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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Interpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording


Site & Landscape Survey


Geophysical Survey

**Land off Strawberry How Road,
Cockermouth, Cumbria (Ref: 2/14/0381)**

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. 3312

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Commissioned by	Story Homes
Date issued	August 2015
Version	1
Oasis No.	cfaarcha1-217481
Grid Ref	NY 132 301 (centred)

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

**Land off Strawberry How Road,
Cockermouth, Cumbria (Ref: 2/14/0381)**

Archaeological Evaluation

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CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	4
2.	Working Methods	5
3.	Archaeological Results	6
4.	Conclusions	9
5.	References	9

Appendices

1.	Photographic Register	10
2.	Context Register	11
3.	Field Drawings Register	12
4.	Sample Register	12
5.	Finds Register	12

Illustrations (bound at rear)

- Fig. 1 Site plan showing the location of trenches and the surveyed bridges
- Fig. 2 Trench 1 plan and section showing the burnt mound material
- Fig. 3 General view of the trench and the extent of the burnt mound material
- Fig. 4 Trench 2 plan
- Fig. 5 View of Trench 2 from the northeast
- Fig. 6 Trench 3 plan
- Fig. 7 View of building foundations from the east
- Fig. 8 View of the trackway foundations (at the ranging rods) in the foreground and the building beyond from the west
- Fig. 9 Trench 4 plan
- Fig. 10 The ditch (401), bank (406) and drain (407) in Trench 4 from the southeast

Fig. 11 Site 8. North-facing elevation, eastern abutment

Fig. 12 Site 8. North-facing elevation, western abutment

Fig. 13 Site 8. South-facing elevation, eastern abutment

Fig. 14 Site 8. View of the bridge deck from the east

Fig. 15 Site 11. North-east-facing elevation

Fig. 16 Site 11. South-west-facing elevation

Fig. 17 Site 11. View of the bridge deck from the south-east

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation and a photographic and written survey undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between 29 June and 01 July 2015 on land off Strawberry How Road, Cockermouth, Cumbria (NY 132 301, centred) (Fig. 1).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), dated 14 May 2015, for this programme of works was produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) and agreed in advance with Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES).

1.2 Background

A planning application for residential development and landscaping has been made by Story Homes (Ref: 2/14/0381) for Land off Strawberry How Road, Cockermouth, Cumbria. The CCCHES have recommended that conditions for archaeological fieldwork and, if necessary, archaeological post-excavation analysis and further reporting up to publication standard are secured against any consent that is granted.

Previous work in relation to this development included a Cultural Heritage Assessment that was contained within a wider Environmental Assessment. This document was informed by geophysical survey (Butler 2010, Gater 2013).

1.3 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of this programme of works were:

- To evaluate a number of possible archaeological sites identified in the Cultural Heritage Assessment in order to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits and to establish their vulnerability to the proposed development
- To make a photographic / written survey of the two bridges (Cultural Heritage Assessment Sites 8 and 11) identified in the Cultural Heritage Assessment

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 Evaluation

All of the trenches were excavated using a wheeled JCB mechanical excavator, equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All machine 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 area covered conformed to that shown in the table contained in the WSI and reproduced below.

Trench	Dimensions (minimum)	Target
1	2 No 17m x 1.5m	Cultural Heritage Assessment Site 1 - possible burnt mound
2	30m x 1.5m	Cultural Heritage Assessment Site 4 – possible earthworks
3	17m x 1.5m	Cultural Heritage Assessment Site 7 - site of former building and trackway
4	17m x 1.5m	Cultural Heritage Assessment Site 9 – former field boundary

With the agreement of Jeremy Parsons Trench 3 was slightly realigned to avoid a geological test-pit location. Trench 4 was moved to the southeast to avoid overhead pylons. Fig. 1 shows the actual location of the trenches.

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

Trench positions were surveyed using industry standard electronic surveying equipment.

2.3 Photographic and Written Survey of Bridges

A Level 1 (English Heritage 2006) survey was carried out to record the architectural character of two bridges (Cultural Heritage Assessment Sites 8 and 11). The survey included an examination of their fabric type and bonding material.

Standard pro-forma standing building recording forms were completed. Notes were taken on repairs and possible phasing.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2, with the remainder of the site records forming Appendices 1, 3-4. The finds are listed in tabular form in Appendix 5.

The evaluation area was pasture at the time of the fieldwork and had not been recently ploughed.

The topsoil (**001**) was a fairly uniform 0.2 - 0.3m deep. Natural substrate (**003**) was varied, with stony clay, silty gravels and sand all being recorded. Field drains were present in all trenches.

3.2 Evaluation

Trench 1 (Figs. 1-3)

Trench 1 was cross-shaped with each alignment being 17m long and 1.5m wide. It was located to examine an exposure of possible burnt mound material (Cultural Heritage Assessment Site 1) in a meander of the Tom Rudd Beck. The extent of the possible site shown on Figure 1 is derived from the geophysical survey results.

