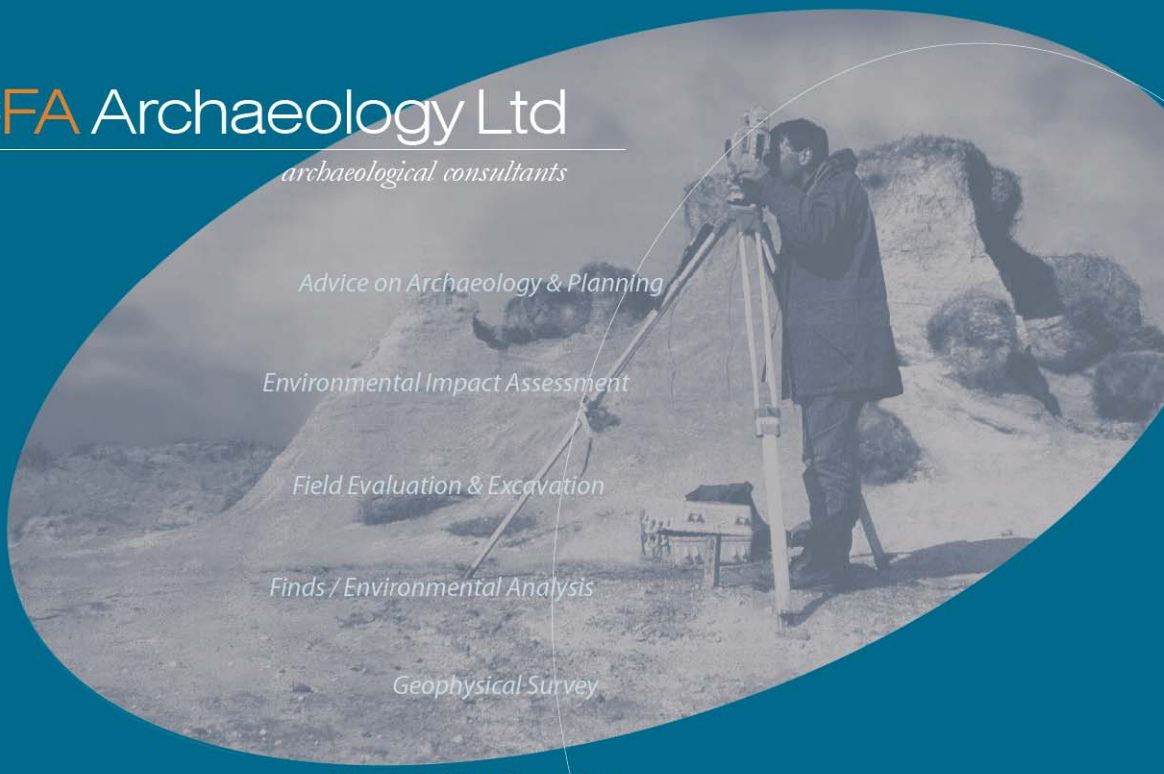
CFA Archaeology Ltd
archaeological consultants



Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

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Geophysical Survey

Historic Building Recording

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Interpretation, Design & Display

Land to the West of Matty Lonning
Thursby
Cumbria

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. Y244/16

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Date issued	September 2016
Version	2.0
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-261494
Grid Ref.	NY 322 502

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

Land to the West of Matty Lonning
Thursby
Cumbria

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. Y244/16

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by CFA Archaeology on land to the west of Matty Lonning, Thursby, Cumbria during August 2016. Seventeen trenches were excavated across the proposed site of a new housing development in order to evaluate any potential surviving archaeological remains. The trenches contained evidence for possible surviving archaeology in the form of pits and ditches, although apart from modern building materials, no dating evidence was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) during August 2016 on land to the west of Matty Lonning, Thursby, Cumbria (Fig.1, NGR NY 322 502). The work was commissioned by Story Homes and was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CFA Archaeology (CFA 2016) and agreed with the county council archaeological officer for Cumbria. This stage of the work was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of a housing development with associated roads and infrastructure.

