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**Castle View  
Holy Island  
Berwick-upon-Tweed  
Northumberland**

**Archaeological Works**

**Report No. 1713**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological works undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between May and November 2009 at Castle View, Holy Island, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland (NGR: NU 127 420) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Duncan Roberts Architect on behalf of the Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 24 April 2009 was produced by CFA on behalf of Duncan Roberts Architect. The WSI covered the requirement for a programme of test-pitting and an archaeological watching brief. It was designed to meet the requirements of the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT).

### **1.2 Background**

- 1.2.1 Planning consent (Ref Nos. 05/B/0271 and 09/B/0213) has been granted by Northumberland County Council for the erection of four housing units (two buildings) at Castle View, Holy Island subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works. A pre-determination evaluation undertaken by Ian Farmer Associates (2007) had identified a range of archaeological deposits and features across the site including a possible east to west wall alignment of possible medieval date. The archaeological remains had been sealed by post-medieval garden soil deposits with a depth of up to c.1m.
- 1.2.2 The condition attached to the planning consent required the full excavation of the site. However, it was decided in agreement with NCCCT that a low-impact piled foundation design could be implemented, reducing the scope of works to a programme of test-pitting and an archaeological watching brief. The piles were located to avoid the assumed line of a possible medieval wall identified by Ian Farmer Associates.
- 1.2.3 The site is situated immediately to the south of Green Lane and is surrounded by a combination of high stone-built walls and hedges. In addition to Green Lane, the site borders Castle View House to the east, Greystones to the west and the rear gardens of Marygate and Sandham Lane to the south. Documentary sources indicate that the settlement associated with the medieval monastery is thought to have been located close to the development area and in common with much of Holy Island, the property boundaries and layouts of the bordering streets are likely to have originated in the medieval period.

### **1.3 Objectives**

1.3.1 The objectives of the project were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits during groundbreaking and to mitigate any impact on those features or deposits as identified.
- To produce a report on the programme of works.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

- 2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance.
- 2.1.2 All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.
- 2.1.3 The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

### **2.2 Test Pitting**

- 2.2.1 Five test pits (**TP1-TP5**) measuring 1m by 1m were hand excavated to the level of the subsoil. The test pits were located to target the positions of the pile locations for the northern wall of the easternmost of the two housing blocks. This was done to ensure that the possible medieval wall identified by Ian Farmer Associates was not damaged by the proposed development.

### **2.2 Watching Brief**

- 2.3.1 The groundbreaking works were undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching buckets under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation needed to fulfil the objectives of the brief was carried out by hand.
- 2.3.2 The principle groundbreaking works monitored during the watching brief were as follows:
  - The reduction of the ground level across the site by a depth of 0.1m at the western end, deepening to 0.15m at the eastern end.
  - The excavation of a trench for a sewerage pipe measuring c.33m long by 0.8m wide by 1.6m deep.
  - The excavation of a trial pit measuring 1.6m long by 0.8m wide by 0.6m deep for the purpose of identifying the location of existing services.
  - The excavation of a wall foundation trench measuring c. 10m long by 0.4m wide by 0.7m deep
  - The excavation of a number of minor service trenches typically measuring up to 0.4m wide by 0.5m deep.

### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 3.1 General

3.1.1 Numbers in bold in the following text refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

3.1.2 The topsoil (**001**) across the area had a depth of c.0.5m – 1m and consisted of dark-brown silty garden soil containing numerous shell and bone fragments. The artefacts recovered from the topsoil consisted of medieval pottery along with a variety of post-medieval items including reduced green-glazed pottery, animal bone and modern tile. Beneath the topsoil, there was a deposit of orange brown silty sand (**003**) with a depth of up to c.0.3m, which was present throughout the development area. Deposit **003** sat directly on top of the natural subsoil (**002**), which consisted of orange-brown, yellow-brown and grey clay. Following ground reduction work, areas of the site had been levelled using modern hardcore (**000**).

#### 3.2 Archaeological Features

3.2.1 The archaeological features identified consisted of a ditch (**004**), a length of dry-stone wall (**007**) and an area of possible paving (**010**). Features **004** and **007** were located during excavation works for a new sewerage pipe and associated chambers, and paving **010** was located during the excavation of a trial pit for the purpose of locating services. There were no archaeological features identified during the excavation of the hand-dug test pits and the remaining service/wall trenches were of insufficient depth (up to c.0.5m deep) to allow the archaeological horizon to be reached. Details of the features identified are contained below.

