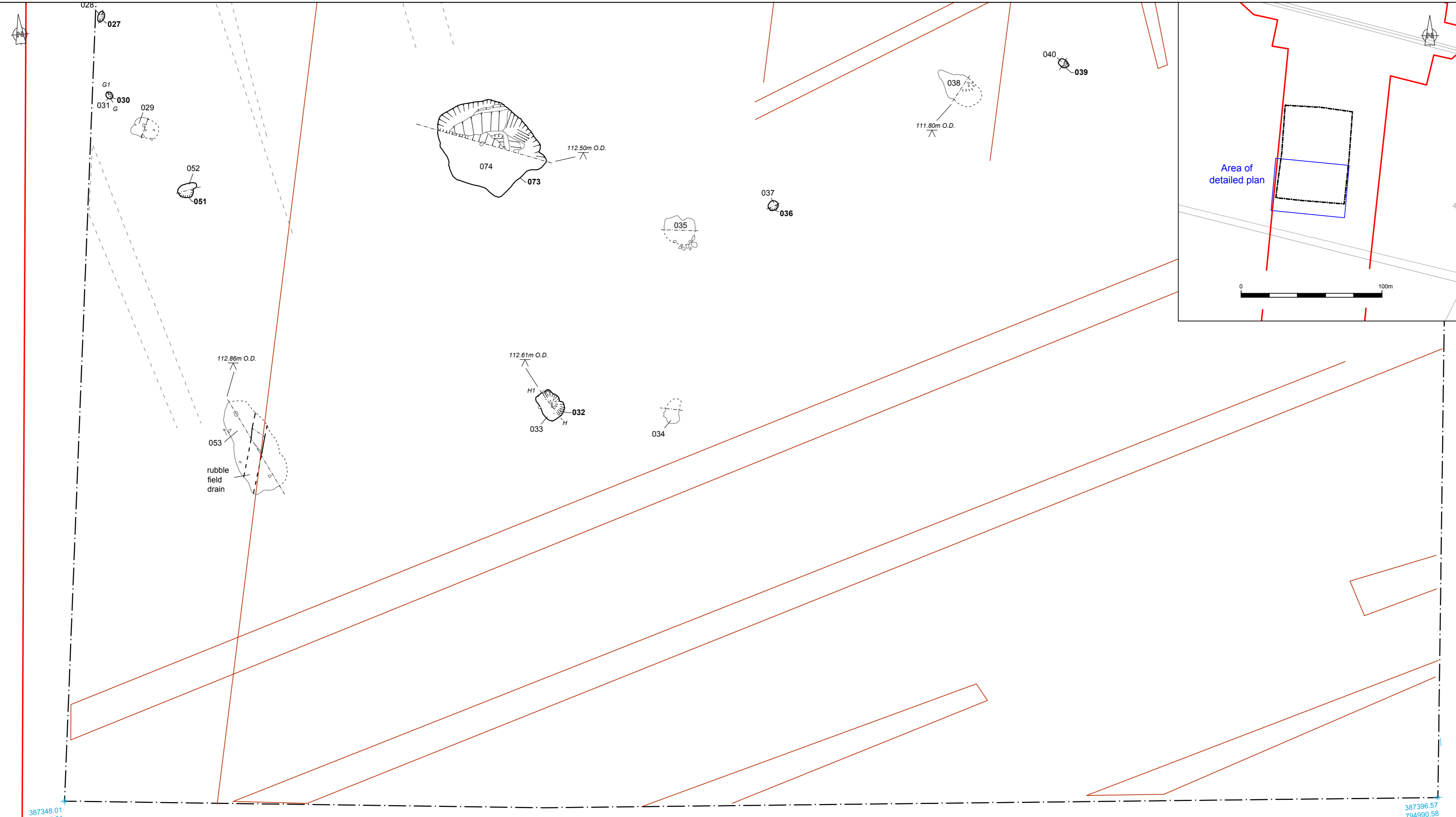
Title:
Plan of Trench
AWPR/B -T/FL/005,
2 of 3

Project:
Aberdeen Western Peripheral
Route/Balmedie-Tipperty
Lot 4/ AWPR/B-T/FL/005
- Mitigation Excavation

Client:
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Scale at A2:
1:2000, 1:100

Drawn by: TB Checked: GS Report No: 3190



- Key:
- LMA
 - Excavation Area
 - Furrows (Rig and Furrow)
 - Field Drains
 - Features