The trench revealed that topsoil (**001**) overlay deposits of subsoil (**002**) and slopewash (**004**) with a combined depth of up to 0.6m, decreasing to the north. The burnt mound material (**101**) overlay natural (**003**) and only extended 2m into the trench beyond the exposure in the stream bank. It was also cut by a clay-piped field drain (**102**). A maximum depth of 0.4m was recorded. No finds were recovered but a sample of the deposit was taken.

Trench 2 (Figs. 1, 4-5)

Trench 2 measured 30m by 1.5m and was aligned close to northeast to southwest. It was placed over three irregular linear and curvilinear features, collectively forming Cultural Heritage Assessment Site 4. From onsite observations during the evaluation it was apparent that these features were a lot more extensive than previously identified.

These features were shown to be natural banks of sandy gravel and harder stony silt. All may well result from past meandering of the Tom Rudd Beck and have no archaeological origin. Two field drains (**201, 204**) were recorded. No finds were recovered. Topsoil (**001**) had a depth of between 0.25m and 0.3m and below this was subsoil (**002**) up to 0.25m deep.

Trench 3 (Figs. 1, 6-8)

Trench 3 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was aligned close to east to west. It was located to evaluate the remains of a building and a trackway (Cultural Heritage

Assessment Site 7). A faint outline of a sub-rectangular platform corresponding to the buildings location could be seen in the grass.

Lime mortar-bonded boulder foundations (**301, 303**) were recorded. These had a width of 0.6m and had a shallow foundation (**310**) cut in to the natural subsoil (**003**). A second wall (**302**), at 90° to **301** and **303** had a width of 0.55m. Internal to the building a layer of small cobbles (**304**) was recorded at the western side of the building, just inside wall (**303**), these appeared to overlie deposit (**308**). This could be the vestigial remains of flooring. Deposits **308** and **309** are ostensibly the same but survive in different compartments of the building with no direct stratigraphic link. These deposits lay above the natural. They are not occupation deposits but are probably the remains of the subsoil on to which the building was originally built.

A second area of cobbles (**313**) was recorded to the west (outside) of wall **303**.

To the west of the building a deposit of gravelly soil (**305**) with a width of 3.5m may well have formed the foundation of the trackway. A modern plastic drain (**306**), with pieces of earlier clay pipe in the fill (**307**) ran parallel to the track on the western side.

Post-medieval/modern ceramics were recovered from (**304, 305**) during the cleaning process.

Trench 4 (Figs. 1, 9-10)

Trench 4 measured 17m long by 1.5m wide and was aligned northeast to southwest. The topsoil (**001**) had a depth of 0.3m and it overlay natural subsoil (**003**). It was located to evaluate a possible fieldbank (Cultural Heritage Assessment Site 9).

The fieldbank was formed by the upcast (**406**) from a ditch (**401**) which ran down the southwest side of the bank. The ditch was 1m wide by 0.3m deep and contained two fills (**402, 403**). This primary ditch appeared to have been cut by a later recut (**404**), this cut into the fieldbank. A single fill (**405**) was present in the recut.

On the northeast side of the bank a stone-filled field drain (**407, 408**) with a width of 0.3m and a depth of 0.3m was recorded.

Post-medieval/modern ceramics were recovered during the cleaning process, probably from **405**; the fill of recut (**404**).

3.3 Photographic and Written Survey of Bridges

Two bridges (Cultural Heritage Assessment Sites 8 & 11) crossed the Tom Rudd Beck (Fig. 1) and both were recorded during the survey. Both bridges were within tree cover on either side of the Beck and some aspects of their construction were obscured by branches.

Site 8, (Figs. 1, 11-14)

This bridge was constructed from stone-built abutments surmounted by a shuttered concrete deck. The curved bridge supports comprised mortar-bonded necked

sandstone blocks and were capped with sandstone ashlar coping stones. The bridge parapet incorporated seven concrete posts on each side that supported three galvanised tubular steel rails. At both ends of the right-hand parapet a number 11 had been cast into the concrete. Visible at the end of the parapet were several courses of brickwork that were designed to act as a beam seat to support the upper section of the concrete deck.

Overall, the bridge was 12.2m (40ft) long and 5.5m (18 ft) wide. The height from deck to water level was 2.7m. The stone abutments were 2.35m high and 4m apart.

Site 11, (Figs. 1, 15-17)

This bridge had coursed sandstone abutments that carried a brick-built segmented arch. The abutment stonework incorporated rectangular blocks of quarry-faced sandstone and bonded with mortar. The arch was three courses deep and laid in stretcher bond using frogged but unstamped bricks. Coursed sandstone blocks continued above the arch. At some point both parapets were augmented with frogged bricks stamped CLIFTON of which only three courses survived.

Overall the bridge was 8m in length and 3.4m in greatest width. There was a notable hump at the centre point where the height from deck to stream was 2.5m. The parapet walls were 0.8m wide. The abutments were around 3m apart and were 2.5m high.