1.1 Site Location and Description

The site comprises one large field situated to the west of Matty Lonning in the village of Thursby, Cumbria. The site is bounded to the south and east by Matty Lonning, the west by the A595 road and to the north by further grassland and an existing residential property.

The soils of the area are variable and are described as 'slightly acid loamy clayey soils with impeded drainage' (Landis 2016). The geology of the area consists of Mercia Mudstone Group – mudstone with gypsum stone and/or anhydrite stone with superficial deposits of Glaciofluvial Ice Contact deposits – Devensian gravel, sand and silt (BGS 2016).

1.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

Find spots in the local area have included an engraved gemstone *intaglio* dating to the Roman period found in the village of Thursby itself. In the wider area, there are numerous cropmarks and earthworks suggested to be of Roman date. A rectangular ditched enclosure camp is recorded at West Curthwaite 1 km from the site, while cropmarks suggesting a Roman site have been identified at Cumdivock. Other enclosures within 2 km of the site include sites at Crofton, West Woodside and Baldwinholme.

Ordnance survey mapping of the site shows the site has been open fields since at least the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1865). It is considered that the site was most likely used for agricultural purposes throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Previous archaeological work in the village of Thursby is limited, with only one small evaluation taking place in the area. In 2002, two trenches were excavated at Moorend Farm in advance of a development, with evidence for post-medieval features identified (OAN 2002). No earlier archaeology was recorded.

1.3 Previous Archaeological Work

A desk-based assessment and geophysical survey was undertaken by CFA Archaeology (CFA 2013) during 2013. No clear evidence for archaeological activity was identified although a number of anomalies of potential archaeological interest were identified and informed the location of the trenches in this evaluation.

1.4 Project Aims

In accordance with the written scheme of investigation the primary aim of the of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development, should they exist on the site. The evaluation specifically tested possible archaeological remains identified as geophysical anomalies.

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-b and EH 2008).

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 where encountered. 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 2014a) and CFA's quality manuals. All features were planned and drawn at 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.

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

A summary of the results of archaeological works will be submitted for inclusion in OASIS. The OASIS reference is cfaarcha1-261494.

2.1 Trial Trenching

Seventeen trial trenches, measuring 50m in length were excavated within the site boundary, with several trenches targeting geophysical anomalies (Fig.1). Deposits were removed in even, shallow spits by a JCB 3CX excavator equipped with a 1.80m wide 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 summary of all contexts from the evaluation forms Appendix 1 whilst the site archive is listed in Appendix 2. The following results should be read in conjunction with figures 1-3.

Descriptions of the 17 trenches appear in the table below (Table 3.1). Full results of those trenches containing archaeological features follow.

Topsoil on the site consisted of dark brown, silty clay (100) and varied in depth across the site from 0.20-0.35m. Subsoil measuring 0.15-0.60m in thickness consisted of light-mid brown silty sand (101) was present in all trenches with the exception of trenches 1, 2 and 8, where a layer of colluvial yellow silty clay (109) measuring 0.15-0.25m in thickness was recorded. The natural substrate for the area consisted of a mixture of orange sandy gravels towards the southern end of the site and a white-grey sandy clay towards the northern end of the site (102).

No.	Description
1	The trench was orientated east to west and had a slight slope downwards from west to east (Fig. 3.1). Topsoil in the trench measured 0.20-0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown sandy clay at the western end of the trench, and a band of yellow colluvial subsoil at the eastern end. Underlying this was the natural substrate. Two modern services were identified within the trench, with the western end of the trench badly truncated by activities associated with the installation of these services. No archaeological features were recorded within the trench.
2	The trench was orientated south-east to north-west and was generally flat Topsoil in the trench measured 0.20-0.25m in depth and overlay a band of yellow colluvial subsoil measuring 0.15-0.25m in thickness at the eastern end. Underlying this was the natural substrate. Four ceramic land drains, orientated roughly east-west, were recorded within the trench. No archaeological features were recorded within the trench.
3	The trench was orientated north to south and had a slight slope downwards from south to north. The trench was shortened slightly at its northern end due to the presence of an overhead power line. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.25-0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown sandy clay measuring 0.15-0.25m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. The trench contained one sub-circular pit (112) and one north-west to south-east orientated furrow (114).
4	The trench was orientated north to south and had a slight slope downwards from south to north. The trench was shortened slightly at its northern end due to the presence of an overhead power line. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.25-0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown sandy clay measuring 0.20m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. The trench contained three ceramic land drains and three stone land drains, all of which were on a rough east-west orientation. No archaeological features were recorded within the trench.

