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Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

North End, Burgh-by-Sands, Cumbria

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3279

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North End, Burgh-by-Sands, Cumbria

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3279

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in March 2015 on the site of a proposed residential development at North End, Burgh-by-Sands, Cumbria (NGR: NY 32715 59221, centred) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Jamie Robinson.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 09 February 2015 covering this programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Jamie Robinson. The WSI was based upon consultation with Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET).

1.2 Background

The village of Burgh-by-Sands straddles the line of Hadrian's wall (SAM 26116) and Vallum (SAM 5782). The site of the Roman Fort of *Aballava* (Burgh II) lies at the eastern end of the village (Burgh Head) and two further forts (Burgh I and III) have been identified from aerial photographs in close proximity to the village

The development site at North End lies c.80m to the west of *Aballava* Roman Fort and is c.50m to the north of Hadrian's Wall. It lies within a landscape of high significance, within a designated conservation area and also within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.

Cumbria Historic Environment Record does not hold any records of sites within the proposed development area but a number of important sites of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date lie in the immediate vicinity.

CFA conducted a desk-based assessment and evaluation of the development site in 2009, which was produced under separate cover (Suddaby 2009).

1.3 Objectives

The objectives were:

- to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area which are liable to be threatened by the development.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods.

2.2 Watching Brief

Topsoil was removed by a tracked 360° mechanical excavator, equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

The development area totalled approximately 340m² (Fig. 2). Trench position and feature locations were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified. Sample excavation took place of all of the features, in the order of 50% of discrete features and 10% of linear features.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2.

The deposits throughout the proposed development area consisted of between 0.3m and 0.8m of dark brown silty topsoil (**016**) overlying mid-brown silty clay (**017**), which ranged in depth between 0.2m and 0.5m. The natural geology consisted of orange-pink sandy clay with numerous sub-rounded stone inclusions

An area of modern disturbance was recorded in the north-east of the development footprint; this consisted of a large shallow pit filled with broken flower pots and is likely a shallow pit dug to bury modern rubbish.

A plastic sump pipe was recorded in the eastern corner of the trench and this was left in situ above the archaeological feature beneath as it appeared to be active.

An area of modern disturbance was also recorded at the southernmost edge of the development footprint. This consisted of an area of mixed sandy silt containing fragments of modern ceramics and sandstone rubble (**012**). A fragment of wall (**020**) was recorded, one course high, along with parts of two drains. This material probably derives from the demolition of a lean to shed and garage which were present on the site during the 2009 evaluation and since demolished (Suddaby 2009).

3.2 Archaeological Features

Feature 001 (Fig. 1)

Pit **001** was an oval pit, aligned approximately north to south, which had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 1.2m by 0.8m, surviving to a depth of 0.15m. The pit contained a single fill of dark brown/grey silty sand with small rounded stone inclusions (**010**). It was sealed by approximately 0.75m of topsoil and subsoil.

Feature 002 (Fig. 1 & 3)

Feature **002** was linear in form. However, only 4.2m of the feature was exposed within the building footprint and it was not possible to ascertain its complete dimensions. The feature was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 4.2m in length, approximately 1m in width, and survived to a depth of 0.25m (maximum). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The feature contained a grey/mid-brown sandy silt primary fill with small, sub-rounded stone inclusions (**011**) and a mixed orange/brown sandy clay secondary fill (**047**). The feature was sealed below approximately 0.75-0.85m of topsoil (**016**) and subsoil (**017**). The feature had been cut by the large pit **003**.

Feature 003 (Figs. 1 & 4)

A sub-rectangular pit (**003**) was aligned north-east to south-west and had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It measured approximately 4.5m by 2.2m and survived to a depth of 0.9m. The orange/brown clayey sand fills (**045 & 046**) formed a thin lens along the base of the pit along with dark brown silty sand (**044**). These were overlain by dark brown sandy silt fills (**033 & 043**) and a pinkish-orange re-deposited sandy clay (**041**). The upper two fills consisted of brownish pink re-deposited subsoil (**039**) overlying brown sandy silt (**040**). The pit had been cut through the subsoil (**017**) at a depth of 0.25m-0.3m from the surface. This feature had also cut **002**.