##### *Ditch 004*

3.2.2 Ditch **004** (Fig. 3) was located c. 0.8m below the current ground level and was aligned north to south. It measured c.2m wide by 0.9m deep, and had sloping sides and a flat base. The fill of the ditch (**005**) consisted of dark brown silt of the same colour and consistency as the topsoil, and contained a variety of medieval and post-medieval artefacts (Section 3.3.below). This feature had been cut through deposit **003**, indicating that it post-dated wall **007**. A sample of deposit **005** was retained for analysis (Section 3.4 below).

##### *Wall 007*

3.2.3 Wall **007** (Fig. 4 - Fig. 6 and Fig. 8 – Fig. 12) was situated 0.9m below the current ground surface. It measured c. 0.7m in width and was of dry-stone construction. It consisted of a single course of un-dressed stones measuring up to 0.5m in length and showed no clear evidence of any kind of facing. The wall sat c. 0.08m above the level of the subsoil on a shallow deposit of orange-brown sandy silt (**009**), which was of a similar colour and consistency to deposit **003**. Deposit **003**, which had built up against the wall and partially overlay it, was in turn partially overlain by a shell rich midden deposit (**008**).

Sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the midden material (Section 3.3 below). Samples of deposits **009**, **008** and **003** (from between the stone forming the wall) were retained for environmental sampling. Details of these samples are contained in Section 3.4 below.

- 3.2.4 The wall (**007**) was on an east to west alignment, which is broadly the same as the assumed alignment of the possible medieval wall identified during the pre-determination evaluation (Ian Farmer Associates 2007). However, wall **007** was located c. 1m further to the north than the assumed line. This could either indicate that there was a curve in the line of the wall, that it was plotted in the wrong location during the pre-determine evaluation, or that it represents a different wall to those previously identified. The fact that the wall was on a parallel alignment to Green Lane perhaps supports the idea that the layout of the streets have remained broadly unchanged since medieval times

#### *Possible Paving 010*

- 3.2.5 One flat stone was uncovered and a further two flat stones were partially uncovered during the excavation of a trench for the purpose of identifying existing services (Fig. 7 and Fig. 13). The stones (**010**) were situated at a depth of c.0.6m below the current ground surface and sat directly on top of deposit **003**. The stone that was fully uncovered measured c. 0.5m by 0.25m. These stones might represent an area of paving, but the small area uncovered make it impossible to be able to state this with any great degree of certainty.

### **3.3 Finds (Sue Anderson)**

- 3.3.1 The finds have been quantified by context and find type (Appendix 4), but no specialist analysis has been carried out at this stage. All finds were collected from topsoil 001, ditch fill 005 and midden deposit 008. Table 1 shows a summary of the quantification by find type.

<b>Find type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Wt (g)</b>
Pottery: medieval	16	347
Pottery: post-medieval	4	32
CBM	2	107
Stone	1	26
Clay pipe	1	3
Flint	1	7
Bone	73	1490
Shell	2	24
Other organic	1	13

Table 1. Finds quantification

- 3.3.2 Pottery collected from the topsoil comprised eight sherds of glazed and unglazed medieval wares and three sherds of reduced green-glazed wares of early post-medieval date. Four medieval glazed ware sherds were collected from ditch fill 005, along with a flake of post-medieval slipware of probable 17th-century date. Midden deposit 008 produced four sherds of medieval glazed and unglazed wares, including a fragment of jug body with part of a strap handle.

- 3.3.3 Fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were all from the topsoil and were of modern date. They comprised a red earthenware tile of uncertain form, and a piece of grey cementitious pressed roof tile. A piece of flat micaceous sandstone from this context may be a stone roofing tile.
- 3.3.4 One small piece of clay pipe stem of 17th/18th-century date was recovered from the topsoil.
- 3.3.5 An abraded grey flint, worked to a rectangular shape, may be a post-medieval gunflint. It was found in ditch fill 005.
- 3.3.6 Large quantities of bone were collected from the topsoil and included pieces of the major domesticates (cattle, horse, sheep, pig, dog?), both adult and juvenile, some of which showed evidence of butchery. Ten fragments in a more abraded state were recovered from ditch fill 005, and included pieces of large mammal and two large fish vertebrae. Two pieces of marine shell were also collected from this context, a complete oyster shell and a fragment of ?whelk. A fragment of coconut shell was collected from the topsoil.

### **3.4 Environmental Samples (Mhairi Hastie)**

#### *Methodology*

- 3.4.1 Five bulk soil samples measuring between 12L and 48L were retained. Twelve litre sub-samples of four of the samples – Samples 1 (005), 3 (008), 4 (009) and 5 (003), were processed for the purposes of assessment.
- 3.4.2 Each sub-sample was subjected to a system of flotation and wet sieving. The floating debris was collected in a 250µm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a low-powered microscope. The material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. The retents were then sorted for any archaeological significant material.
- 3.4.3 Results are summarised in Tables 2 and 3; the findings are expressed quantitatively using the following criteria: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant.