3.4 Finds by Christina Hills

	No.	Wt (g)
Clay pipe	1	3
Pottery	24	202

Table 1- Summary of finds

All are of a post medieval/modern date, and the majority of finds were pottery. Two sherds were found in ditch **401** in Trench 4, both are red ware with a black glaze. In Trench 3, fourteen sherds of red ware and cream ware were found during the cleaning of the cobbles (**304**), eight sherds were from the possible trackway (**305**), 5 of white ceramic and 3 of glazed redwares. The only other find was one clay pipe stem, also from the possible trackway (**305**).

Two bricks were recovered from the bridge Site 11. Both can be dated to the 19-20 century and are machine pressed. One, from the brick arch-lining is deeply frogged on one side and unstamped. The other, from the parapet is frogged on both sides and stamped CLIFTON.

The unstamped brick cannot be ascribed to a specific brickworks. Great Clifton lies on the River Derwent 8km to the west of Cockermouth. Two brickworks are shown in this area on historic maps, Camerton Colliery and Brickworks and Lowther Brickworks. Although neither are named 'Clifton', the brick may well have been made at one of them. There is however a second Clifton 4km south-east of Penrith.

4. CONCLUSIONS

A targeted evaluation and a photographic and written survey was undertaken on the proposed Phase 1 development site at Strawberry How Road, Cockermouth. The work has provided a description of two bridges that is sufficient as a record of these structures. In addition it has identified that:

- The field bank (Site 9) was probably created as a result of upcast from the excavation of surface drainage on the site.
- The earthworks (Site 4) are natural features.
- The burn mound remains (Site 1) are very limited in their extent having mostly been removed through erosion.
- The foundation remains of the building (Site 7) appear to survive in good condition and in their entirety, whilst the trackway survives as a gravel surface.

The scope of any further work will be decided by CCCHES.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited in accordance with the WSI on completion of the project. An online OASIS entry will also be submitted on completion of the project

5. REFERENCES

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EH, 2008, *Investigating Conservation: Guidelines on how the detailed examination of artefacts from archaeological sites can shed light on their manufacture and use*, English Heritage

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Gater, J, 2013, *Geophysical Survey at Strawberry How Road, Cockermouth*. CFA Report No. 3028

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Number	Description	From	Conditions
1	Field boundary pre-ex	SE	Bright
2	Field boundary pre-ex	NW	Bright
3	Trench 4 pre-ex	S	Sunny
4	Trench 4 ditch and field drain excavated sections, general view	ESE	Bright
5	Trench 4 ditch excavated section	SE	Bright
6	Trench 4 field drain excavated section	SE	Bright
7	Trench 4 general view	NE	Sunny
8	Trench 4 ditch and field drain	NE	Sunny
9	Trench 4 ditch and field drain	SE	Bright
10	General view of feature 009	SE	Sunny
11-12	View S and SW from near the footbridge near feature 002	N - NE	Sunny
13	General view east from near F13	W	Sunny
14-15	Trench 2 area pre-ex	NE	Sunny
16-18	Site Panorama NE-NW	S	Sunny
19	NW end of feature 009	NW	Sunny
20	Trench 4 differential drying at SSW end, linear bands of silt with gravel deposits	NNE	Bright
21	Trench 2 pre-ex	NE	Overcast
22-25	Trench 1 pre-ex	Varied	Overcast
26	Trench 4 backfilled	NNW	Overcast
27	Trench 1 and 2 general view	SE	Overcast
28	Trench 1 pre-ex	E	Overcast
29	Trench 1 post-ex	NE	Bright
30	Trench 1, BM material deposit at S end	ENE	Bright
31	Trench 1 post-ex	SE	Bright
32-33	Trench 1 post-ex	NW	Bright
34-35	Trench 1 post-ex	SW	Bright
36-37	Trench 1 N-S leg, E-facing section in BM deposit	SE	Bright
38	Trench 1 N-S leg, section at NE end	SE	Bright
38-40	Trench 1, ESE-WNW leg, section at SE end	NE	Bright
41-43	Trench 1, ESE-WNW leg, section at NW end	NE	Bright
44-45	Trench 1 general view of trench from spoil heap	ENE	Bright
46	General view of Trench 4 area from Trench 1	NW	Bright
47	Trench 2 general view	ENE	Bright
48-49	Trench 2 drain 201-203 at ENE end	ENE	Bright
50	Trench 2 general view	WSW	Bright
51-52	Trench 2 drain 204-206	SSE	Bright
53-56	Trench 2 natural linear feature F004 general views	Varied	Bright
57	Trench 2 backfilled	SW	Sunny
58	Trench 1 backfilled	W	Sunny
59-60	Trench 3 pre-ex	W-E	Sun/shade
61-62	Trench 3 post-ex	WSW	Bright
63-64	Trench 3 post-ex	ENE	Bright
65	Trench 3 wall foundations 301,302	ENE	Sunny
66	Trench 3 wall foundation, 303 and cobbles 304	WSW	Sunny
67-72	Trench 3 SSE facing section ENE to WSW	SSE	Overcast
73	Trench 3 backfilled	E	Overcast
74	Bridge, Site 11 general view	SE	Overcast
75	Bridge, Site 11 general view	NW	Overcast
76	Bridge, Site 11 Parapet elevation, SW side	SE	Sun/shade
77-79	Bridge, Site 11 General elevations	SW	Overcast
80	Bridge, Site 11 Section through bricks forming arch	SW	Overcast
81-82	Bridge, Site 11 SE abutment from NW bank	W	Overcast
83	Bridge, Site 11 NW abutment from NW bank	SW	Overcast