This pit is equivalent to feature 009 from the evaluation, which was thought to be a linear ditch.

Feature 004 (Figs. 1, 5 & 6)

Feature **004** was a sub-rectangular pit was aligned north-west to south-east with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The pit measured 5m by 1m and survived to a depth of approximately 0.4m. The base of the pit sloped down slightly from south-east to north-west. The pit contained an orangey brown fine sandy clay basal fill (**030**) overlain by a mid-brown sandy clay (**012**).

Feature 005 (Figs. 1 & 7)

An L-shaped pit was recorded, which had the longest part aligned north-west to south-east (**005**). Very little of the southern part of the pit remained as it had been truncated by modern disturbance. However, enough of the northern part remained to provide the dimensions. The pit measured 3.4m north-east to south-west and 2.8m north-west to

south-east. It had near-vertical sides on the north and a flat base. The fills consisted of mid-brown clayey sand (**024**) underlying a thin layer of mixed orange/brown sandy clay re-deposited subsoil (**023**) and a mid-dark brown sandy clay upper fill (**013**).

Feature 006 (Figs. 1 & 8)

A sub-oval pit (**006**) was aligned north-east to south-west. It had a steeply sloping north-western edge and a vertical south-eastern edge and a slightly south-east sloping base. The pit measured 1.8m by 1.2m and survived to a depth of 0.35m. The pit contained a single, mid-grey/brown, soft sandy clay (**026**). There was mixed orange/brown re-deposited subsoil overlying the feature.

This pit is equivalent to feature 007 recorded during the evaluation.

Feature 007

Feature **007** after excavation turned out to be a very thin deposit of subsoil which may have been the remnants of the evaluation trench backfill.

Feature 008 (Figs. 1 & 9)

Feature **008** was an L-shaped ditch aligned north-east to south-west for 5m and turning north-north-west to south-south-east for 8m. Nearly all of the north-east to south-west part of the ditch had been truncated by an area of modern disturbance. The ditch measured 1.5m in width and survived to a depth 0.9m. The ditch had been cut into the natural (**018**) and was under approximately 0.2m of topsoil. It contained a mid-brown/grey sandy clay basal fill (**027**), a thin layer of mixed orange/brown re-deposited sandy clay (**028**), and a mid-brown/grey silty sand secondary fill (**014**).

A second section was excavated on the north-north-east to south-south-west section of the ditch but waterlogging prevented reaching any great depth. However, the basal fill on this section consisted of mid/dark brown silty sand with a high concentration of medium, angular and sub-angular stone inclusions (**042**).

This feature is equivalent to feature 005 recorded during the evaluation, with the curved northern part of feature 005 being the corner of ditch **008**.

Feature 009 (Figs. 1 & 10)

A sub-rectangular pit (**009**), which was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, measured 5.55m by 4m and survived to a depth of 0.25m. The pit continued to the south beyond the limit of excavation. The pit had been cut into the natural. The pit contained 0.05-0.1m of a black/grey mottled sandy clay basal fill (**029**) overlain by c.0.25m of a dark grey/brown sticky, sandy clay secondary fill (**015**).

Feature 050 (Figs. 1 & 4)

Feature **050** was a small pit which was orientated north-west to south-east. The limits of the pit were difficult to define as the two fills were practically indistinguishable but were clearer in the section. The pit measured 0.7m in width and approximately 2.5m

long, and survived to a depth of 0.3m. It contained a mid brown sandy clay fill (049). The pit was cut by pit 002 and sealed by 017.

