



HODDER SERVICE RESERVOIR AND ACCESS WORKS, SLAIDBURN, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North

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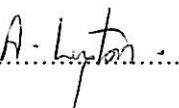
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SUMMARY

United Utilities proposed the construction of a new service reservoir, access road and pipeline to the north of Slaidburn, Lancashire (centred on SD 7160 5410). As the scheme affects areas of archaeological potential, Lancashire County Council's Archaeology Service (LCCAS) issued a short brief for a programme of archaeological investigation to be undertaken. Following a desk-based assessment, walkover survey, and topographic survey (OA North 2007), Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the construction works.

Two areas of ridge and furrow (Sites **04** and **05**) were directly impacted by the development, as the access road ran through both of these sites. Two former field boundaries (Sites **11** and **36**) and a hollow way (Site **34**), were also directly impacted upon by the proposed access road. All of these sites had been identified during the desk-based assessment, walkover survey, and topographic survey and no previously unknown features of archaeological interest were encountered during the watching brief. A layer of gravel within the field boundary of Site **36** suggested that a deliberate track surface might have been added to the partially filled ditch and the Ordnance Survey map of 1850 reinforced the suggestion that this had once been used as an access track. No previously unknown sites of archaeological interest were encountered during the watching brief.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank United Utilities for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Ken Davies of Lancashire County Archaeological Service, and the staff at the Historic Environment Record and the County Record Office in Preston for their assistance with this project.

Tom Mace and Ged Callaghan undertook the watching brief and Alastair Vannan compiled the report. Mark Tidmarsh produced the illustrations and Alison Plummer managed the project, and also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 United Utilities have proposed the construction of a new service reservoir, access road and pipeline to the north of Slaidburn, Lancashire (centred on SD 7160 5410; Fig 1). As the scheme affects areas of archaeological potential, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) issued a short brief for a programme of archaeological assessment to be undertaken. Following the completion of a desk-based assessment and topographic survey (OA North 2007), Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by United Utilities to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the construction works. The watching brief was undertaken in October 2007.
- 1.1.2 The proposed works involved several elements, all of which had the potential to impact on remains of archaeological interest. The new Hodder Service Reservoir has an overall footprint of 140m by 70m, with an area of 9800m². The new pipeline will extend for a length of 550m and the new access road has an overall length of 835m. The approximate area of the site compound was 34m by 128m, totalling 4352m². Of these three elements, the access road had the most impact. Two areas of ridge and furrow (Sites **04** and **05**) were directly affected as the access road ran through both these sites. Two former field boundaries (Sites **11** and **36**) and a hollow-way (Site **34**) were also impinged upon.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the watching brief in the form of a short document outlining the findings

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT BRIEF

- 2.1.1 LCAS issued a short statement to United Utilities outlining a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken in advance of development works at the site of Hodder Service Reservoir. The project brief was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 This programme of field observation comprised the systematic examination, and accurate recording, of all features, horizons, and artefacts of archaeological interest exposed during groundworks. The location, extent, and character of features of archaeological interest, including sub-soil horizons, were recorded.
- 2.2.2 The recording conformed to the standard context recording system utilised by OA North and comprised the use of *pro-forma* watching brief record sheets, with supporting registers and indices. A full photographic record in colour transparency and monochrome formats was made. Section drawings and plans were made at appropriate scales. These were located using taped measurements from existing boundaries and landmarks.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the County Record Office in Preston, on completion of the project.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The proposed works are located immediately south of the present Stocks Reservoir and 1.75km north of Slaidburn, Lancashire (centred on SD 7160 5410; Fig 1). The pipeline route lies to the east of Phynis and Wood House Gate, and to the west of Hammerton Hall. The proposed route runs along the western side of the River Hodder, to what will be the new Hodder Service Reservoir. A new access road follows this same route, with a branch to the west to connect the system to the public highway (unnamed) north out of Slaidburn. The area is part of Slaidburn parish and district, which was historically part of West Yorkshire, before becoming part of the Hundred of Blackburn (Mitchell 2004, 20), and thus part of Lancashire.
- 3.1.2 The landscape around the site consists of the moorland heights of the Bowland Fells to the west and Gisburn Forest to the east and tributaries of the River Hodder flow through the landscape. Unimproved upland areas are interspersed with more fertile pastoral grasslands (Countryside Commission 1998). The area of the Bowland Fells is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- 3.1.3 The underlying upland geology consists of sandstones and shales of the Millstone Grit formation, laid down by riverine condition of the Carboniferous Period (345-280 million years ago). These have been shaped by later glaciation and are overlain by thick deposits of glacial and post-glacial till and boulder clays, with pockets of post-glacial peat throughout (*ibid*; Middleton *et al* 1995). Overlying the drift geology, the soil in the area is of the Brickfield 2 association, which are cambic stagnogley soils (Ordnance Survey 1983).