Number	Description	From	Conditions
84-85	Bridge, Site 11 SE abutment from NW bank	N - NE	Dull
86	Bridge, Site 11 general views	E	Dull
87-88	Bridge, Site 11 brick arch abutting abutment on NW side	NE	Overcast
89	Bridge, Site 8 general view	SE	Overcast
90	Bridge, Site 8 general view	NW	Overcast
105-106	Bridge Site 8 parapet elevation SE side including No.11 on concrete	SE	Overcast
107-108	Bridge Site 8 abutment elevation, SW-facing SE side	SW	Overcast
109	Bridge Site 8 abutment general view	NE	Bright/shade
110-111	Bridge Site 8 abutment NE-facing wing wall/abutment SE side	NE-N	Bright/shade
112-113	Bridge Site 8 abutment NE-facing wing wall/abutment NE side	NE-N	Bright/shade
114	Bridge, Site 8 general view	NNW	Overcast

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Trench	Fill of	Description
001	All		Topsoil
002	1-2		Subsoil
003	All		Natural
004	1		Slopewash. Yellow-brown sand, silt and stones under 002 and over 003
101	1		Burnt Mound Material
102	1		Cut for field drain
103	1	102	Clay pipe and mixed backfill
201	2		Cut for field drain
202	2	201	Stone fill of field drain
203	2	201	Orangey-grey clayey silt with modern pottery
204	2		As 201
205	2	204	As 202
206	2	204	Clay pipe drain (no re-cut visible)
207	2	204	As 203
301	3		Wall foundation on east side
302	3		Possible cross-wall foundation
303	3		Wall foundation on west side
304	3		Cobbled surface against 303
305	3		Gravel/stone spread - possible trackway
306	3		Cut for drain
307	3	306	Fill of drain
308	3		Dirty orangey brown gritty clay
309	3		As 308
310	3		Cut for wall 301
311	3	310	Grit and lime mortar
312	3		Grit and lime mortar
313	3		Cobbled surface - possible the same as 304
401	4		Primary cut for ditch
402	4	401	Iron stained grey clayey silt
403	4		Iron stained grey clayey silt with gravel
404	4		Re-cut of ditch cutting 406
405	4	401	Orangey-grey clayey silt
406	4		Grey-orange mottled clayey silt upcast from ditch cuts 401, 404
407	4		Cut for field drain
408	4	407	Quarried stone fill of 407