3.2 Finds by Christina Hills

One clay pipe was recovered on site from the fill (014) of linear feature 008. The pipe is in relatively good condition with the bowl and a length of stem surviving; the bowl has decoration around the rim and the stem has a stamp just visible.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land on the site of a residential development at North End, Burgh-by-Sands. The previous desk-based assessment (Suddaby 2009) indicated that the site lies to the north of Hadrian's Wall and to the west of Aballava Roman Fort.

A number of features were excavated and recorded. Eight pits of varying sizes and an L-shaped ditch were identified during the watching brief. These were sample excavated but the lack of finds means it is impossible to be definite about their date or function. However, the possibility remains that these features are Roman in date. None of the features appeared to be robust enough to be associated with a military function and are far more likely to be associated with agricultural activity.

The results of the watching brief place these remains to the front of Hadrian's Wall. However, there is evidence to the east of the fort (*Aballava*) that the line was moved northwards (Breeze 2006). No evidence survives to suggest this is the case to the west of the fort. Indeed evidence to the west of the proposed development site indicates that the later Wall was built directly over the earlier Wall (Austen 1994). It is therefore unlikely that this area ever lay behind the Wall.

The close spacing of the pit and ditch features is similar to those recorded at Lamonby Farm (Suddaby & Glendinning 2007), which were all on a similar but slightly divergent alignment to the proposed alignment of the Wall, although many more finds were recovered at Lamonby Farm.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with Tullie House, Cumbria.

5. REFERENCES

Austen, P J 1994 *Recent Excavations on Hadrian's Wall, Burgh-by-Sands*. TCWAAS Vol 94

Breeze, D. J. 2006, *Handbook to the Roman Wall, 14th Edition*. Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Suddaby, I & Glendinning, B. 2007, *Buckbottom Farm, Burgh-by-Sands, Carlisle, Cumbria, Archaeological Evaluation*, CFA Archaeology Report No. 1233.

Suddaby, I. 2009, *North End, Burgh-by-Sands, Cumbria. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment & Evaluation*. CFA Archaeology Report No. 1707.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

| Shot No. | Summary description of subject | Taken from | Conditions |
|----------|--|------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Site pre-ex | N | Overcast |
| 2 | Site pre-ex | S | Overcast |
| 3 | Pit 001 | N | Overcast |
| 4 | Linear 002 | S | Overcast |
| 5 | Feature 003 | S | Overcast |
| 6 | Linear 004 | S | Overcast |
| 7 | Kidney shaped feature 005 | W | Overcast |
| 8 | Pit 006 showing eval trench | W | Overcast |
| 9 | Pit 007 - upon investigation found to be not real | S | Overcast |
| 10 | Linear 008 | S | Overcast |
| 11 | Rectangular feature 009 with sump disturbance | S | Overcast |
| 12 | S-facing section of 001 | S | Overcast |
| 13 | S-facing section of 002 | S | Overcast |
| 14 | S-facing section of 004 | S | Overcast |
| 15 | S-facing section of 005 | S | Overcast |
| 16 | W-facing section of 008 | W | Overcast |
| 17 | N+E-facing sections through 009 | NE | Overcast |
| 18 | 019, 020, and 021 from the west | W | Strong sunlight |
| 19 | S-facing section through 004 | S | Strong sunlight |
| 20 | 019-021 from the west | W | Strong sunlight |
| 21 | 019-021 from the south | S | Bright |
| 22 | 019-021 from the west | W | Bright |
| 23 | 019 to 021 detail shot | W | Overcast |
| 24 | Wall 022 in limit of excavation (LOE) section | N | Overcast |
| 25-27 | Waterlogged conditions upon arrival for excavation 17/3/15 | Various | Overcast |
| 28-30 | Working shots during site cleaning 17/3/15 | Various | Overcast |
| 31-32 | NE-facing section of pit 005 | NE | Bright |
| 33 | General shot of pit 005 post-section | NE | Bright |
| 34 | NNE-facing section of pit 006 | NNE | Bright |
| 35 | General shot of pit 006 post-section | NNE | Bright |
| 36 | NE-facing section of pit 005 (truncated) | NE | Bright |
| 37 | NE-facing shot of pit 005 showing truncation | NE | Bright |
| 38 | SW-facing section of pit 005 truncated | SW | Bright |
| 39 | SW-facing shot of pit 005 showing truncation | SW | Bright |
| 40 | NNW-facing section of pit 005 truncated | NNW | Bright |
| 41 | NNW-facing section of pit 005 general shot showing truncation | NNW | Bright |
| 42 | General shot of pit 005 showing modern truncation | W | Bright |
| 43 | SSW-facing section of pit 005 showing modern truncation | SSW | Bright |
| 44-45 | W-facing section/soil profile of ditch 008 | E | Bright |
| 46 | E-facing (truncated) section of ditch 008 | W | Bright |
| 47-48 | General shots of ditch 008 showing truncation | W | Bright |
| 49 | NE-facing section of NE quadrant of rectangular feature 009 | NE | Bright |
| 50 | NW-facing section of NW quadrant of rectangular feature 009 | NW | Bright |
| 51 | Close-up shot of meeting point between NE+NW sections of NE quadrant of rectangular feature of 009 | NE | Bright |
| 52 | SE-facing section of SW quadrant of rectangular feature 009 | SE | Bright |