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric Period:** although nothing from this period has been identified within the immediate vicinity of the study area, there is clear evidence of man's activity during the prehistoric period in the area to the south-west, where several enclosures are known in the Durnow area. At Bowgrave Meadow, Slaidburn, Pendle Archaeological Group investigated a reasonably extensive mound of cobbles. The form of the remains and the associated finds were suggestive of a burial cairn (Edwards 2000). In addition, further to the south near Chipping, the site of Bleasdale Circle, dating to c 2200 BC, indicates further prehistoric activity in the surrounding area (Middleton 1996, 53).
- 3.2.2 By the later Iron Age the area seems to have been part of the land occupied by the Brigantes tribe (Cunliffe 1991). No sites attributed to this period are known in the area but there is a dearth of evidence throughout the North West generally, highlighting the difficulty in recognising a distinct 'Iron Age' culture. However, hillforts dating to the later prehistoric period are known at

Portfield, near Whalley (Beswick and Coombs 1986), and at Ingleborough (Haselgrove 1996).

- 3.2.3 **Roman:** to the west of the study area there is a known Roman Road, which effectively joins the forts of Ribchester to the south and Low Borrow Bridge, Tebay, to the north (7c Margary 1973, 377-382). The road is described as having a visible *agger* crossing fields either side of the River Hodder. No further Roman remains are known within this area.
- 3.2.4 **Early Medieval:** little is known of Yorkshire and Lancashire in the early medieval period, although it seems that the North of England, in general, fragmented into numerous small 'kingdoms' before the growing power of the Anglian kingdom of Northumbria began the process of coalescence (Newman, RM 1996, 93). The early medieval origins of the area are traceable through local place names. The name Slaidburn is of probable Old English derivation, meaning sheep-pasture stream from *slaeget* and *burna*. The name Hammerton, again from Old English (*hamor* and *tun*), may derive from the personal name of the owner, or from a place where hammers were made (Smith 1961). It is presumed that the names relate to the expansion of the English kingdom of Northumbria in the seventh century AD. Other names such as gill, thwaite, fell, beck, Bu (meaning cattle), and Pen (meaning hill), indicate influences resulting from Norse settlement in the late first millennium AD (Kenyon 1991).
- 3.2.5 **Later Medieval:** prior to the Norman Conquest, the Forest of Bowland seems to have formed part of the holding of Earl Tostig, brother of Harold Godwinson (Mitchell 1971). In the early twelfth century the Forest was held by Roger de Poitou, until Henry I granted it to Robert de Lacy in 1102 (Farrer 1902, 383-3). Hammerton is listed as a vill in the Forest of Bowland, in the Domesday survey of 1086 (Higham 1985, 119). Slaidburn is referred to in the thirteenth century as 'Scatbournewarde' (Mitchell 2004, 31), and during the same century the Forest of Bowland appears to have been owned by John de Lacy (*op cit*, 121).
- 3.2.6 Documentary references highlight the presence of a settlement at Hammerton (Site **01**) (Beresford 1954, 238). The earliest examples are the 1377 and 1379 Poll Taxes for the Staincliffe Wapentake in Yorkshire (Fenwick 2005), with the former recording the constable for Hammerton as Robertus del Grene, and the *probi homines* (good men) as Johannes Piper and Willelmus Jackson. Two years later, the 1379 Poll Tax records 18 people eligible to pay in Hammerton. There is a possibility that Hammerton settlement became deserted, as were the nearby sites of Easington and Battersby, although their abandonment may relate to a change in settlement pattern rather than depopulation of the area (Newman R 1996, 119).
- 3.2.7 Hammerton Hall (Site **02**) is a Grade II* Listed Building (Plate 2), and a building is first depicted in a similar location on Saxton's 1577 map (Plate 1). The hall was the home of the '*de Hamerton*' family (Mitchell 2004, 57), and the hall and lands remained in the Hammerton family for about 300 years, until Sir Stephen de Hammerton joined in the Pilgrimage of Grace of 1536. This was the protest against Henry VIII's proposed Dissolution of the

Monasteries and, as a result, Sir Stephen was executed for treason in 1537. Henry VIII passed the forfeited lands to Ralph Greenacres in 1545 (Greenwood and Bolton 1955, 72), who subsequently sold them to Oliver Beres in 1547. The hall remained in the Beres family until the late seventeenth century when it was sold to the Chetham family, and then to the King-Wilkson family in 1824, with whom ownership currently rests (www.slaidburn.org.uk).