APPENDIX 3: Field Drawings Register

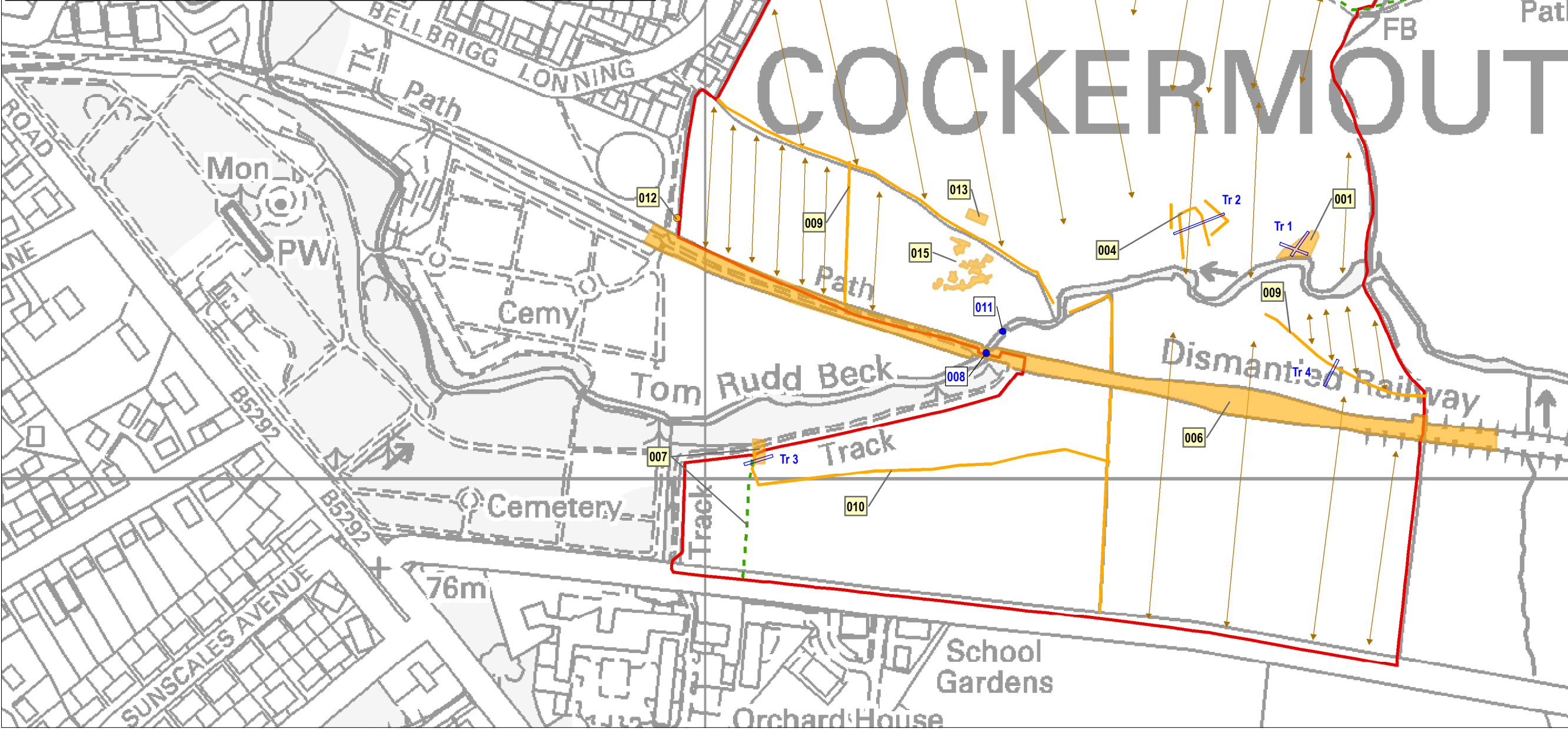
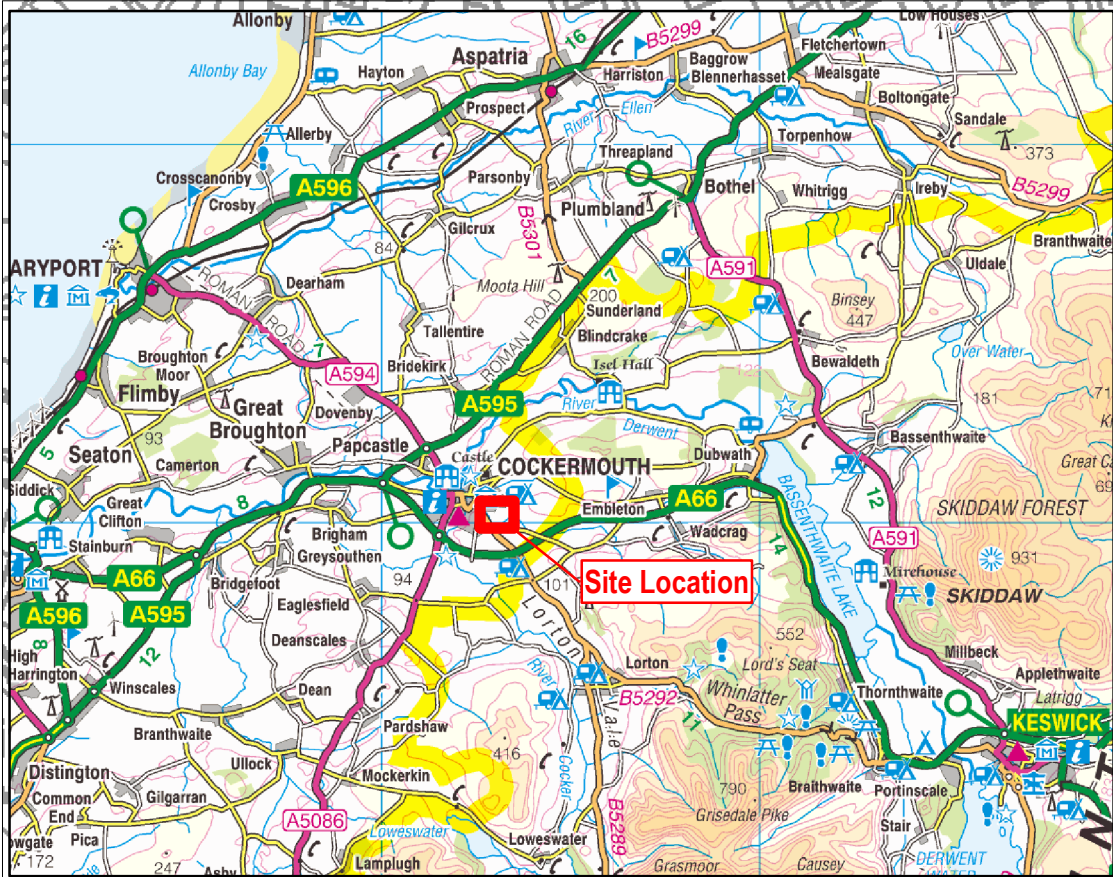
Number	Sheet	Scale	Sec/Plan	Scale
1	1	1:40	Plan	Trench 4 plan
2	1	1:20	Section	Trench 4 ESE facing section, NNE end
3	1	1:50	Plan	Trench 2 plan
4	1	1:20	Section	Trench 2 ENE facing section of drain 201
5	1	1:50	Section	Trench 2 SSE facing section of drain 201
6	2	1:40	Plan	Trench 1 plan including drain
7	3	1:40	Section	Trench 1 NE-SW portion, SE facing section in BM deposit 101 and drain 102
8	3	1:20	Plan	Trench 3 plan
9	4	1:20	Section	Trench 3 SSE facing section