| Shot No. | Summary description of subject | Taken from | Conditions |
|----------|--|------------|------------|
| 53 | SW-facing section of SW-quadrant of rectangular feature 009 | SW | Bright |
| 54 | NW-facing section/soil profile of SW quadrant of rectangular feature 009 | NW | Bright |
| 55 | General shot of pit 005 half excavated | N | Bright |
| 56 | General shot of pit 005 half excavated | S | Bright |
| 57 | SW-facing longitudinal section at S-terminus of ditch 004 | SW | Overcast |
| 58 | SE-facing section at S-terminus of ditch 004 | SE | Overcast |
| 59 | General shot of 1/2 sectioned terminus at S end of ditch 004 | SE | Overcast |
| 60 | SE-facing section of ditch 004 | SE | Overcast |
| 61 | NE-facing longitudinal section of ditch 004 at N terminus | N | Overcast |
| 62 | NE-facing section of linear 002 | NE | Overcast |
| 63-64 | Linear feature 004 general post-ex | SE | Overcast |
| 65 | N-facing section of 008 | N | Overcast |
| 66-67 | NW-facing section of pit 001 | NW | Overcast |
| 68 | SW-facing section of pit 003 | SW | Overcast |
| 69-74 | South-south-east facing section of pits 002, 003, 050 W->E | SSE | Overcast |

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

| Context no. | Fill of | Description |
|-------------|---------|---|
| 001 | | Cut for pit |
| 002 | | Cut for pit/linear |
| 003 | | Cut for pit/linear |
| 004 | | Cut for linear feature |
| 005 | | Cut for kidney shaped feature |
| 006 | | Cut for pit |
| 007 | | VOID |
| 008 | | Cut for linear feature |
| 009 | | Cut for large rectangular feature |
| 010 | 001 | Dark brown/grey silty sand fill of 001 |
| 011 | 002 | Brown grey silty sand upper fill of 002 |
| 012 | 004 | Mid brown sandy clay fill of 004 |
| 013 | 005 | Fill of 005 |
| 014 | 008 | Mid brown/grey silty sand fill of 008 |
| 015 | 009 | Dark grey/brown sticky sandy clay upper fill of 009 |
| 016 | | Topsoil |
| 017 | | Subsoil |
| 018 | | Natural |
| 019 | | Disturbed area on south side of site |
| 020 | | Stone blocks with mortar |
| 021 | | Stone floor tiles |
| 022 | | Brick wall, 5 courses high seen in trench section |
| 023 | 005 | Thin lens of re-deposited/slumped subsoil |
| 024 | 005 | Basal fill of kidney shaped pit - mid brown clay/sand |
| 025 | 005 | Slumped natural - basal fill of pit 005 |
| 026 | 006 | Mid grey soft clay/gravel with clumps of re-deposited natural |
| 027 | 008 | Mid-brown/grey silty/sandy clay basal fill |
| 028 | 008 | Lens of re-deposited natural red-brown clay |
| 029 | 009 | Black/grey mottled smooth sandy clay basal fill of pit 009 |
| 030 | 004 | Orangey brown fine sandy clay basal fill of ditch 004 |