- 3.2.8 Several deeds and leases refer to the property as including a water-powered corn mill in the seventeenth century, presumably located on the River Hodder. In addition to a corn mill, there was a hunting lodge at Stephen Park, 3.5km to the north-east of Hammerton Hall. The current Stephen Park farmhouse was built in 1662 on the site of the hunting lodge belonging to the Hammertons (Dixon and Dixon 1992, 121).
- 3.2.9 **Post-Medieval:** there was some increase in settlement within the Forest of Bowland, as the medieval forest laws had become largely defunct by the late seventeenth century (Rackham 1998, 172). Although the majority of land for settlement had been enclosed by 1850 (Stansfield 2006), the Industrial Revolution had only a limited impact on the Forest of Bowland, unlike the remainder of Lancashire and Yorkshire. The area lacked coal reserves and had no fast flowing river valleys of a type sufficient to supply the power required for the textile industries. Flax processing, however, is known from the Newton area to the south-west (Higham 1989). There is limited evidence for the use of water-powered mills, mostly for grinding corn, and an example is known in Slaidburn in 1609 (Rothwell 1990, 35). The builders of turnpike roads, canals and railways also largely ignored the Forest of Bowland, and thus it remained essentially rural in character and economy.
- 3.2.10 The Tithe schedule (1844) lists most of the study area as pastoral and meadow, but the overall economy was mixed, with the main crop in the mid-nineteenth century being oats (PR 3035/4/1). In 1844, the land within the area of direct impact of the proposed works was owned by Thomas Wigglesworth, and leased to James Proctor. Messrs Wrights and Wilson owned the remainder, with their tenant being Henry Hindle (PR 3035/4/1). The fields had no significant names but did include Turnip Field, Jackson Field, Round Meadow, Well Field and Wood Top. Most of the names result from the use of the land, although Jackson Field suggests someone of that name was once associated with it. The area was certainly turned over to agriculture as evidenced by the ridge and furrow still visible (Sites **03-08**; Plates 3 and 4).
- 3.2.11 There is plentiful evidence from surviving remains, such as landscape features, maps and documentary sources, to demonstrate the effects of the lime industry in the area (Sites **18-21, 23, 28-29, and 31-32**; Plate 6). Limestone was quarried either for use as a building material (Marshall and Davies-Shiel 1977, 159) or to produce lime (calcium oxide), which had numerous uses including lime wash and lime mortar.
- 3.2.12 **Modern Day:** the most significant change and development in the area was the construction of Stocks Reservoir (Site **27**). Initially agreed in 1912, the work was not undertaken until 1923, with works extending over nine years at a cost of £1,400,000 (Clitheroe Advertiser and Times 1932). The reservoir was

opened on the 9th July 1932 by Prince George (Mitchell 2004, 132; Rothwell 1990). During the building of the reservoir a temporary settlement called Hollins was constructed for the workers. This included living accommodation for between 330 and 500 workmen or 'navvies'. There were fifteen wooden huts, each allotted a housekeeper responsible for the catering and upkeep of the place. The workmen slept in cubicles with a communal living space. Apparently, each hut had a garden at the front and back in which vegetables were grown. Effectively Hollins was a small temporary community. Contemporary accounts, such as those found in the *Blackpool Gazette*, described it as having a main street and side streets, which had been named, shops and stores, a hospital, electric lighting, a water supply, sewerage scheme and even a cinematic theatre. The works also involved the construction of a 3-foot gauge railway for the removal and import of goods and waste (Mitchell 2004, 132).

4. RESULTS

- 4.1 The construction works associated with the roadway running through Fields 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Fig 2) comprised the excavation of a trench 4m wide, and between 0.70m and 0.80m deep. This excavation was undertaken using two 32.5 tonne 360° mechanical excavators. Topsoil and subsoil was stripped using a bulldozer from Field 3 for the construction of a reservoir (the rectangular feature in Fig 2). The results of the watching brief are described by field number.