APPENDIX 4: Sample Register

Sample	Context	Fill of	Type	Reason	Vol (L)
1	101		Bulk	Environmental	12

APPENDIX 5: Finds Register

Trench	Context	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes	Spot date
3	304	Pottery	7	60	Cream ware, glazed	Post med/Modern
3	304	Pottery	7	37	Red ware, glazed	Post med/Modern
3	305	Pottery	5	13	White ceramic, glazed	Post med/Modern
3	305	Pottery	1	12	Red ware, black glaze, rim	Post med/Modern
3	305	Pottery	1	7	Red ware, cream glaze	Post med/Modern
3	305	Pottery	1	14	Red ware, glazed	Post med/Modern
3	305	Clay pipe	1	3	Stem	Post med/Modern
4	405	Pottery	2	59	Red ware, black glaze	Post med/Modern



- Key:**
- Site Boundary
 - Trench Location
 - Surveyed Bridge
 - Cultural Heritage Site (point)
 - Cultural Heritage Site (area)
 - Cultural Heritage Site (linear)
 - Trackway
 - ↔ Ridge and Furrow (005)

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Fig. No: 1 Report No: 3312

Title:
 Site plan showing the location
 of trenches and the
 surveyed bridges

Project:
 Land off Strawberry
 How Road (Ref: 2/14/0381)
 Archaeological Evaluation

Client:
 Story Homes

Scale at A3:
 1:2,546

Drawn by: SW Checked: BG Date: 17/07/2015

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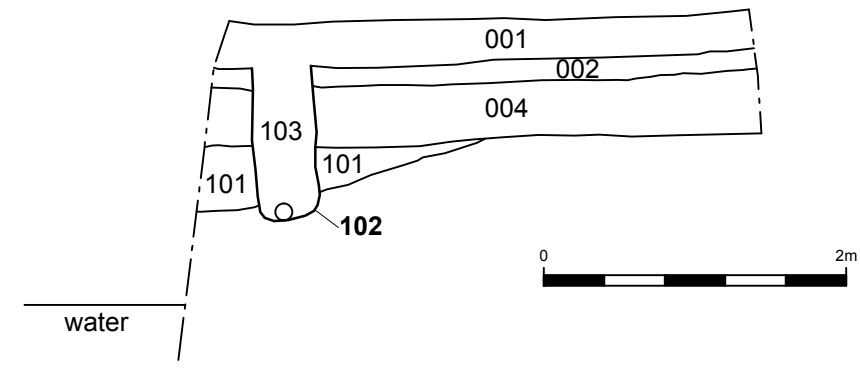


Key:
Trench LOE

Fig. 2 - Trench 1 plan and section showing the burnt mound material



Fig. 3 - General view of the trench and extent of the burnt mound material



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Fig. No:	2-3	Report No:	3312
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Title:

Project:
**Land off Strawberry
 How Road (Ref: 2/14/0381)
 Archaeological Evaluation**