| Context no. | Fill of | Description |
|-------------|---------|--|
| 031 | 002 | Red-brown re-deposited clay basal fill of 002 |
| 032 | 001 | Brown -red sandy basal fill of 001 - possibly re-deposited natural or silting up |
| 033 | 003 | Grey/brown silty sand main fill of 003 |
| 034 | 003 | Grey silty sand with dark grey lenses - basal fill |
| 035 | 003 | Re-deposited natural overlying pit 003 |
| 036 | 003 | Backfill from evaluation trench in pit 003 |
| 037 | | VOID |
| 038 | | Black/dark grey ashy gravel levelling material |
| 039 | 003 | Mixed pinkish/orange/brown sandy clay |
| 040 | 003 | Brown sandy silt |
| 041 | 003 | Pinkish orange sandy clay |
| 042 | 008 | Brown sandy clay with high volume of angular stone inclusions. |
| 043 | 003 | Grey/brown silty sand |
| 044 | 003 | Black/dark brown sandy silt re-deposited topsoil |
| 045 | 003 | Same as (034) grey/black silty sand |
| 046 | 003 | Grey/black silty sand |
| 047 | 002 | Mixed orange/brown sandy clay |
| 048 | 050 | Pocket of orange/brown sandy clay |
| 049 | 050 | Mid-brown sandy clay |
| 050 | | Cut for small pit |
| 051 | | Dark brown sandy silt |

APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

| Dwg No. | Sheet No. | Scale | Plan / Section | Description/contexts |
|---------|-----------|-------|----------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | 1:10 | Section | S-facing section through 001 |
| 2 | 1 | 1:10 | Section | S-facing section through 002 |
| 3 | 1 | 1:10 | Section | S-facing section through 004 |
| 4 | 1 | 1:10 | Section | S-facing section through 005 |
| 5 | 1 | 1:10 | Section | W-facing section through 008 |
| 6 | 1 | 1:10 | Section | N-facing section through 009 |
| 7 | 1 | 1:10 | Section | E-facing section through 009 |
| 8 | 2 | 1:100 | Plan | Site plan |
| 9 | 3 | 1:10 | Section | NE-facing section of pit 005 |
| 10 | 4 | 1:10 | Section | NNE-facing section of pit 006 |
| 11 | 3 | 1:10 | Section | NNW-facing section of pit 005 showing modern truncation of pit |
| 12 | 3 | 1:20 | Section | Plan of pit 005 showing modern truncation area |
| 13 | 3 | 1:20 | Section | W-facing section/soil profile on ditch 008 |
| 14 | 4 | 1:10 | Section | NE-facing section of rectangular pit 009 - quadrant 1 |
| 15 | 4 | 1:10 | Section | SE-facing section of rectangular pit 009 - quadrant 2 |
| 16 | 3 | 1:10 | Section | SW-facing section of ditch 004 at S-terminus |
| 17 | 3 | 1:10 | Section | SE-facing section of ditch 004 |
| 18 | 4 | 1:10 | Section | NE-facing section of ditch 004 at northern terminus |
| 19 | 4 | 1:10 | Section | NE-facing longitudinal section of ditch 002 at terminus |
| 20 | 4 | 1:10 | Section | NW-facing section of small pit 001 |
| 21 | 6 | 1:10 | Section | SW-facing section of pit 003 |
| 22 | 5 | 1:20 | Section | S-facing section/soil profile of ditches 002 and 003 in LOE |