#### *Results*

- 3.4.4 The samples contained a mixture of both domestic and industrial debris including pottery, building material, slag, animal bone, fish bone, marine shell, carbonised cereal grains and charcoal.
  - *Ceramics*: Two tiny fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from Samples 1 and 3. A small piece of abraded burnt daub was present in Sample 1, and there were small chips of CBM in all four samples.
  - *Worked stone*: A fragment of a fine micaceous stone which appears to have been worked and may be the remains of a whetstone was recovered from Sample 4.



- *Metalworking debris*: Low concentrations of both ferrous and non-ferrous slag conglomerates were recovered from all of the samples.
- *Glass*: One tiny fragment of uncoloured glass was recovered from Sample 3.
- *Animal and fish bone*: The samples contained a mixture of mammal and fish bone; both burnt and unburnt fragments were recovered. The largest concentrations of bone were recovered from Samples 1 and 3.
- *Marine shell*: A concentration of well-preserved periwinkle shells were recovered from Sample 3. The other samples also contained small quantities of very fragmentary marine shell including winkle and mussel.
- *Land snails*: Small quantities of land snails were present in the flots from Samples 4 and 5.
- *Carbonised plant remains*: Small quantities of carbonised cereal grain were recovered from all of the samples; oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and one grain of possible rye (cf. *Secale cereale*) were identified. Occasional fragments of charred hazelnut shell were also recovered from Samples 4 and 5.
- *Charcoal*: Small quantities of abraded wood charcoal fragments were recovered from Samples 1, 4, and 5. Occasional twigs of heather (*Calluna* / *Ling* sp.) were also present in Sample 3.
- *Coal and Cinders*: High concentrations of cinders were recovered from all of the samples and fragments of unburnt coal were present in Samples 3 and 5.
- *Seaweed*: Occasional fragments of charred seaweed were recovered from Samples 1 and 3.

### *Discussion*

- 3.4.5 The material recovered from the site is consistent with other medieval and post-medieval sites, with the presence of a low level spread of domestic and industrial debris throughout many different contexts.
- 3.4.6 Based on evidence from other medieval sites such as the Byre Theatre, St Andrews (Carter 2001) and the Scottish Parliament Site (Holden and Hastie forthcoming) it is suggested that the mixed deposits represent sediment accumulation that has largely been brought about by repeated building, demolition, small-scale cultivation, pit cutting and infilling, and that the material recovered is therefore likely to represent debris reworked from domestic and other structures.

Sample	Context	Description	Pottery	Worked stone	Fired clay & CBM	Metal working debris	Glass	Bone		Marine shell
								Unburnt	Burnt	
1	005	Fill of ditch 004	+		+	+		+++	+	+++
2	008	Midden deposit overlying wall 007			+	+	+	+++	+	+++
3	009	Material underlying wall 007	+	+	+	+		+	+	++
4	003	Material between stones forming wall 007			+	+		+	+	++

Table 2. Composition of Retents

Sample	Context	Description	Cereal grains	Nut shell	Charcoal		Coal	Cinders	Seaweed	Bone		Land snails	Cereal species
					wood	heather				Unburnt	burnt		
1	005	Fill of ditch 004	++		++			+++	+	+	+		<i>Avena</i> sp. + <i>Hordeum</i> sp. + <i>Triticum aestivum</i> +
2	008	Midden deposit overlying wall 007	++			+	+	+++	+	+			<i>Avena</i> sp. + <i>Hordeum</i> sp. + <i>Triticum aestivum</i> +
3	009	Material underlying wall 007	+	+	++			+++		+		+	cf. <i>Secale cereale</i> . x 1
4	003	Material between stones forming wall 007	+	+	++		++	++		+	+	+	<i>Avena</i> sp. + <i>Hordeum</i> sp. +