No.	Description
5	The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and had a slight slope downwards from south to north. The trench was moved south-east due to the presence of overhead power lines in its original location. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown sandy clay measuring 0.20-0.35m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. The trench contained one sub-circular pit (116) towards its south-eastern end.
6	The trench was orientated north to south and sloped downwards from south to north. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown silty clay measuring 0.15-0.30m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.
7	The trench was orientated west to east and had a slight slope downwards from east to west. The trench was moved to the east due to the presence of overhead power lines in its original location. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown silty clay measuring 0.40-0.50m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.
8	The trench was orientated slightly north-west to south-east and had a slight slope downwards from east to west. The trench was moved to the north due to the presence of overhead power lines in its original location. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.20-0.25m in depth and overlay a band of colluvial yellow silty clay measuring 0.15-0.20m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. A modern pit was identified at the eastern end of the trench along with one ceramic land drain on a north-west to south-east alignment.
9	The trench was orientated north to south and had a slight slope downwards from south to north (Fig. 3.2). Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown silty clay measuring 0.25-0.40m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. The trench contained five ceramic land drains on roughly east-west orientations. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.
10	The trench was orientated west to east and had a slight slope downwards from south to north. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown silty clay measuring 0.15-0.20m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. Two north-west to south-east orientated land drains were recorded within the trench. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.
11	The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and sloped downwards to both the north-west and south-east from the centre of the trench. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown silty clay measuring 0.30-0.40m in thickness, although subsoil depth at the centre of the trench was just 0.05m thick. Underlying this was the natural substrate. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.
12	The trench was orientated north to south and had a slight slope downwards from south to north. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown silty clay measuring 0.25-0.30m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate.

No.	Description
	The trench contained four north-west to south-east aligned land drains. One north-south orientated shallow furrow (108) was recorded at the northern end of the trench.
13	The trench was orientated west to east and had a slight slope downwards from south to north across the trench (Fig. 3.3). Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown silty clay measuring 0.20-0.25m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. Two ceramic land drains on a north-west to south-east orientation were recorded within the trench. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.
14	The trench was orientated north to south and sloped downwards to both the north and south from the centre of the trench. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown silty clay measuring 0.20-0.60m in thickness, although subsoil depth at the centre of the trench was just 0.05m thick. Underlying this was the natural substrate. A modern test pit was identified towards the northern end of the trench. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.
15	The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and sloped downwards to the north-west from the south-east of the trench. The trench was shortened slightly at its northern end due to the presence of an overhead power line. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown sandy clay measuring 0.20-0.30m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. Two land drains on a north-west to south-east orientation were identified along with one modern feature cut on an east-west alignment. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.
16	The trench was orientated north-west to south-east and sloped downwards to the north-west from the south-east of the trench. A small extension to the trench was excavated on its western side at the northern end of the trench to further evaluate a small pit feature recorded within the trench at this location (106). Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown sandy clay measuring 0.15-0.60m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. Three land drains on a north-west to south-east orientation were identified in the trench. In addition to small pit 106, a large, wide, shallow ditch on a north-east to south-west orientation was recorded (104).
17	The trench was orientated west to east and sloped slightly downwards from east to west. Topsoil in the trench measured 0.30-0.35m in depth and overlay a band of mid brown sandy clay measuring 0.05-0.10m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate. Towards the eastern end of the trench a large probable pit was recorded (118), a feature containing demolition rubble (tile, slate) material.