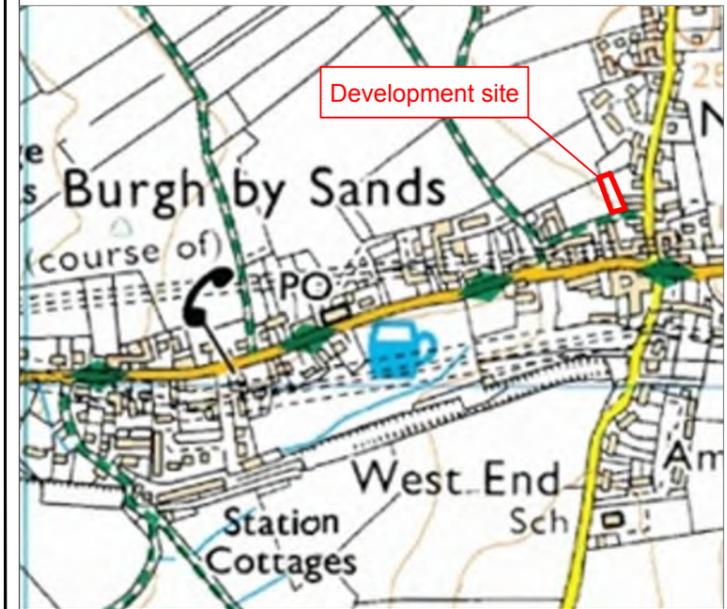
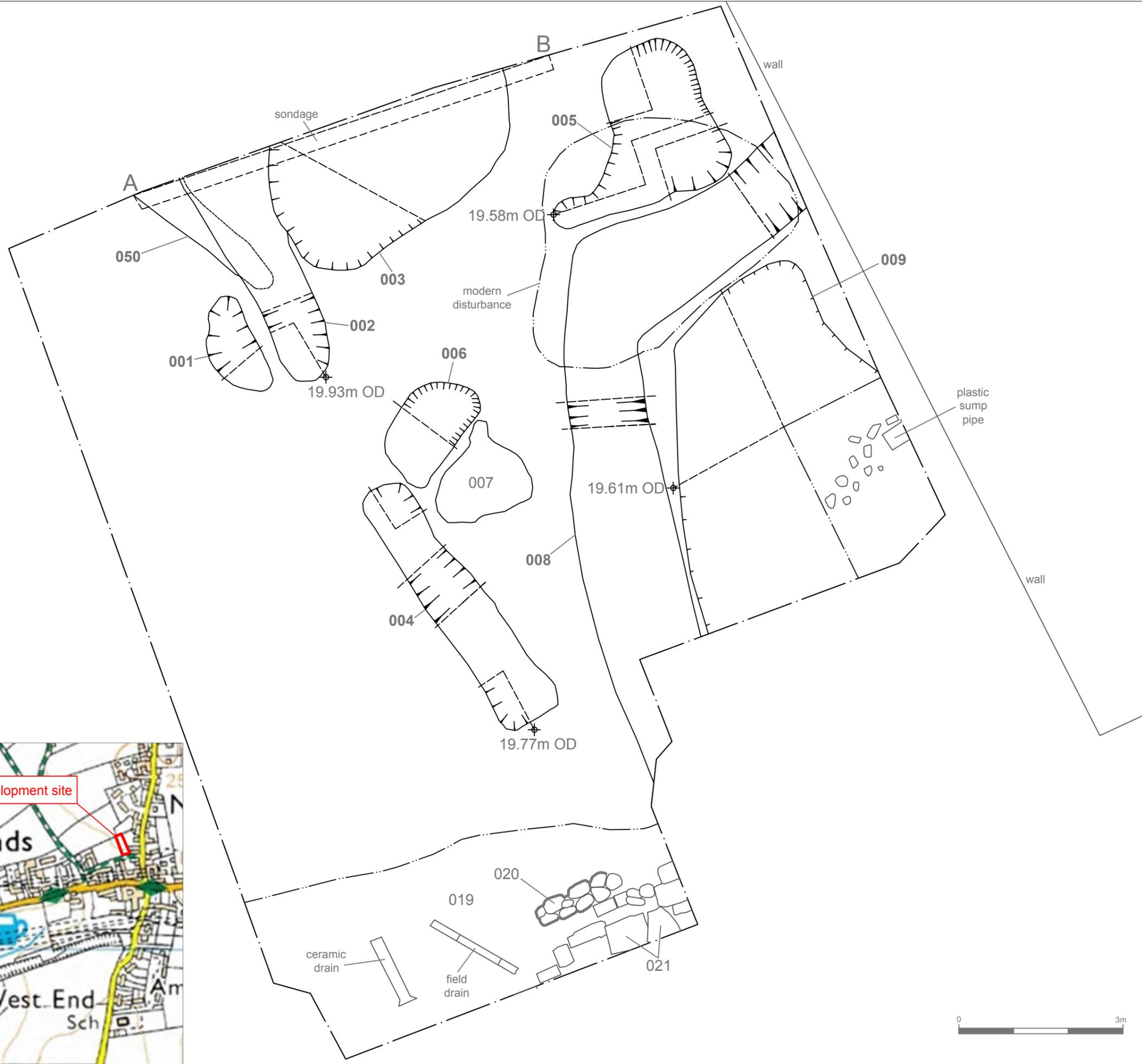
| Dwg No. | Sheet No. | Scale | Plan / Section | Description/contexts |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 23 | 6 | 1:20 | Plan | Plan of ditch 004 showing sections |
| 24 | 6 | 1:20 | Plan | Plan of pit 006 post-section |
| 25 | 6 | 1:20 | Plan | plan of pit 001 post-section |

