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**Daltongate, Ulverston
Cumbria**

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. Y216/16

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by CFA Archaeology on land at Daltongate, Ulverston, Cumbria during February 2016. Eleven trenches were excavated across the site targeting anomalies identified by geophysical survey. Apart from a single shallow 19th or 20th-century ditch near the northern boundary to the site, no archaeological features were evident, with the geophysical anomalies proving to be changes in the underlying natural geology. Only finds dating to the 19th or 20th century were recorded.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) during February 2016 at Daltongate, Ulverston, Cumbria (Fig. 1, NGR SD 28003 77912). The work was commissioned by Cumbria County Council and was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation produced by Mott MacDonald (2015).

1.1 Site Location and Description

The site is located to the west of Ulverston, Cumbria on the outskirts of the town and at the time of the trenching comprised grass fields separated by shallow hedgerows and modern fencing. The ground was undulating at a height of approximately 40m above the Ordnance Datum (AOD). The site was bounded by the A590 road to the north, a railway track to the south, and by open grass fields to the east and west.

The underlying solid geology of the site is Red Hill Limestone Formation, with superficial deposits of Devensian- Sand and Gravel (BGS 2016). The overlying soil is described as 'freely draining slightly acid loamy soils' (Landis 2016).

1.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

The following is a brief summary of the archaeological and historical background of the area taken from the WSI produced for the evaluation (Mott MacDonald 2015).

A Bronze Age collared urn containing cremated bones was found during the construction of a substation in 1954, 310m west of the site. Three stone hammers of unknown date were also discovered during the construction of the Ulverston and Lancaster Railway in the mid-19th century, 55m to the south.

It is considered that the site was most likely used for agricultural purposes throughout the medieval and post medieval period.

Little change can be identified within the proposed development area on historic mapping (1846 to 1938). During this time the majority of the land within the proposed development area remained in agricultural use. In 1846 the land was divided into four fields, which was reduced to three by the removal of a northwest-southeast field boundary in the early 20th century.

By 1931, a small building known as West Lodge and associated outbuildings were built along the northern boundary of the site.

In the late 20th century, the route of the A590 was realigned further south and a new junction was created with Daltongate. The realignment meant that the road moved approximately 20m south at this junction, and into land that was previously agricultural.

1.3 Previous Archaeological Work

A geophysical survey of the proposed evaluation area was undertaken in 2012 (WYAAS 2012). Anomalies were noted towards the northern end of the site that were interpreted as possible archaeological features, although the majority of the site appeared blank.

1.4 Project Aims

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, the primary aim of the archaeological works was to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and characterise (nature, date, complexity and extent) of any deposits which are located.

Specific aims were to:

- characterise the nature, date, complexity and extent of potential agricultural anomalies identified during the geophysical survey of 2012;
- identify the location, nature and date of any features or deposits associated with prehistoric activity within Ulverston and its environs; specifically possible cremations, and;
- identify the location, nature and extent of any archaeological deposits within the development area.

2. WORKING METHODS

CFA Archaeology Ltd is a registered organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa). CFA Archaeology follows all relevant Cifa and Historic England Standards and Guidance (Cifa 2014a-c, EH 2008 and Campbell, Moffett, and Straker 2011).

Linear features (ditches and gullies) were sample excavated at a minimum of 10% of their length and a minimum of 1m per section at regular intervals. Intersections were investigated to establish relationships between features. Pits and post holes were sampled at a minimum of 50%.

Archaeological remains were recorded by means of photographs, drawings and written records conforming to Cifa standards (Cifa 2014b) and CFA's quality manuals. All features were planned and drawn in section appropriate scales. The trenches, section lines and drawing points were surveyed using an industry standard Trimble GPS. The same equipment was used to establish levels above Ordnance Datum for the trenches and archaeological features.

All finds were treated in accordance with relevant guidance (CIFA 2014c). Modern finds were recorded and then discarded.

A summary of the results of archaeological works will be submitted for inclusion in OASIS (ref. cfaarcha1-244203).

Eleven trial trenches measuring approximately 30m by 1.8m were excavated (Fig.1). Deposits were removed in even, shallow spits by a 360 excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.