Table 3. Composition of Flots

- 3.4.7 The presence of ferrous and non-ferrous slag within the samples suggests that metal working was being carried out in the near vicinity of the excavated area. The high concentrations of marine shell and fish bone recovered testify to the utilisation of coastal resources; fishing was one of the main industries on the island from the medieval period onwards.
- 3.4.7 The cereal species recovered, including oat, barley, bread wheat and rye were all commonly cultivated during the medieval and post-medieval periods throughout Britain. The charred grain was probably burnt during food preparation and become mixed with other domestic debris through sweepings or being deposited onto middens. Charred hazelnut shell was also present, albeit in very small quantities, suggesting the additionally collection of wild resources to supplement the diet.
- 3.4.8 Of interest is the presence of occasional fragments of seaweed. Seaweed has been collected throughout history for a number of purposes, most notably as a form of fertiliser, as fuel (Fenton 1978) and as a medicine (Grieves 1992). Dried seaweed was particularly used as a fuel in the Northern Isles, however it seems most likely that the small quantities recovered here are incidental burning of material brought to the site with collected marine shell and driftwood.
- 3.4.9 Both wood charcoal and unburnt coal were recovered along with high concentrations of cinders suggesting that both wood and coal were being used as a source of fuel. Small fragments of charred heather were also present in one sample (context 008) and this may potentially indicate that heathy turves were also being used as an occasional fuel source. Nevertheless, heather could have also been brought to the site for use as bedding, roofing and packing material or even for making nets in which cereal grain were held over the fire for drying.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 An archaeological watching brief carried out at Castle View, Holy Island. The watching brief identified an east to west wall alignment, a north to south aligned ditch and an area of possible paving. Sherds of medieval pottery recovered from the overlying deposits suggest that they are likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date.
- 4.2 NCCCT have confirmed that no further work is required.
- 4.3 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be prepared in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd edition, 1991), and arrangements made for its deposit with an appropriate repository within 6 months of the completion of post-excavation and reporting.
- 4.4 NCCCT will be notified of the arrangements made for the deposit of the archive and the transfer and storage of finds to the relevant museum.
- 4.5 A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted by December of the year in which the work is completed.
- 4.6 An OASIS report has been compiled and will be filed online at the completion of the project.

## 5. REFERENCES

Carter, S 2001 'A reassessment of the origin of the St Andrews 'Garden Soil'',  
*Tayside Fife Archaeol J* 7, 87-92.

Fenton, A 1978 *The Northern Isles: Orkney and Shetland*, Edinburgh.

Grieve, M 1992 *A Modern Herbal*. London: Tiger Books International (from 1931 original)

Holden, T & Hastie, M forthcoming *The Carbonised Remains from the Parliament Excavations*.

Ian Farmer Associates 2007 *Castle View, Holy Island, Berwick-Upon-Tweed, Northumberland TD15 2SG*, unpublished data structure report, Contract No. 11011

## APPENDIX 1: Context Register

No	Feature	Description
001	N/A	Dark brown silt topsoil containing shell and bone fragments
002	N/A	Natural Subsoil
003	N/A	Deposit of orange-brown silty-sand overlying subsoil
004	004	Cut of ditch (probably post-medieval)
005	004	Fill of ditch
006	N/A	Not Used
007	007	Stones forming wall
008	007	Shell rich midden material overlying wall 007
009	007	Material underlying wall 007
010	010	Area of possible paving

## APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

### *Digital*

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	General working shots showing excavation of sewerage trench	Various	Sun
3-8	Sequence of shots showing north-facing section of sewerage trench	North	Sun
9-16	General working shots showing excavation of sewerage trench	Various	Sun
17-18	Wall 007 in plan	West	Overcast
19-20	Wall 007 general	North	Overcast
21-22	Wall 007 general	South	Overcast
23-24	Wall 007 east-facing section	East	Overcast
25-26	Shell rich topsoil overlying deposit 008	East	Overcast
27-28	North-facing section of sewerage trench showing wall 007 and deposit 008	North	Overcast
29-30	North-facing section of sewerage trench showing wall 007 and deposit 008 (Close up)	North	Overcast
31-32	North-facing section of sewerage trench showing wall 007 and deposit 008	North	Overcast
33-34	Pit excavated to identify services showing area of possible paving 010	East	Overcast
35-48	General working shots showing excavation of service trenches	Various	Overcast

### *Colour Slide Film 1 and Black and White Print Film 1*

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	General working shots showing excavation of sewerage trench	Various	Sun
3-8	Sequence of shots showing north-facing section of sewerage trench	North	Sun
9-16	General working shots showing excavation of sewerage trench	Various	Sun
17-18	Wall 007 in plan	West	Overcast
19-20	Wall 007 general	North	Overcast
21-22	Wall 007 general	South	Overcast
23-24	Wall 007 east-facing section	East	Overcast
25-26	Shell rich topsoil overlying deposit 008	East	Overcast
27-28	North-facing section of sewerage trench showing wall 007 and deposit 008	North	Overcast
29-30	North-facing section of sewerage trench showing wall 007 and deposit 008 (Close up)	North	Overcast
31-32	North-facing section of sewerage trench showing wall 007 and deposit 008	North	Overcast
33-34	Pit excavated to identify services showing area of possible paving	East	Overcast