APPENDIX 4: Sample Register

| Sample No. | Context | Feature | Sample type | Volume |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 | 024 | 5 | Bulk | 10l |
| 2 | 026 | 6 | Bulk | 10l |
| 3 | 027 | 8 | Bulk | 10l |
| 4 | 029 | 9 | Bulk | 10l |
| 5 | 012 | 4 | Bulk | 10l |
| 6 | 011 | 2 | Bulk | 10l |
| 7 | 043 | 3 | Bulk | 10l |

APPENDIX 5: Finds Register

| SF no | Context | No | Weight (g) | Find Type |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 014 | 1 | 18 | Clay pipe, bowl and stem |



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Fig. No: **1** Report No: **3279**

Title:
Location plan and site plan

Project:
**North End, Burgh by Sands,
 near Carlisle, Archaeological
 Watching Brief**

Client:
Jamie Robinson

Scale at A3:
1:70

| | | |
|-----------|----------|-------|
| Drawn by: | Checked: | Date: |
| GC | SW | |

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Fig. 2 General shot of site

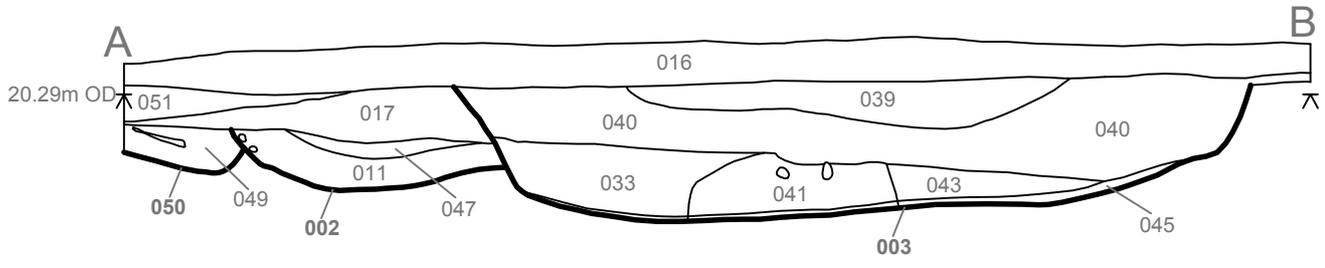


Fig. 3 North-east facing section of terminus of 002



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|--|------------------------|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|
| Title: | Fig. 2 - 3 | Report: 3279 | Drawn: GC | CKD: LW | Date: 09/04/15 |
