ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES WYAS

London-Edinburgh-Thurso Trunk Road
A1 Adderstone to Belford Dualling
Northumberland

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Golder Associates (UK) Ltd.

London-Edinburgh-Thurso Trunk Road

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Contents

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the excavation of geotechnical test pits along the preferred route of A1 dualling between Adderstone and Belford, Northumberland. The test pits were excavated to provide data for the design and planning process for the proposed route. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief.

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Archaeological Services WYAS

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1. Introduction

1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Mr Paul Wheelhouse of Golder Associates (UK) Ltd acting as archaeological consultants to Mouchel Parkman to undertake an archaeological watching brief during excavation of geotechnical test pits along the preferred (blue) route of the A1 dualling between Adderstone Garage and Belford (see Fig. 1).

1.2 The proposed route is approximately 4.7km long and runs from the A1/B6349 junction 1km south-east of Belford (NGR NU 118 335), extending southwards to NU 133 295, just south of Adderstone Garage. The pits were excavated to provide data that would input into the earthwork design and planning process and were spread along the whole length of the route (see Fig. 2).

1.3 Topographically the route undulates from 40m to 90m Above Ordnance Datum. The underlying solid geology consists of Lower Carboniferous Bernician limestone overlain by glacial drift deposits of boulder clay and occasional sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 1953). Geotechnical data collated during preparatory works for an earlier scheme proposal indicated that the boulder clay is up to 2.5m in depth and contained cobbles and bands of clayey sand as well as igneous pebbles in the topsoil. The soils are typically deep, fine loams classified in the Nercwys soil association.

1.4 The excavation of the test-pits took place between March 27th and 31st and April 3rd and 5th 2006. All pits were monitored except where noted.

2. Archaeological Background

2.1 A Stage 2 Cultural Heritage Assessment (Golder Associates 2005) identified sixty-one sites of archaeological interest within the search area along the proposed route and ten areas were identified for further evaluation by geophysical survey. Detailed magnetometer survey was subsequently undertaken in these areas by Archaeological Services WYAS in December 2005 (see Fig. 2). However, no anomalies of a probable archaeological origin were identified during the investigation although some anomalies that could have an archaeological cause were noted in areas adjacent to cropmarks (Webb and Harrison 2005).

3. Method

3.1 The aim of the watching brief was to establish the presence/absence, condition, character, quality of survival, date and significance of any archaeological remains or deposits within the test pits thereby enhancing the available information about the archaeology within the road corridor. This information would assist in the formulation of an appropriate strategy for any further archaeological evaluation work.

3.2 The position of the test pits was established by engineers under the directorship of Mouchel Parkman and then machine excavated by a JCB fitted with a toothed bucket. An archaeologist was present throughout except where noted (see Table 1). The resultant sections and machined surfaces were examined and a record of each pit made on pro-forma ‘Geotechnical Test Pit

Record Sheets'. The locations of the test pits as shown in Figures 2a, b and c are based on co-ordinates supplied to ASWYAS by Mouchel Parkman.

3.3 A written and photographic record was maintained of the trial pits according to industry standards and Archaeological Services WYAS standard method (ASWYAS 2003, 2006). An inventory of the primary archive is presented in Appendix I.

4. Results

Test Hole	**Dimensions/** ***Co-ordinates***	**Max Depth**	**Topsoil Depth**	**Subsoil Depth**	**Natural**	**Comments**
TP101	3.2m × 1.0m *413285.5319 629654.9357*	2.8m	0.15m	-	gravely clayey sand	No archaeology
TP102	3.0m × 1.0m *413273.694 629705.4699*	3.1m	0.2m	0.3m	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP103	3.0m × 1.5m *413279.7728 629822.5701*	3.45m	0.3m	0.2m	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP104	2.4m × 1.0m *413218.5628 629902.2865*	0.6m	0.3m	-	clayey sand	Hit a service pipe at 0.6m – No further excavation took place
TP104a	2.8m × 1.0m	3.3m	0.3m	-	clayey sand	New test pit approx 2m east of TP104 to avoid services. No archaeology
TP105	2.9m × 1.0m *413192.0074 630026.1517*	3.8m	0.4m	-	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP106	3.0m × 1.1m *413161.1287 630190.0568*	4.0m	0.3m	0.1m	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP107	2.6m × 0.9m *413141.6469 630277.3984*	4.0m	0.3m	0.1m	clayey sand	No archaeology
TP108	3.0m × 0.9m *413107.9965 630465.6062*	4.0m	0.3m	0.1m	sandy clay	No archaeology