	010		
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*Colour Slide Film 2 and Black and White Print Film 2*

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-14	General working shots showing excavation of service trenches	Various	Overcast

### APPENDIX 3: Field Drawings Register

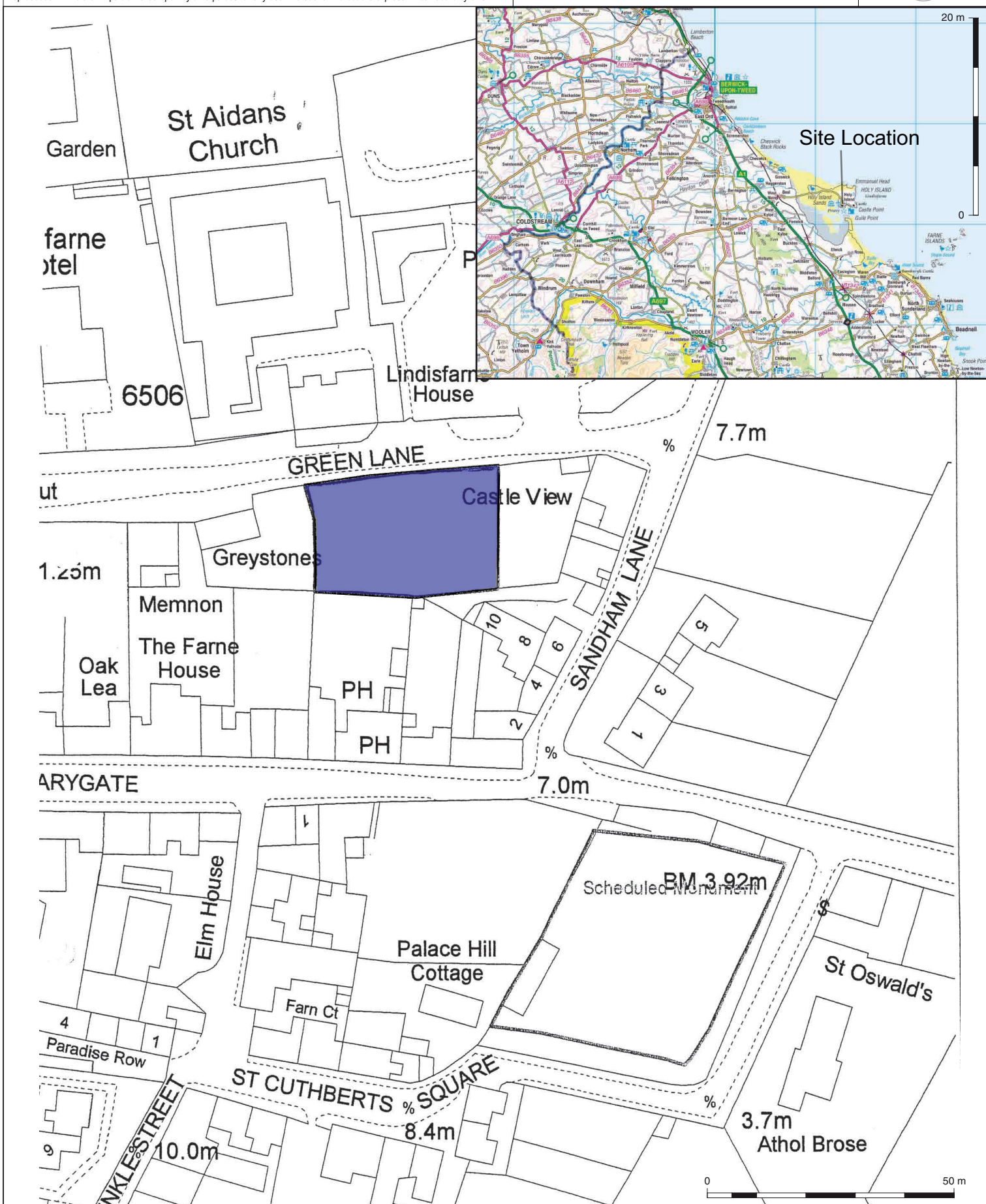
Sheet No	Drawing No	Scale	Section/Plan	Description
1	1.1	1:20	S	North-facing section of sewerage trench
1	1.2	1:20	S	North-facing section of sewerage trench
1	2.1	1:50	P	East to west aligned section of sewerage trench between Chamber 1 and Chamber 2
2	3.1	1:20	S	East facing section of sewerage trench
2	3.2	1:20	S	East facing section of sewerage trench
3	3.3	1:20	S	East facing section of sewerage trench
3	4.1	1:20	S	North-facing section of Chamber 3
4	4.2	1:20	S	North-facing section of sewerage trench between Chamber 3 and Chamber 4
4	2.2	1:50	P	East to west aligned section of sewerage trench between Chamber 3 and Chamber 4
4	7	1:20	P	Plan of pit to identify services showing area of possible paving
5	6	1:10	P	Plan of wall 007