| | Client: Jamie Robinson | | | | |
| Project: North End, Burgh-by-Sands, near Carlisle, Archaeological Excavation | | | | | |



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Title:
**South-facing section of pits 050, 003
and 002**

Project:
**North End, Burgh by Sands, near
Carlisle, Archaeological Watching Brief**

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|---------|---|-----------------------|------|-----------|----|------|----|-------|----------|
| Fig No: | 4 | Report: | 3279 | Drawn by: | GC | CKD: | SW | Date: | 08/04/14 |
| Client: | | Jamie Robinson | | | | | | | |
| Scale: | | 1:50 @ A4 | | | | | | | |

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Fig. 5 South-west facing section of terminus of 004

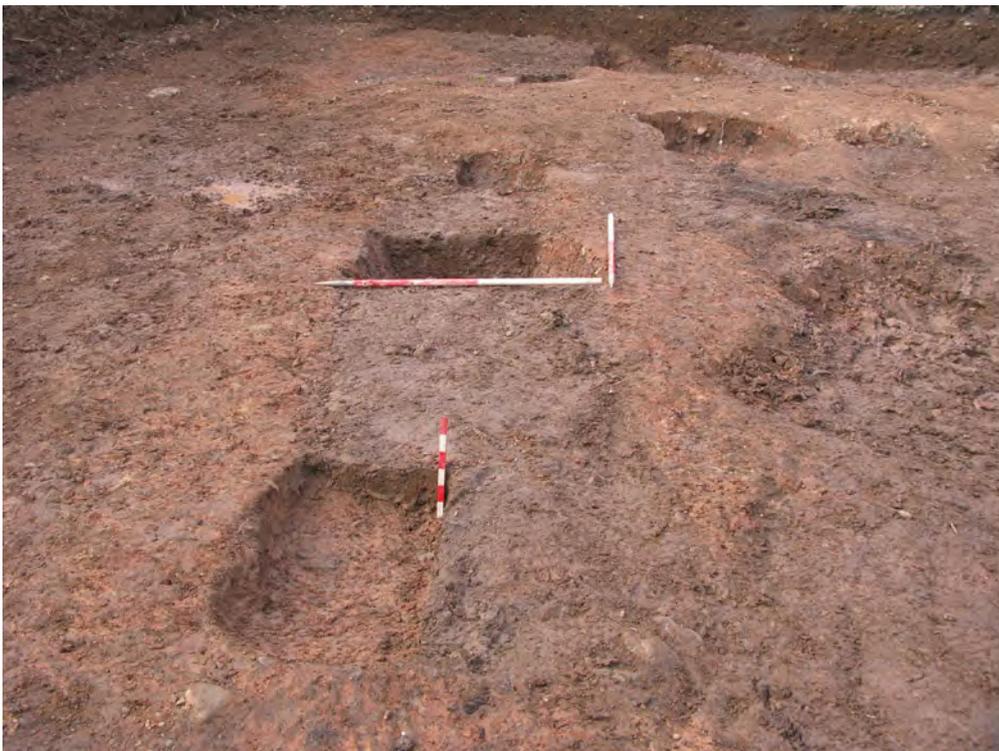


Fig. 6 General, post-excitation view of 004



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Fig. 7 North-east facing section of pit 005



Fig. 8 North-north-east facing section of pit 006



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Fig. 9 West-facing section of ditch 008



Fig. 10 General view of excavated quadrants of 009



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Fig. 11 North-facing section 009



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