TP109	3.2m × 1.1m *413125.3319 630544.6757*	2.75m	0.3m	0.2m	clayey sand	No archaeology
TP110	3.1m × 0.9m *413080.0123 630591.4771*	4.0m	0.3m	-	clayey sandy gravel	No archaeology
TP111	2.8m × 0.9m *413071.0429 630764.7071*	4.2m	0.35m	-	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP112	3.0m × 1.0m *412957.7041 630888.6806*	3.2m	0.2m	-	sandy gravely clay	No archaeology
TP113	2.8m × 1.0m *412912.1305 630947.3865*	4.0m	0.3m	-	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP114	2.8m × 1.0m *412839.9644 631185.5588*	3.2m	0.3m	-	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP115	3.4m × 1.0m *412850.311 631071.4145*	4.0m	0.2m	0.2m	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP116	2.8m × 0.9m *412721.9408 631313.2924*	2.55	0.7m	-	gravely clayey sand	No archaeology
TP117	3.1m × 0.9m *412730.8253 631379.272*	0.8m	0.1m	0.65m	Limestone bedrock	Situated on the edge of a disused limestone quarry
TP118	2.9m × 1.2m *412714.509 631466.4338*	2.1m	0.3m	0.25m	clayey sand	No archaeology
TP119	3.6m × 0.9m *412655.9717 631511.9265*	0.65	0.15m	0.5m	Limestone bedrock	Situated on the edge of a disused limestone quarry
TP120	*412648.7714 631590.9098*					Excavated without ASWYAS in attendance

TP120a						Excavated without ASWYAS in attendance
TP121	2.8m × 1.0m *412574.0535* *631709.8451*	2.2m	0.3m	0.1m	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP122	2.7m × 2.6m *412551.6509* *631811.5889*	2.7m	0.3m	-	sandy gravely clay	No archaeology
TP123	3.0m × 1.0m *412546.9717* *631957.131*	2.65m	0.25m	0.1m	sandy gravely clay	No archaeology
TP124	2.9m × 1.0m *412488.3478* *632136.0608*	4.0m	0.3m	0.2m	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP125	2.8m × 1.05m *412430.5387* *632182.9438*	2.9m	0.3m	0.3m	clayey sand	No archaeology
TP126	3.0m × 1.1m *412364.5636* *632219.5463*	3.4m	0.25m	0.1m	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP127	3.2m × 1.1m *412361.7649* *632295.4665*	2.85m	0.25m	-	clay	No archaeology
TP128	2.8m × 1.2m *412306.6441* *632291.6569*	3.3m	0.3m	-	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP129	*412311.0867* *632361.4009*					Excavated without ASWYAS in attendance
TP130	*412290.8151* *632389.5504*					Excavated without ASWYAS in attendance

TP131	2.0m × 1.0m *412215.0452 632382.5901*	3.0m	0.3m	-	clay	No archaeology
TP132	2.0m × 1.0m *412218.0109 632484.1621*	2.9m	0.4m	-	clay	No archaeology
TP133	2.0m × 1.0m *412150.4527 632503.5125*	3.2m	0.25m	-	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP134	2.0m × 1.0m *412165.2354 632560.6976*	2.1m	0.3m	-	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP135	2.5m × 1.0m *412128.3004 632604.3159*	2.7m	0.3m	-	sandy clay	No archaeology
TP136	*412052.3104 632629.8464*					Excavated without ASWYAS in attendance due to land access problems
TP137	2.5m × 1.0m *412082.9081 632696.4582*	2.8m	0.4m	0.2m	clay	No archaeology
TP138	*411993.6034 632779.9151*					Excavated without ASWYAS in attendance due to land access problems
TP139	*411933.4534 632911.8662*					Excavated without ASWYAS in attendance due to land access problems
TP140	*411899.8206 632997.066*					Excavated without ASWYAS in attendance due to land access problems
TP141	*411913.9802 633097.0571*					Excavated without ASWYAS in attendance due to access problems