### APPENDIX 4: Finds Catalogue

Context	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes	Spotdate
001	Pottery	8	167	glazed & unglazed body sherds	medieval
	Pottery	3	25	reduced green-glazed	post-medieval?
	CBM	1	69	unidentified form of tile	modern
	CBM	1	38	cementitious pressed grey tile	modern
	Clay pipe	1	3	stem fragment	post-medieval
	Stone	1	26	micaceous sandstone slab, poss roof tile	-
	Bone	63	1447	large frags of cow, horse, pig, sheep, ?dog	post-medieval
	Coconut	1	13	shell fragment	modern
005	Pottery	4	62	glazed	medieval
	Pottery	1	7	slipware	17th c.
	Flint	1	7	abraded, poss gunflint	post-medieval?
	Bone	10	43	small frags large mammal, 2 large fish verts	med/pmed
	Shell	2	24	oyster & ?whelk	-
008	Pottery	4	118	glazed and unglazed	medieval

### APPENDIX 5: Samples Register

Sample no.	Context	Feature	Comment	Size
1	005	004	Fill of ditch	36L
2	001	N/A	Topsoil	36L
3	008	007	Midden deposit overlying wall 007	48L
4	009	007	Material underlying wall 007	24L
5	003	007	Taken from between stones forming wall 007	12L



Key:



Site Location



Fig. No:

1

Revision:

A

Client:

Holy Island of Lindisfarne  
Community Development Trust

Title:

Location Map

Project:

Castle View Holy Island



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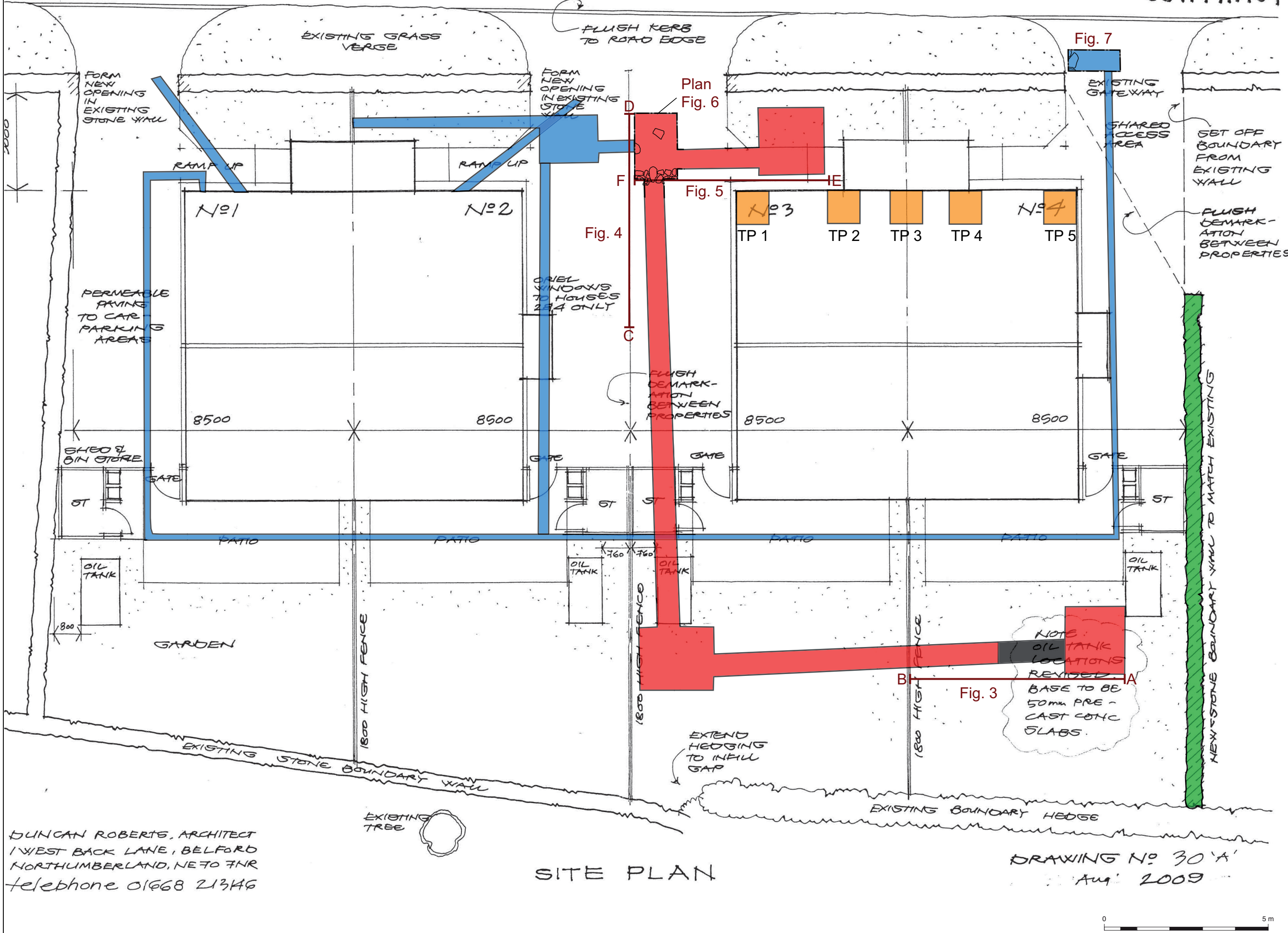
HOUSING 86 GREEN LANE for the HOLY ISLAND of LINDISFARNE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