Table 3.1: Trench Summaries

3.1 Trench 3

Trench 3 contained two archaeological features; a pit (112) and a furrow (114). Pit 112 (figs. 2.1, 2.2 and 3.4) was located towards the centre of the trench and extended beyond

the limits of the trench to the west. The pit measured 2.75m in diameter by 0.20m in depth with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The northern extent of the feature was masked by a layer of brown silty clay which measured 0.10m in thickness (110). No finds were recovered from the feature and the fill, a dark brown-grey silty sand (111), appeared fairly sterile.

Furrow 114 (figs 2.3 and 2.4) lay to the northern end of the trench and was on a north-west to south-east alignment across the trench. The furrow was shallow, measuring 0.45m in width by 0.08m in depth, and featured shallow sides with a concave profile. No finds were recovered from the feature upon excavation.

3.2 Trench 5

Trench 5 contained one archaeological feature, a large pit (116). Pit 116 (figs. 2.5, 2.6 and 3.5) was recorded towards the eastern end of the trench and measured 3.15m in width by 0.28m in depth and contained one fill; a mid grey silty sand (115) which did not yield any dating evidence. The pit featured gradual sloping sides with a flat base and extended beyond the limits of the trench to the south.

3.3 Trench 12

One feature was recorded within Trench 12, a shallow furrow (108). Furrow 108 (figs 2.7 and 2.8) was recorded at the northern end of the trench with the feature appearing to disappear to towards its southern extent, most likely due to modern ploughing in this area. The furrow measured 0.45m in width and survived to a depth of only 0.04m and featured shallow sides with a concave profile. No finds were recovered from the feature.

3.4 Trench 16

Trench 16 contained two archaeological features; a large ditch (104) and a small pit (106). Ditch 104 (figs. 2.9, 2.10 and 3.6) was recorded at the southern end of the trench and was on a north-east to south-west alignment. The ditch measured 4.02m in width and had a depth of 0.25m and featured moderately sloping sides with a flat base cut into the natural substrate. The fill of the ditch was a sterile mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional rounded stones (103). No finds were recovered.

Pit 106 (figs. 2.11, 2.12 and 3.7) was identified towards the northern central area of the trench and was only fully exposed in plan once a small extension to the trench on its western side had been excavated. The pit was irregularly shaped and measured 0.36m in width with a depth of 0.24m at its deepest point and featured steep sides with a concave profile. The fill of the pit was a mid brown sandy silt that contained frequent charcoal inclusions (105), although no finds or dating evidence were recovered from the feature.

3.5 Trench 17

Trench 17 contained one archaeological feature, a large pit (118) recorded towards the eastern end of the trench. Pit 118 (Fig. 3.8) measured 4.68m in width within the trench, had a depth of 0.68m towards the centre of the feature and was steep sided with a u-shaped profile. The pit extended beyond the limits of the trench to both the north and south and contained a fill that featured large amounts of broken tile, mortar and slate

(117), apparent evidence for the local demolition of a small structure in this area of the site.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

4.1 Methodology

Two bulk soil samples were processed through a system of flotation. The floating debris (flot) was collected in a 250μm sieve and the remaining material (retent) in the tank was washed through a 1mm mesh. Both the flot and retent fractions were then air-dried under controlled conditions.

The retents were sorted by eye for small finds and non-buoyant archaeobotanical remains, and scanned with a magnet to pick up ferrous debris. Any archaeologically significant material was removed and bagged. The flots were scanned using a binocular microscope (x10-x 200 magnifications) and the presence of any charred plant remains recorded.

Identifications of archaeobotanical material were carried out with reference to seed atlases and in-house reference collections.

4.2 Results

The results are summarised in Table 4.1. The findings are expressed quantitatively using the following criteria: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant.

Small finds

Occasional small (<2mm in dia.) fragments of possible ferrous slag were recovered from the fill of a pit (111). No other finds were recovered.

Palaeoenvironmental Remains

Little palaeoenvironmental remains were recovered from the samples apart from a small amount of wood charcoal, occasional fragments of nutshell and three carbonised cereal grains from context from the fill of a ditch (103). The grains were identified as two hulled barley (*Hordeum* var *vulgare*) and a caryopsis of brome grass/ryegrass (*Bromus*/*Lolium* sp.). All of the material was much abraded and poorly preserved, and the quantity of material does not allow for any detailed discussion. None of the material is suitable for AMS dating. No further work is recommended.