3. RESULTS

A description of all contexts from the evaluation forms Appendix 1 whilst the complete site archive is listed in Appendix 2. The following results should be read in conjunction with figures 1-3.

Descriptions of the eleven trenches appear in the summary table below, whilst detailed results from the only trench to contain archaeological features (Trench 1).

Topsoil on the site consisted of dark brown silty clay (101) between 0.20-0.40m in depth across the site. At the northern extent of it contained large amounts of 19th-20th century pottery. Subsoil consisted of mid-light brown silty sand with numerous stone inclusions (102) with some trenches featuring thick layers of subsoil, a likely result of colluvial action on the site. The natural substrate for the area consisted of gravels with patches of yellow-gray sandy silt in places (103).

Trench	Description
1	<p>Trench was on a north-south orientation and sloped from north to south. Trench was shortened at the southern end due to presence of existing hedge line. Topsoil (101) within the trench measured 0.30m in depth with subsoil (102) recorded at 0.20m in depth. The natural substrate (103) consisted of gravels with patches of yellow silty sand in places.</p> <p>One east to west orientated ditch was recorded within the trench (105).</p> <p>Anomalies from the geophysical survey were unidentified and are likely to be changes in the natural substrate (103).</p>
2	<p>Trench was on an east-west orientation and sloped from east to west. Topsoil (101) within the trench measured 0.35-0.45m in depth with subsoil (102) recorded at 0.15-0.20m in depth. The natural substrate (103) consisted of gravels with patches of yellow silty sand in places.</p> <p>Anomalies from the geophysical survey were identified as a change in the natural substrate (103), with a band of finer gravel recorded.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>
3	<p>Trench was on an east-west orientation and sloped from east to west. Topsoil (101) within the trench measured 0.20-0.30m in depth with subsoil (102) recorded at 0.10-0.15m in depth. The natural substrate (103) consisted of gravels.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>
4	<p>Trench was on a north-south orientation and sloped from south to north. Topsoil (101) within the trench measured 0.20-0.25m in depth with subsoil (102) recorded at 0.10-0.20m in depth.</p>

Trench	Description
	<p>The natural substrate (103) consisted of gravels, with the northern end of the trench featuring numerous mid-large sized rounded stones.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>
5	<p>Trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation and slightly sloped from north-east to south-west. Topsoil (101) within the trench measured 0.20-0.40m in depth with subsoil (102) recorded at 0.40-0.50m in depth. The natural substrate (103) consisted of gravels. The trench was shortened at the south-western end due to existing fencing.</p> <p>Deep subsoil (102) levels a likely result of colluvial activity in this area of the site, the trench lying in a natural hollow at the base of two slopes.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>
6	<p>Trench was on a north-south orientation and slightly sloped from south to north. Topsoil (101) within the trench measured 0.25m in depth with subsoil (102) recorded at up to 0.15m in depth. The natural substrate (103) consisted of gravels.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>
7	<p>Trench was on an east-west orientation and sloped from east to west. Topsoil (101) within the trench measured 0.25-0.35m in depth with subsoil (102) recorded at 0.15-0.20m in depth. The natural substrate (103) consisted of gravels.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>
8	<p>Trench was on a north-south orientation and sloped from east to west. Topsoil (101) within the trench measured 0.30-0.40m in depth with subsoil (102) recorded at 0.25-0.40m in depth. The natural substrate (103) consisted of gravels with patches of yellow-grey silty sand in places.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>
9	<p>Trench was on an east-west orientation and sloped from east to west. Topsoil (101) within the trench measured 0.30-0.35m in depth with subsoil (102) recorded at 0.15-0.35m in depth with the western end of the trench deeper than the east. The natural substrate (103) consisted of gravels.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>
10	<p>Trench was on a slight north-east to south-west orientation and was flat. The trench was altered in position due to standing water in the original location. Topsoil (101) within the trench measured 0.30m in depth with subsoil (102) recorded at 0.30m in depth. The natural substrate (103) consisted of gravels with some patches of yellow-grey silty sands.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>
11	<p>Trench was on a north-south orientation and sloped from south to north. Topsoil (101) within the trench measured 0.25-0.35m in depth with subsoil (102) recorded at 0.20-0.30m in depth. The natural substrate (103) consisted of gravels with patches of yellow-grey silty sand in places.</p> <p>No archaeological features were recorded.</p>

Table 3.1: Trench Summaries

Trench 1

Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 42.10m AOD at the northern end of the trench and 40.03m AOD at the southern end of the trench, with the natural substrate consisting of a mixture of gravels and yellow silty sand (103).