CONTRACT



Key:

- Sewage Pipe Trench Monitored
- Ditch 004
- Other Service Trenches Monitored
- Wall Foundation Trench Monitored
- Hand Dug Test Pits



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SITE PLAN

DRAWING NO 30 'A'  
Aug 2009

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Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A
Title:	Site Plan		
Project:	Castle View Holy Island		
Scale:			
Client:	Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust		
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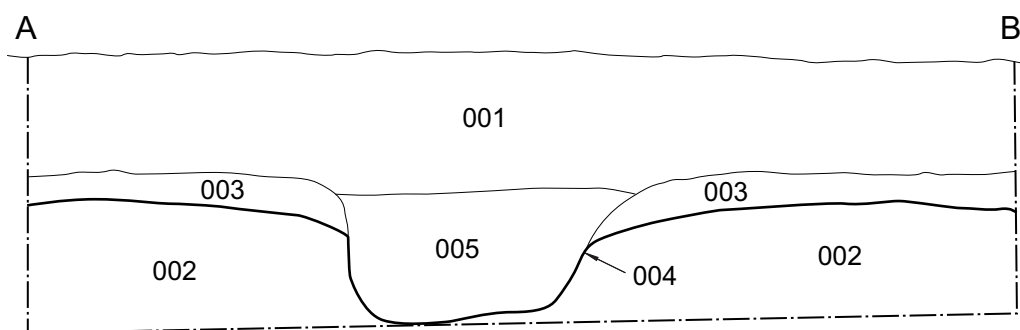