Client:
Story Homes

Scale at A3:
**Plan - 1:100
 Section - 1:50**

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Fig. 4 - Trench 2 plan

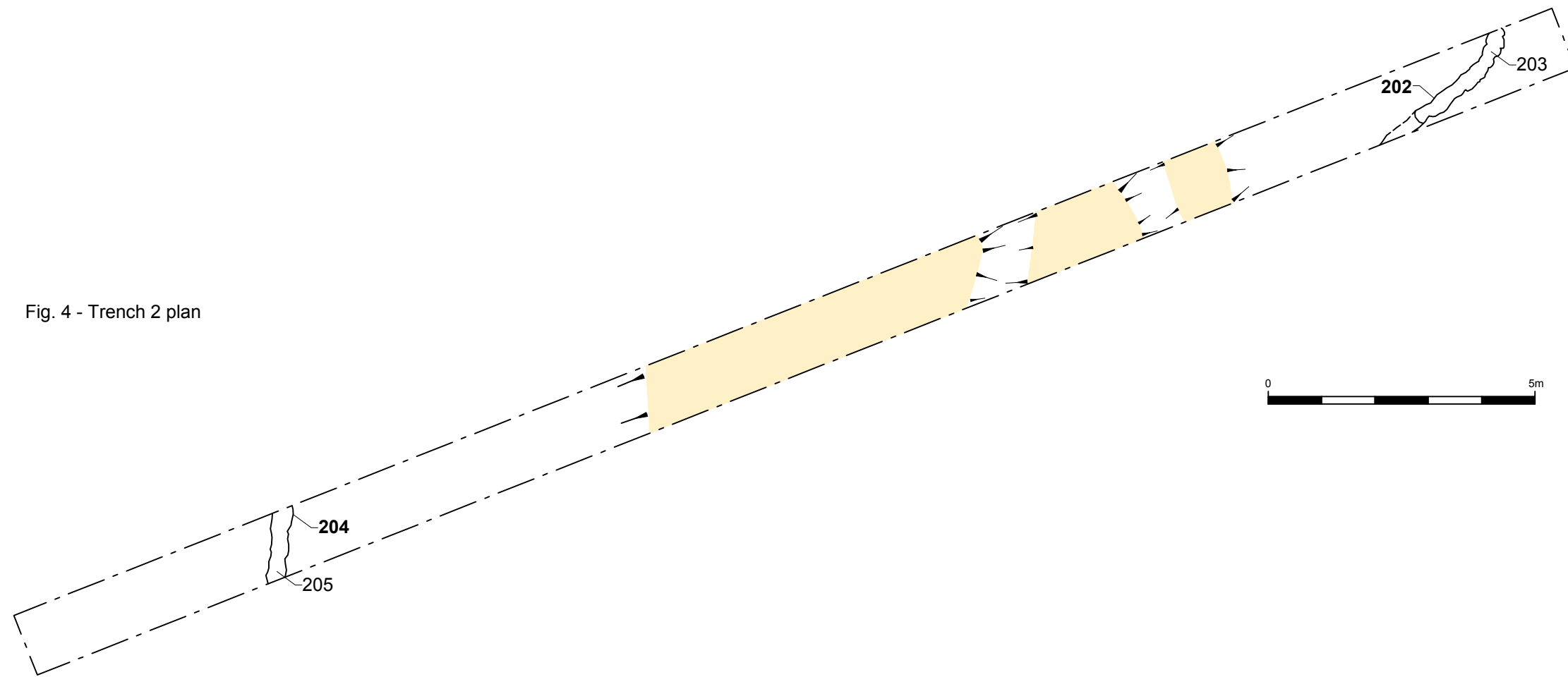




Fig. 5 - View of Trench 2 from the northeast



Key:

-  Trench LOE
-  Natural banks



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Fig. No: 4-5 Report No: 3312

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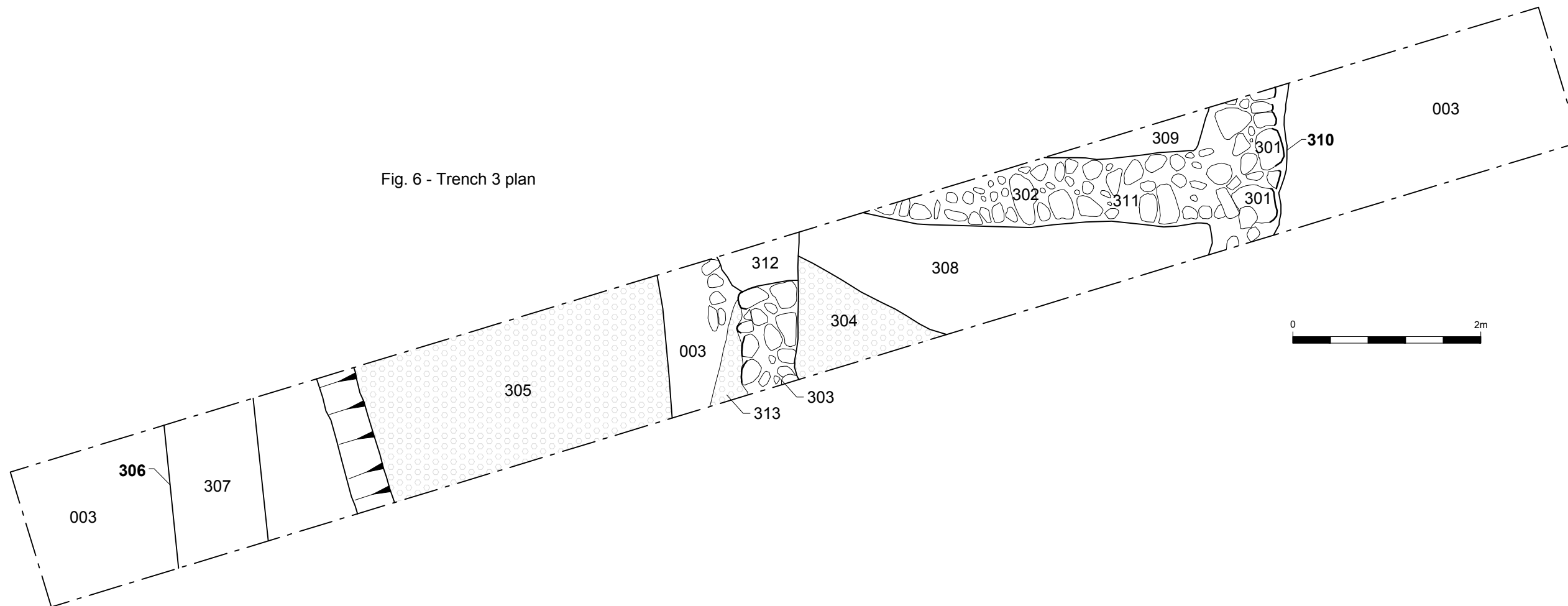
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Fig. 6 - Trench 3 plan