TP142	2.0m × 1.0m *411869.3235 633092.2948*	2.9m	0.3m	-	gravely clay	No archaeology
TP143	2.0m × 1.0m *411809.1021 633325.6343*	4.0m	0.5m	-	clay	No archaeology
TP144	2.0m × 1.0m *411784.2115 633420.5143*	3.8m	0.35m	-	gravely clay	No archaeology
TP145	2.0m × 1.0m *411756.256 633544.5832*	3.6m	0.3m	-	gravel	No archaeology
TP146	2.0m × 1.0m *411764.721 633593.4097*	3.8m	0.35m	-	clay	No archaeology
TP147	2.0m × 1.0m *411761.9785 633692.9655*	3.9m	0.4m	-	clay	No archaeology

4.1 The topsoil remained sandy clay throughout, with various shades of brown being the only significant difference. Subsoil was largely absent or very shallow in all observed pits.

5. Discussion and Conclusions

5.1 The excavation of the test pits revealed no archaeological deposits or features. Where the pits were located in areas where detailed magnetometer survey had taken place the negative results support the geophysical interpretation.

Bibliography

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Webb, A., & S. Harrison, 2005, 'London-Edinburgh-Thurso Trunk Road, A1 Adderstone to Belford Dualling, Geophysical Survey', Archaeological Services WYAS, unpubl. (ASWYAS R1476)

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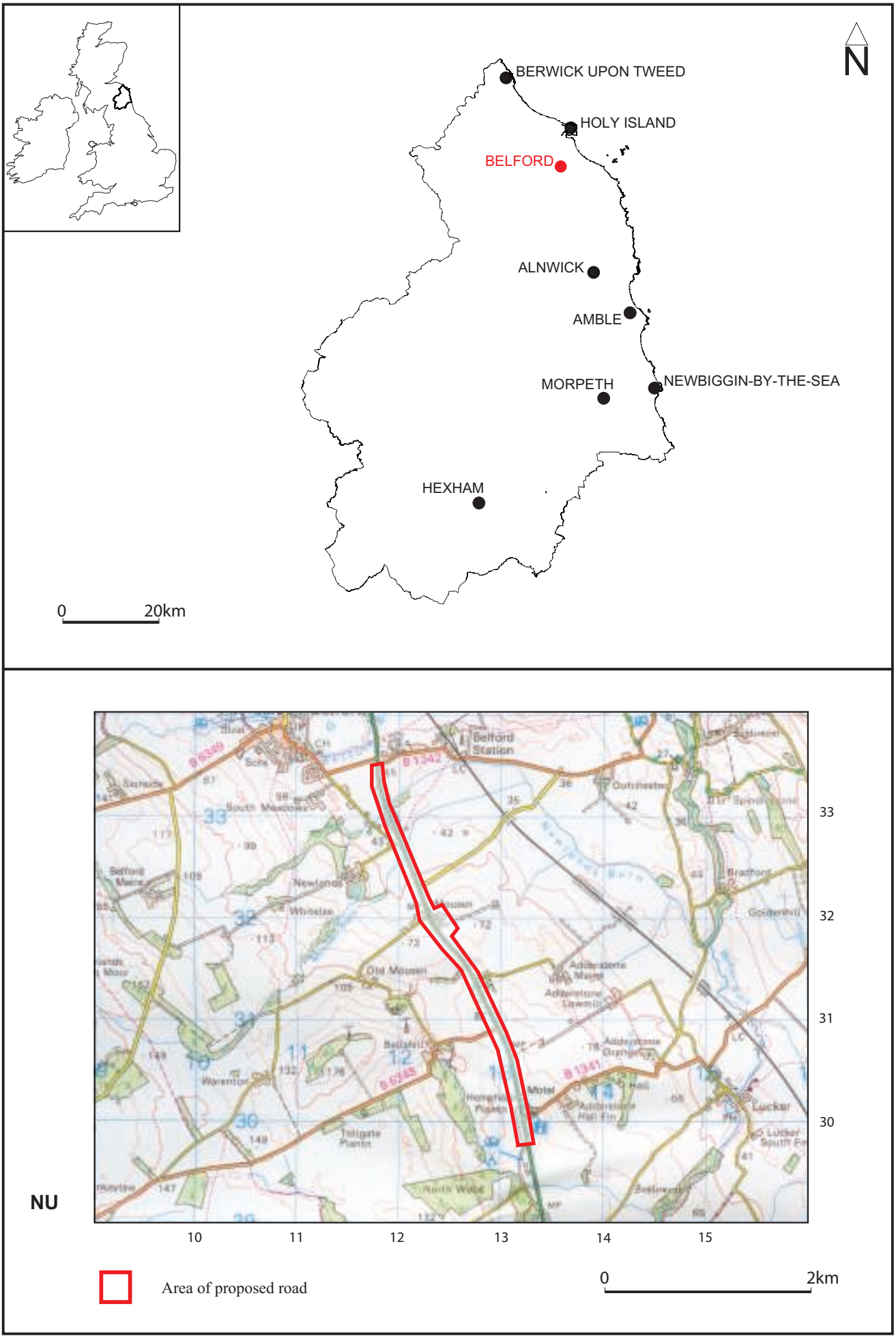