Figure 3 - North-facing section of sewerage trench showing ditch 004

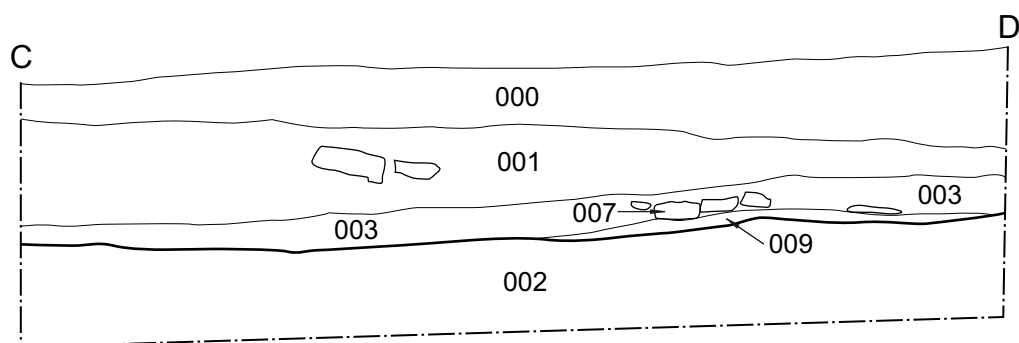


Figure 4 - East-facing section of sewerage trench showing wall 007

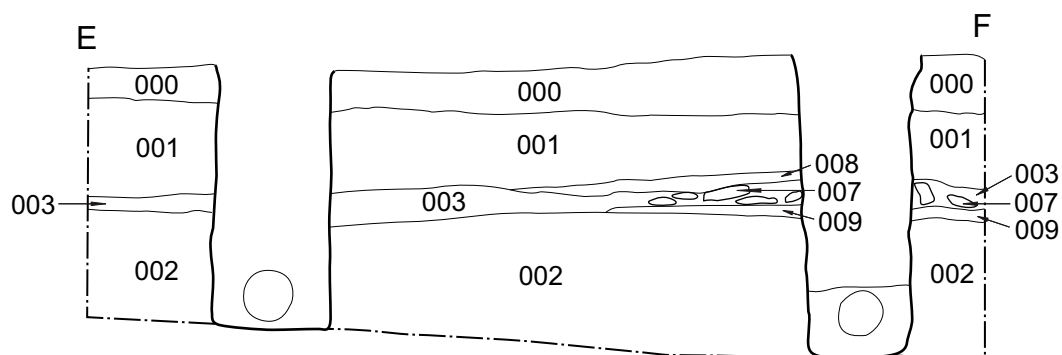


Figure 5 - North-facing section of sewerage trench showing wall 007



Key:

Fig. No: 3-5  
Revision: A  
Client: Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust  
Title:  
Project: Castle View Holy Island



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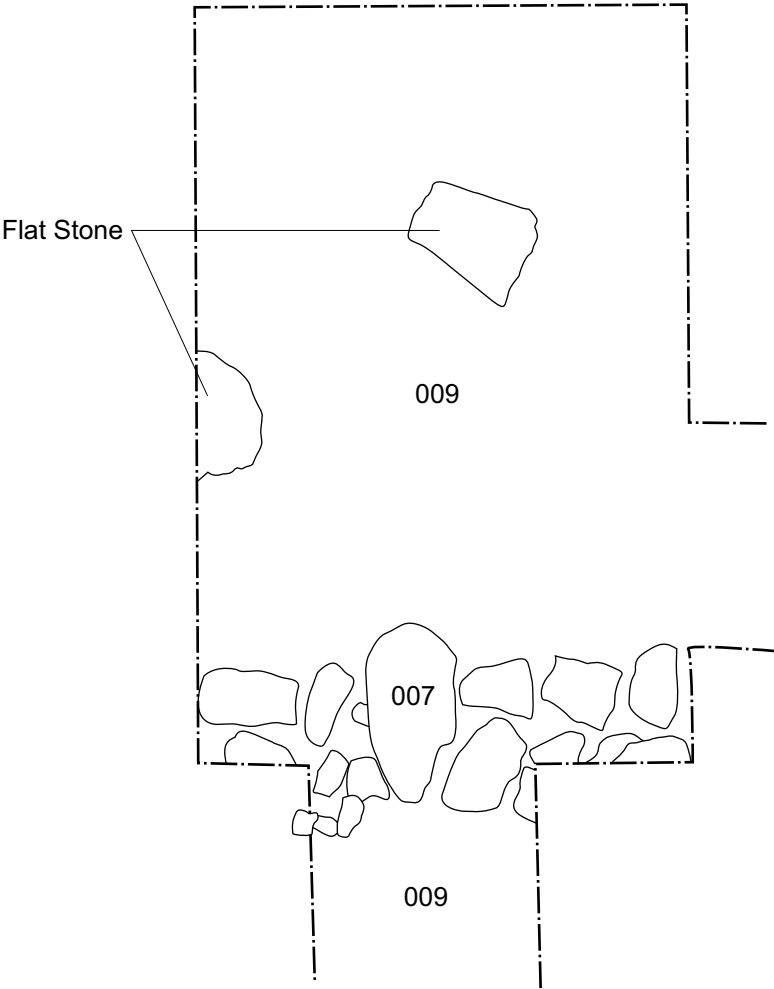


Figure 6 - Plan of wall 007

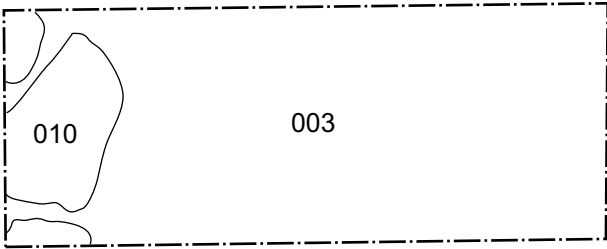


Figure 7 - Plan of possible paving 010

0 1000 mm

Key:



Fig. No:	6-7	Revision:	A	Client:	Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust
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Project:	Castle View Holy Island				

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Figure 8 - Wall 007 from West



Figure 9 - Wall 007 from North



Figure 10 - Wall 007 from South



Figure 11 - Wall 007 East-facing section



Figure 12 - Wall 007 North-facing section



Figure 13 - Paving 010 from East

Key:

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