Table 4.1. Composition of Samples

			Retent			Flot			
Sample no	**Context no**	**Feature type**	**Slag**	**Nutshell**	**Charcoal**	**Approx. flot vol (ml)**	**Cereal grain**	**Charcoal**	**Comments**
1	111	Pit	+	+ (SF)	++ (SF)	30		+ (SF)	Mostly root debris
2	103	Ditch		+ (VSF)	+ (SF)	30	+ (x3)	+ (SF)	Mostly root debris

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant
SF = small fragments (<5mm in dia.); VSF = very small fragments (<2mm in dia)

5. DISCUSSION

The evaluation revealed the presence of a number of potential features within trenches 3, 5, 12, 16 and 17. The large possible pit in Trench 17 appeared to contain material from the demolition of a small structure in the area, perhaps the remains of a former farm building, although OS mapping from the first edition onwards does not depict any buildings in the area. The remains of shallow plough furrows were identified in trenches 3 and 12 and similar features are likely to be present in other areas across the site where modern ploughing practices have not truncated the depths at which these features survived.

The large ditch in Trench 16 and the two pits recorded in trenches 3 and 5 were filled by a very similar sterile grey-brown sandy silt deposit. The sterility of these fills, the lack of charcoal within and the lack of any dating evidence recovered from these features suggest that they may represent geological anomalies although an archaeological origin cannot be ruled out. The small pit recorded in Trench 16 appeared to be of an archaeological nature, and the fill contained charcoal throughout, suggesting anthropomorphic activity, although no finds were recovered. No other similar features were identified in this trench or within the surrounding trenches.

The geophysical anomalies tested largely appeared to be the result of changes in the natural geology of the area, or the result of modern activity on the site. The anomaly identified across trenches 6, 11, 14 and 17 proved to be a natural gravel seam, while the large dipolar response recorded in Trench 1 proved to be the result of activity associated with the installation of a modern service in the area. The linear anomalies recorded in trenches 4, 9, 13 and 16 were identified as modern ceramic land drains once excavated.

6. CONCLUSION

The trenching undertaken on the proposed housing development site on land to the west of Matty Lonning, Thursby evaluated the potential for surviving archaeological features in the area. Although no conclusive archaeological features were identified some potential features of an undetermined date were recorded.

The geophysical anomalies previously identified proved to be a mixture of geological changes within the natural geology of the site a number of modern ceramic land drains.