Cutting the natural substrate at the northern end of the trench was a shallow ditch (105) that featured a u-shaped profile and which was filled by a light brown silty sand (104) that contained numerous small stone inclusions, and fragments of 19th-20th century pottery, clay pipe and brick/tile. No other features were present within the trench

4. DISCUSSION

Upon excavation, the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey of the site, and located within trenches 1 and 2 of the evaluation, appeared to be changes in the underlying natural substrate of the area, with bands of fine gravel running across the site in these areas likely to have been the cause of the anomalous readings.

The shallow ditch recorded within Trench 1 contained modern pottery, and may be a remnant of construction or improvement works for the A590 road to the immediate north of the site.

There was no evidence for any other surviving archaeological remains in any of the other trenches.

5. CONCLUSION

The trenching successfully addressed the aims of the evaluation; no evidence for any surviving pre-modern archaeological remains was recorded in any of the trenches excavated across the site. The only archaeological feature was a shallow ditch with yielding finds dating to the 19th or 20th centuries.

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APPENDICIES 1-2

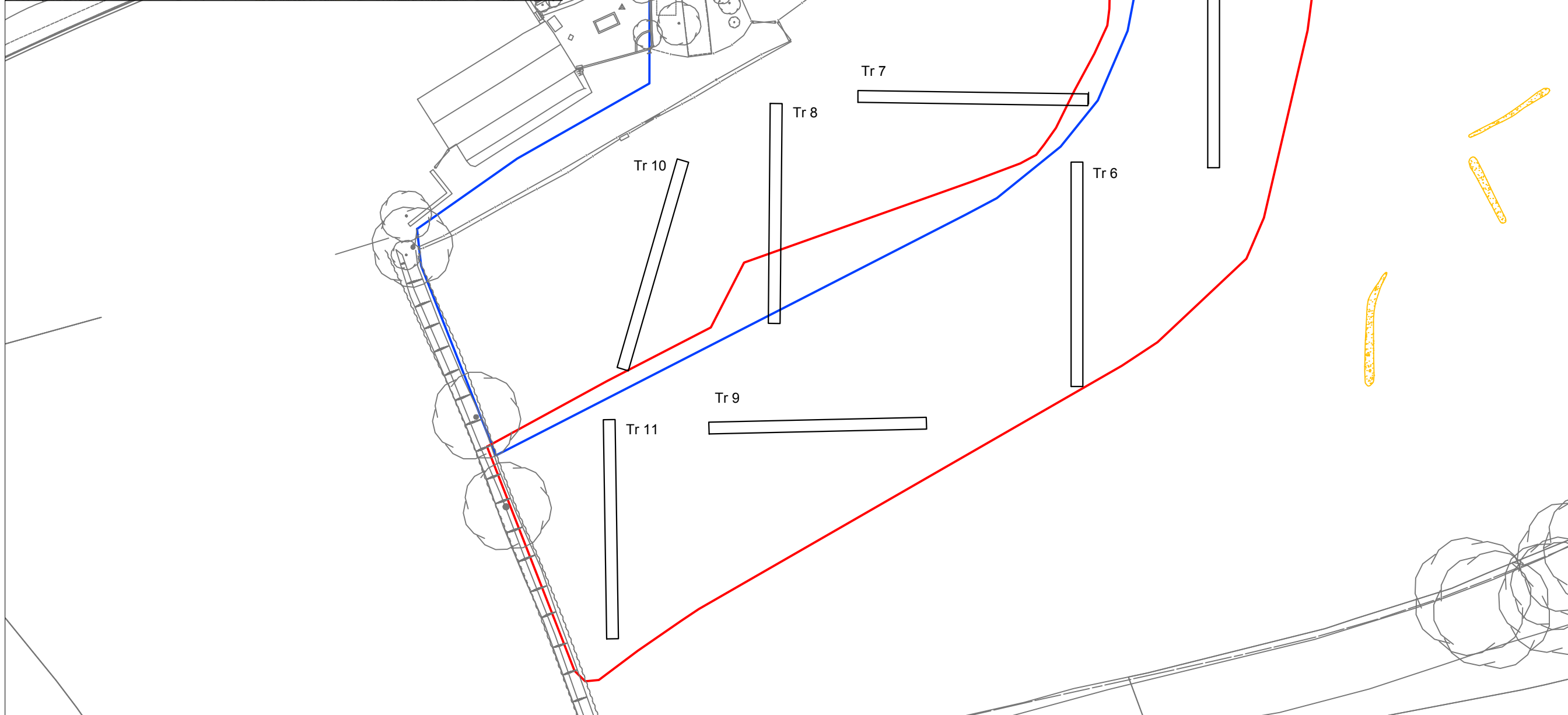
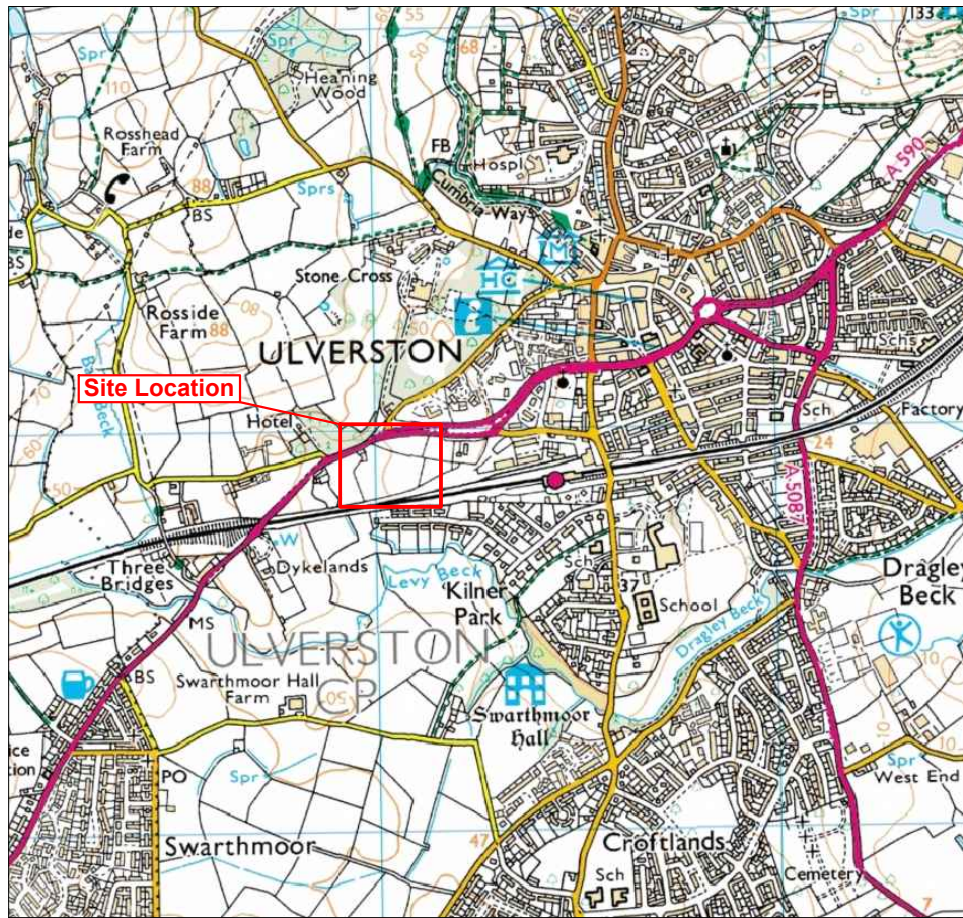
APPENDIX 1: Context Summary