Fig. 1. Site location

	AREA OF ASWYAS GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY		POSSIBLE CROPMARK
	PROPOSED LOCATION OF BLUE ROUTE		RIDGE AND FURROW
	CROPMARK		EXTANT STRUCTURE
	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BANK		NATURAL FEATURE
	MODERN FEATURE		STRUCTURAL REMAINS

N

TP116 TP115 TP114 TP113 TP112 TP111 TP110 TP109 TP108 TP107 TP106 TP105 TP104 TP103 TP102 TP101

6305 00

4130 00

Fig. 2a. Proposed road corridor showing test pit locations, geophysical survey blocks and cropmark detail (After Deegan 2005)

0 150m

	AREA OF GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY		POSSIBLE CROPMARK
	PROPOSED LOCATION OF BLUE ROUTE		RIDGE AND FURROW
	CROPMARK		EXTANT STRUCTURE
	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BANK		NATURAL FEATURE
	MODERN FEATURE		STRUCTURAL REMAINS

N

TP142 TP141 TP140 TP139 TP138 TP137 TP136 TP135 TP134 TP133 TP132 TP131 TP130 TP129 TP128 TP127 TP126 TP125 TP124 TP123 TP122 TP121 TP120 TP119 TP118 TP117 TP116

Newlands Burn
BM 43.38m Newlands Bridge
Lay-by
43.3m
Scaurs Road
Mousen Burn
42.7m
Mousen Bridge
Lay-by
53.6m
50.6m
36.6m
46.3m
BM 47.57m
Mousen Burn
Tank
61.3m
Track
65.8m
MP
LB
BM 64.82m
New Mousen
Path (um)
63.4m
New Mousen
BM 67.37m
71.3m
Mousen Barns
Track
72.2m
Issues
77.7m
Old Moosh
Quarry (disused)
Path (um)
Kiln (disused)
Bellshill Quarry (disused)
78.2m
BM 78.28m
Kiln (disused)
75.0m
Issues
BM 73.39m
67.4m
Spring
Chapeltree Well
82.0m
Issues & Plantation

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6325 00

4120 00

0 150m

Fig. 2b. Proposed road corridor showing test pit locations, geophysical survey blocks and cropmark detail (After Deegan 2005)