387348.01 794995.01 387396.57 794990.58

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 The Old Engine House
 Eskmills Park
 Musselburgh
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
 t: 0131 273 4380
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| Fig. No: 4 | Revision: A |
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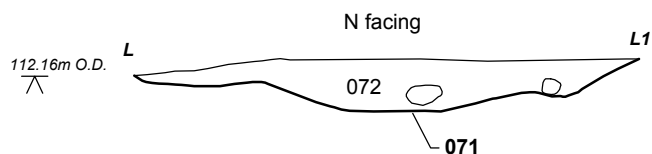
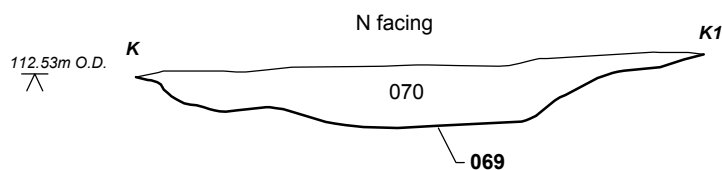
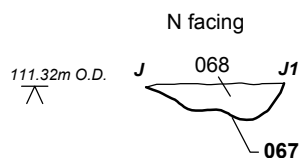
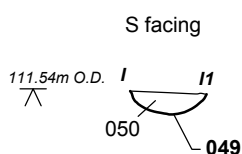
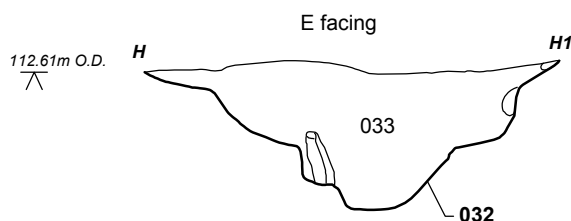
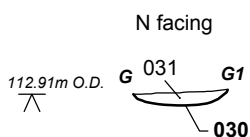
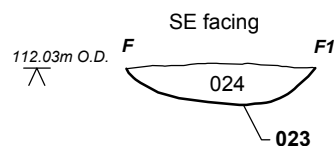
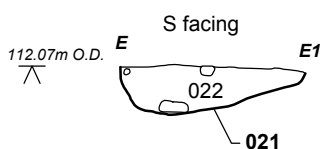
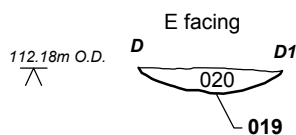
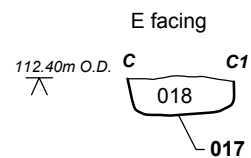
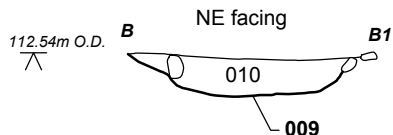
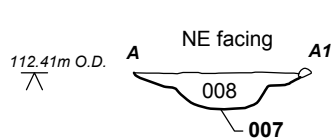
Title:
**Plan of Trench
 AWPR/B -T/FL/005,
 3 of 3**

Project:
 Aberdeen Western Peripheral
 Route/Balmedie-Tipperty
 Lot 4/ AWPR/B-T/FL/005
 - Mitigation Excavation

Client:
Aberdeen City Council

Scale at A2:
1:2000, 1:100

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| Title: | Fig No: | Report: | Drawn by: | CKD: | Revision: |
| Sample sections of features and furrows, Trench AWPR/B -T/FL/005 | 5 | 3190 | TB | GS | A |
| Project: | Client: | | | | |
| Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route/Balmedie-Tipperty Lot 4/ AWPR/B-T/FL/005 - Mitigation Excavation | Aberdeen City Council | | | | |
| | Scale: | | | | |
| | 1:20 | | | | |



Fig. 6 - Photograph of pit / stone-hole 005 after excavation



Fig. 7 - Photograph of pit / stone-hole 015 after excavation



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 Old Engine House
 Eskmills Park
 Musselburgh
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
 T: 0131 273 4380
 F: 0131 273 4381
 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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 Lot 4/ AWP/B-T/FL/005 - Mitigation Excavation**

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| Fig. 6-7 | Report: 3190 | Drawn: TB | CKD: GS | Date: 05/01/15 |
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Fig. 8 - Photograph of peaty deposit 034 after excavation



Fig. 9 - Photograph of large irregular pit 073 after excavation showing exposed bedrock



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 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
 T: 0131 273 4380
 F: 0131 273 4381
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Fig. 10 - Photograph of section excavated through cultivation furrow



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 Musselburgh
 East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
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 F: 0131 273 4381
 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
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| Fig. 10 | Report: 3190 | Drawn: TB | CKD: GS | Date: 05/01/15 |
| Client: Aberdeen City Council | | | | |
| Scale: | | | | |