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APPENDICES 1-2

APPENDIX 1: Context Summary

Context no.	Trench	Type	Fill of	Width (m)	Max Depth (m)	Description
100	All	Layer			0.20-0.35	Topsoil for all trenches. Consisted of dark brown silty clay with some small stone inclusions.
101	All	Layer			0.15-0.60	Subsoil layer for site area. Consisted of light to mid brown silty sand with small stones throughout.
102	All	Layer			-	Natural substrate for site area. Consisted of a mixture of white-grey sand and stones and orange sandy gravel in places.
103	16	Fill	104	4.02	0.25	Fill of a wide, shallow ditch. Consisted of mid greyish brown silty sand with rounded cobbles in places and some charcoal flecking.
104	16	Ditch		4.02	0.25	Cut for a wide, shallow ditch. Featured shallow sides with a flat base and was on a north-west to south-east orientation. No finds.
105	16	Fill	106	0.36	0.24	Fill of a shallow pit towards north end of Trench 16. Consisted of mid brown-grey sandy silt with frequent small stones and charcoal flecking.
106	16	Pit		0.36	0.24	Cut for a small, sub-circular pit located towards northern end of Trench 16. Featured steep sides with a concave profile. No finds.
107	12	Fill	108	0.62	0.02	Fill of a shallow furrow within Trench 12. Consisted of mid grey silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles in places.
108	12	Furrow		0.62	0.02	Cut for a shallow furrow on a north-south orientation. Featured shallow sides with a slight u-shaped profile.
109	1, 2 and 8	Layer			0.15-0.25	Layer of colluvial clay located within trenches 1, 2 and 8 at northern end of the site. Consisted of yellow silty clay with occasional stone inclusions.
110	3	Layer			0.08	Thin layer of material overlying Pit 112 towards northern end of Trench 3. Consisted of dark brown silty clay with some stone inclusions.
111	3	Fill	112	2.75	0.20	Homogenous fill of a possible pit recorded within Trench 3. Consisted of dark brown-grey silty sand with occasional rounded cobbles in places. Masked by subsoil spread to the north of the feature.
112	3	Pit		2.75	0.20	Cut for a sub-circular pit located towards the centre of Trench 3. Featured gradually sloping sides with a flat base. Masked by a subsoil spread towards the north of the feature. No finds.
113	3	Fill	114	0.45	0.05	Fill of a shallow furrow located towards north of Trench 3. Consisted of orange-brown silty sand with frequent rounded stone inclusions.
114	3	Furrow		0.45	0.05	Cut for a shallow furrow located at the northern end of Trench 3. Featured gradually sloping sides with a concave profile. Feature on a north-west to south-east orientation.
115	5	Fill	116	3.15	0.28	Fill of a shallow pit recorded towards centre of Trench 5. Consisted of mid grey silty sand with occasional rounded cobbles in places.
116	5	Pit		3.15	0.28	Cut for a sub-circular pit recorded towards centre of Trench 5. Featured gradually sloping sides with a flat base. No finds recovered. Feature and fill appeared very sterile.

Appendix 2: Inventory of Primary Archive

Phase	File/Box No.	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no. 1	Context register sheets	1
		Context sheets	16
		Trench record sheets	17
		Digital photographic register sheets	3

FIGURES 1-3

Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench Outline
- Excavated Features
- Modern Feature
- Field Drain
- Modern Service
- Positive magnetic anomaly
- Negative magnetic anomaly
- Area of concentrated dipolar responses
- Linear magnetic response (possibly ditch/track boundaries or wall/foundation remains)
- Faint linear magnetic response (probable plough marks)
- Isolated dipolar magnetic response (possibly caused by scattered ferrous material)

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Title:
Site location and trenches

Project:
Land to the west of Matty Lonning, Thursby, Cumbria: Archaeological Evaluation