Context no.	Type	Length (m)	Max Depth (m)	Description
101	Layer		0.20-0.40	Topsoil for site area, consisted of dark brown silty clay.
102	Layer		0.15-0.50	Subsoil for area, consisted of mid-light brown sandy silt with frequent stone inclusions throughout.
103	Layer			Natural substrate for area. Consisted of a mixture of gravel with small to medium sized stone inclusions and patches of yellow-gray sand in places.
104	Fill	0.70	0.15	Fill of a shallow ditch (105) within Trench 1. Consisted of light brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions throughout. Contained 19th-20th century pottery and fragments of clay pipe.
105	Cut	0.70	0.15	Cut for a shallow ditch located towards the northern end of Trench 1. Featured shallow sides with a u-shaped profile, and was on a north-west to south-east orientation. 19th-20th century pottery and clay pipe recovered from the fill of the ditch.

Appendix 2: Inventory of Primary Archive

Phase	File/Box No.	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no. 1	Context register sheets	1
		Context sheets	5
		Drawing register sheets	1
		Trench record sheets	11
		Digital photographic register sheets	1
		Permatrace sheets (A3)	1

FIGURES 1 – 3



Key:

- Access road indicative works area
- Blue light hub indicative works area
- Trench Location
- Archaeological anomaly (geophysical survey WYASS, 2012)
- Archaeological Feature

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Title:
Site layout and trench location

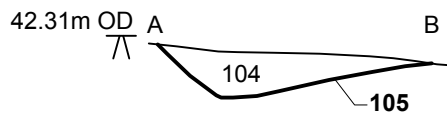
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Client:
Cumbria County Council

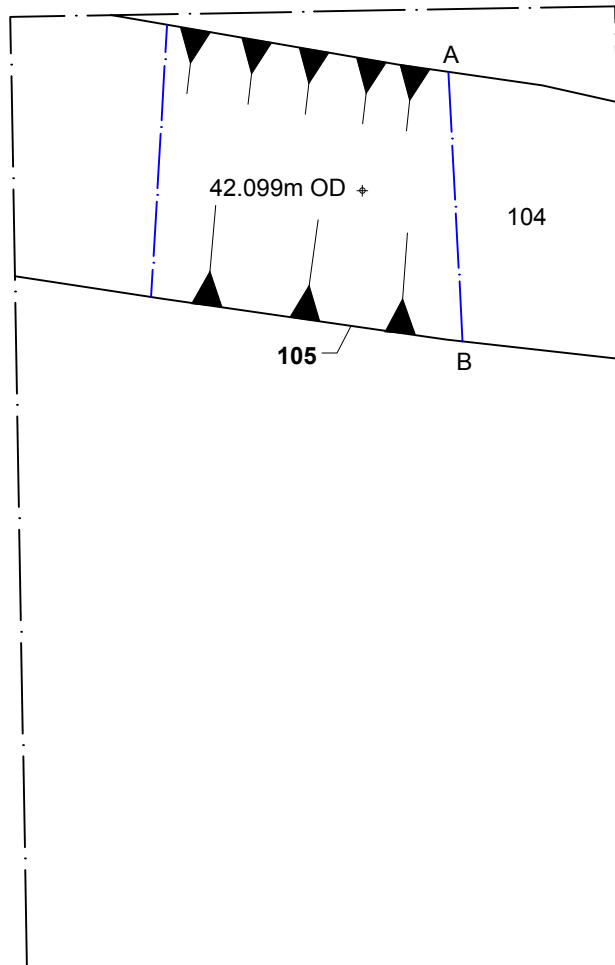
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South-west-facing section of **105**



Plan of **105**

Key:

- Limit of Excavation
- Section Line



Title: Sections and Plan	Client: Cumbria County Council
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	Scale at A4: 1:20					



Fig. 3.1 - Trench 1 general shot, facing south



Fig. 3.2 - Trench 2 general shot, facing east

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Fig. 3.3 - Trench 7 general shot, facing west



Fig. 3.4 - Trench 10 general shot, facing north

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Fig. 3.5 - South-west facing section of 105, Trench 1

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