Key:

-  Trench LOE
-  Pebbled Surface



Fig. 7 - View of building foundations from the east



Fig. 8 - View of the trackway foundations (at the ranging rods) in the foreground and the building beyond from the west



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Fig. 9 - Trench 4 plan

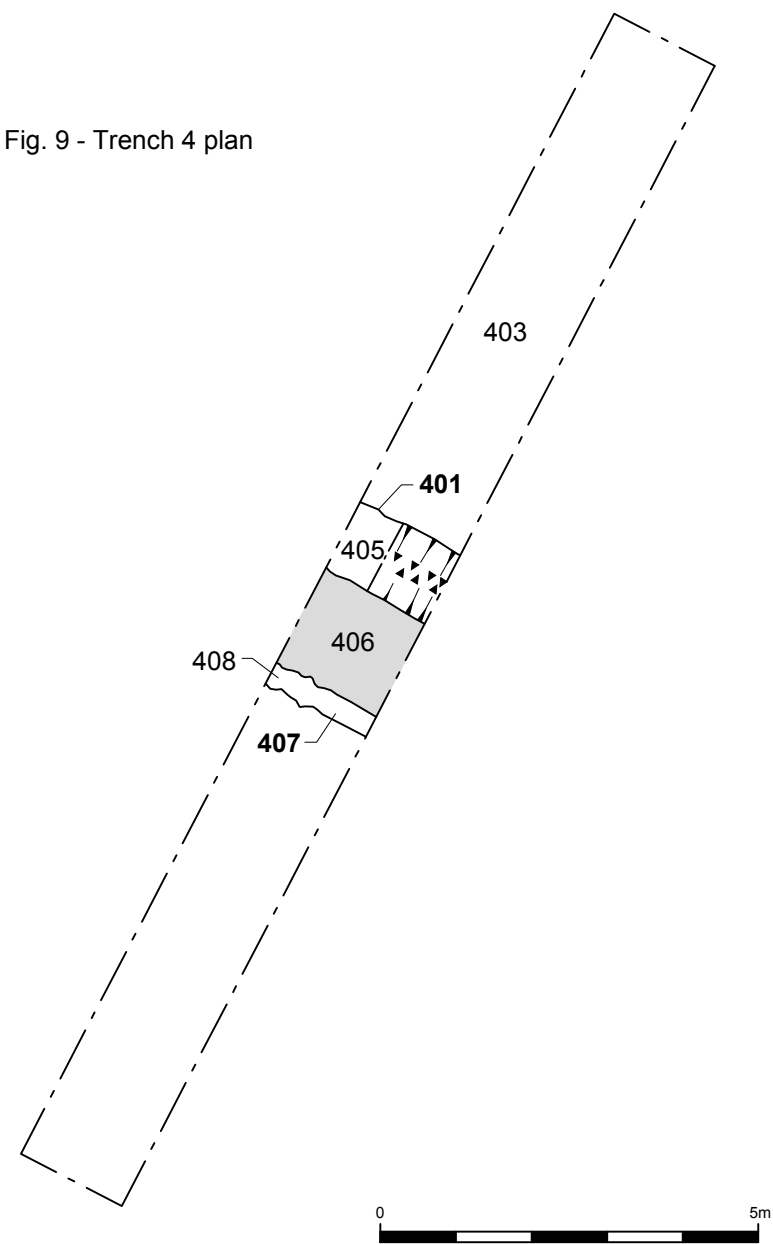



Fig. 10 - Ditch (401), Bank (406) and Drain (407) in Trench 4 from the southeast



Key:

 Trench LOE



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Fig. No: **9-10** Report No: **3312**

Title:

Project:
**Land off Strawberry
 How Road (Ref: 2/14/0381)
 Archaeological Evaluation**

Client:
Story Homes

Scale at A3:
1:100

Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
SW	IS	22/07/2014

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Fig. 11 - Site 8. North-facing elevation, eastern abutment



Fig. 12 - Site 8. North-facing elevation, western abutment



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Fig. 13 - Site 8. South-facing elevation, eastern abutment



Fig. 14 - Site 8. View of the bridge deck from the east



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Fig. 15 - Site 11. North-east-facing elevation



Fig. 16 - Site 11. South-west-facing elevation



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Fig. 17 - Site 11. View of the bridge deck from the south-east



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