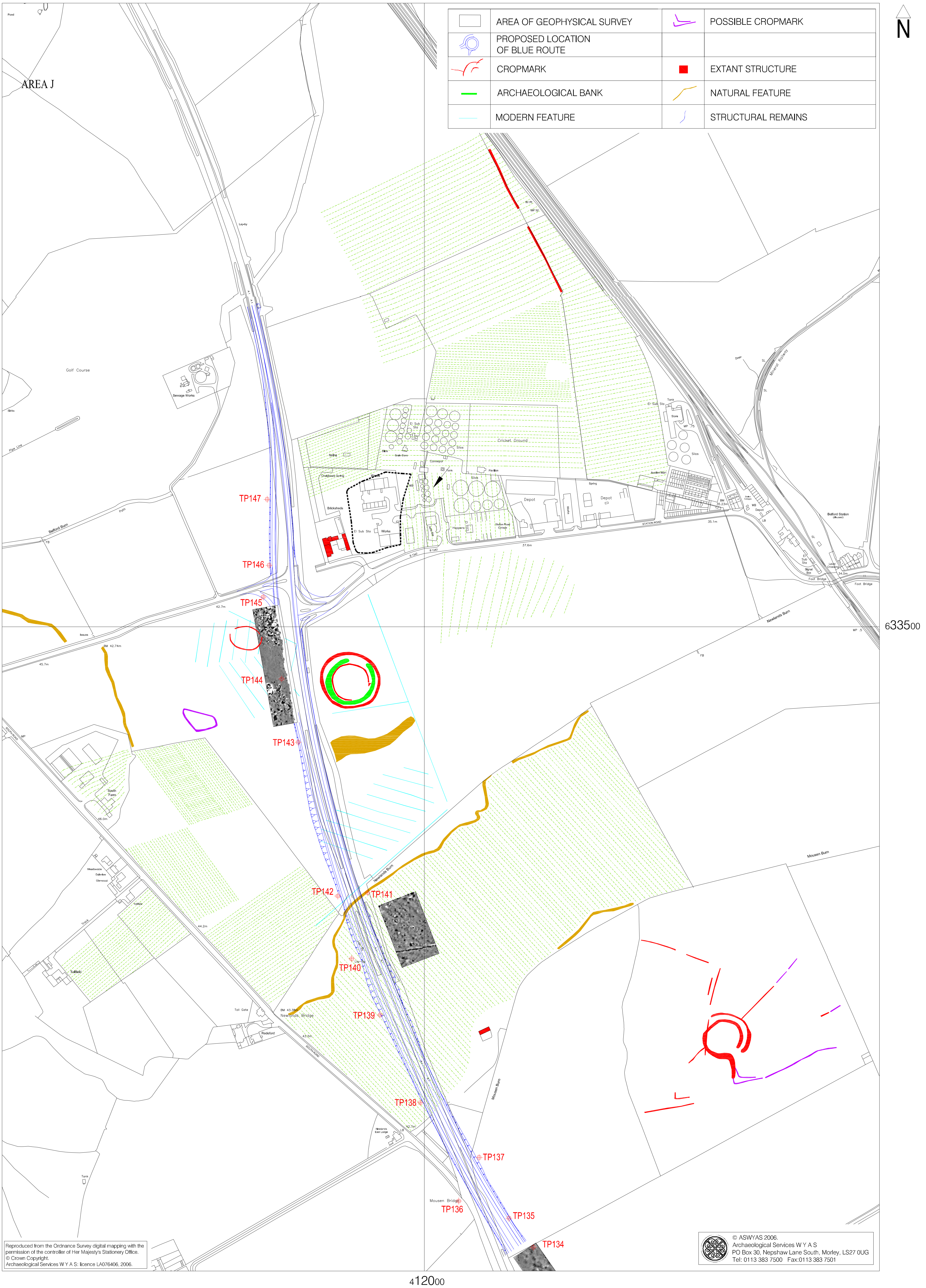

Fig. 2c. Proposed road corridor showing test pit locations, geophysical survey blocks and cropmark detail (After Deegan 2005)

Appendix I

Inventory of primary archive

File no.	Description	Quantity
	Watching Brief Daily Monitoring Form	8
	Geotechnical Test Pit Record Sheet	49