Client:
Story Homes

Scale at A3:
1:1200

Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
MP	SW	07/09/2016

Report.No:	Fig. No:
Y244/16	1

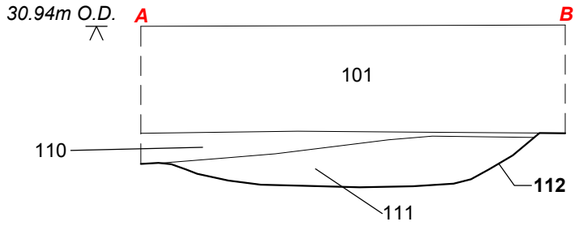

Fig. 2.1 - W-facing section of 112, Trench 3

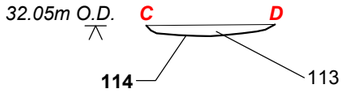

Fig. 2.3 - NW-facing section of 114, Trench 3

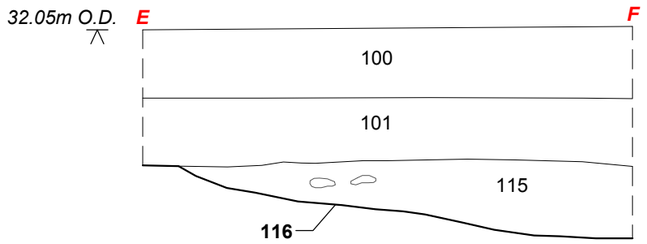

Fig. 2.5 - E-facing section of 116, Trench 5

Fig. 2.7 - S-facing section of 108, Trench 12

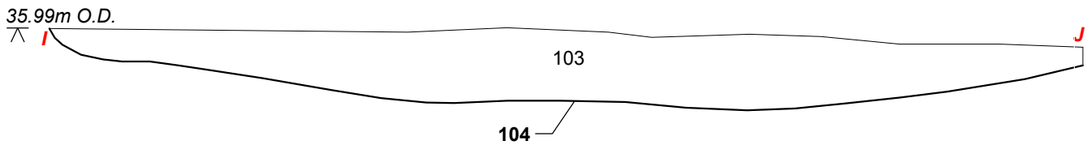

Fig. 2.9 - NE-facing section of 104, Trench 16

Fig. 2.11 - NE-facing section of 106, Trench 16

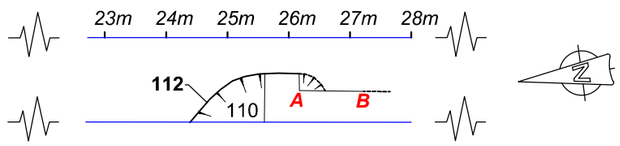

Fig. 2.2 - Plan of 112, Trench 3

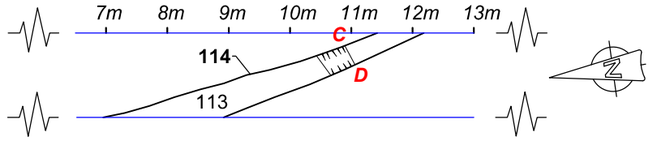

Fig. 2.4 - Plan of 114, Trench 3

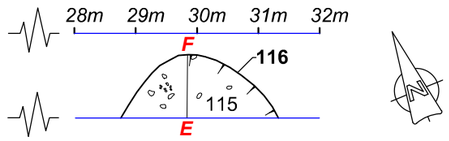

Fig. 2.6 - Plan of 116, Trench 5

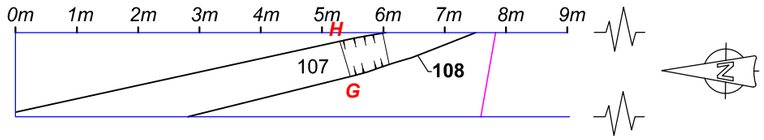

Fig. 2.8 - Plan of 108, Trench 12

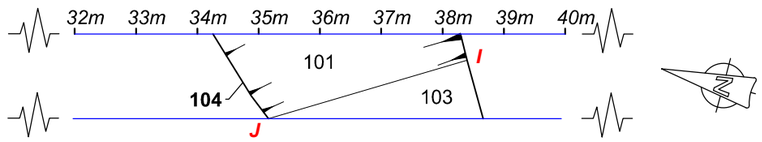

Fig. 2.10 - Plan of 104, Trench 16

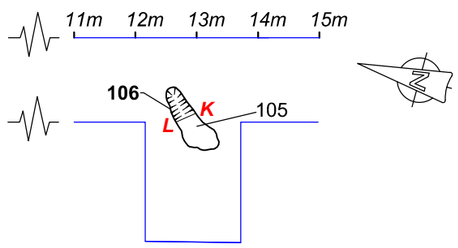

Fig. 2.12 - Plan of 106, Trench 16

Key:

Trench Outline

Field Drain

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Title:
Plans and sections

Project:
Land to the west of Matty Lonning, Thursby, Cumbria: Archaeological Evaluation

Client:
Story Homes

Scale at A3:
Sections, 1:20; Plans, 1:100

Drawn by:	Checked:	Date:
MP	SW	07/09/2016

Report.No:	Fig. No:
Y244/16	2

Fig. 3.1 - Trench 1, general shot, facing west

Fig. 3.2 - Trench 9, general shot, facing north

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Fig. 3.3 - Trench 13, general shot, facing west

Fig. 3.4 - Pit 112, E-facing section, Trench 3

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Fig. 3.5 - Pit 116, E-facing section, Trench 5

Fig. 3.6 - Ditch 104, NE-facing section, Trench 16

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Fig. 3.7 - Pit 106, NE-facing section, Trench 16

Fig. 3.8 - Pit 118, S-facing section, Trench 17

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Y244/16		3