Field Number	Description
1	Topsoil (1002), comprising a 0.25m thick layer of dark- to mid-brown sandy-silt, overlay a 0.25m thick subsoil layer (1003) of dark brown sandy-silt. A former field boundary, identified as Site 11 in the desk-based assessment (OA North 2007), ran through this field (Fig 2) and was observed as a 3.50m wide and 0.90m deep ditch (1006) with a U-shaped profile. A stone culvert, approximately 0.40m wide and 0.40m high was revealed at the bottom of the ditch. The subsoil and topsoil were seen to overlie the sole deposit (1004) within the ditch, and a shallow U-shaped linear feature (1007), 2.46m wide and 0.18m deep, apparently representing a nominal recut of the ditch, was observed cutting the topsoil along the same alignment as the earlier ditch. A hollow way, identified as Site 34 (Fig 2) in the desk-based assessment (OA North 2007), was truncated by the construction works and was observed as a narrow ditch, 2.72m wide and 1.18m deep. This had become partially filled with sandy-clay (1004), which was overlain by subsoil and topsoil.
2	Topsoil (1002), comprising a 0.25m thick layer of dark- to mid-brown sandy-silt, overlay a 0.25m thick subsoil layer (1003) of dark brown sandy-silt. A former field boundary, identified as Site 36 (Fig 2) in the desk-based assessment (OA North 2007) was observed as a 4.50m wide and 2m deep ditch (1009) with a U-shaped profile. This had become partially filled with two layers of sandy-clay (1004 and 1010), which were overlain by topsoil (1002).
3	Topsoil (1002), comprising a 0.25m thick layer of dark- to mid-brown sandy-silt, overlay a 0.25m thick subsoil layer (1003) of dark brown sandy-silt. No features of archaeological interest were encountered.
4	Topsoil (1002), comprising a 0.25m thick layer of dark- to mid-brown sandy-silt, overlay a 0.25m subsoil thick layer (1003) of dark brown sandy-silt. No features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Table 1: Watching brief results by field

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 SYNTHESIS

- 5.1.1 Three linear features were identified during the earlier assessment (OA North 2007) and numbered as Sites **11**, **34**, and **36**. All of these sites were subsequently encountered during the watching brief, however, no artefactual evidence was associated with these features that might allow any of them to be closely dated. Sites **11** and **34**, with cut numbers **1006** and **1009** respectively, exhibited the appearance of field boundaries, where exposed by the construction works, although Site **34** had clearly been demonstrated to be a hollow way during the earlier assessment.
- 5.1.2 The part of Site **36** that was encountered during the watching brief was 4.50m wide and 2m deep, and included a 0.14m thick layer of gravel-rich clay (**1010**). This linear feature had been depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1850 as a trackway (OA North 2007) and was remembered locally as being a trackway, although the earlier tithe map showed only a field boundary. It is possible that this gravel layer may have been deliberately deposited, in order to facilitate the reuse of a boundary ditch as a vehicle access. No additional information relating to the areas of ridge and furrow identified as Sites **04** and **05** was evident.
- 5.1.3 The absence of additional, previously unknown, features of archaeological interest encountered during the watching brief reinforces the suggestion of largely agricultural land use in the area, as suggested by the results of the desk-based assessment, walkover survey and topographic survey (OA North 2007). Due to the limited nature of the construction works, there are no recommendations for further archaeological mitigation.

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7. ILLUSTRATIONS

7.1 LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Plan of gazetteer sites

Figure 3: Proposed development superimposed upon the Tithe map, 1844

Figure 4: Proposed development superimposed upon the Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" to 1 mile map, 1850

Figure 5: Topographical detail of gazetteer sites **04**, **05**, **11**, **20**, **34** and **36**

7.2 LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Extract from Saxton's 1577 map showing Hammerton Hall north of Slaidburn

Plate 2: Hammerton Hall, with Site **02** in the distance, looking south-east

Plate 3: Site **04**, ridge and furrow, looking south-west

Plate 4: Site **05**, ridge and furrow, looking north

Plate 5: Site **11**, old field boundary, looking north-east

Plate 6: Site **20**, possible quarry and field wall, looking south-west

Plate 7: Site **34**, hollow way, looking south-east

Plate 8: Site **35**, gateposts and gate with water pipes in the background, looking north

Plate 9: Site **36**, old field boundary visible as bank and ditch, looking south-east

Plate 10: General view of the field where the proposed new Hodder Service Reservoir will be sited, with ridge and furrow (Site **04**) in the field beyond, looking north-west

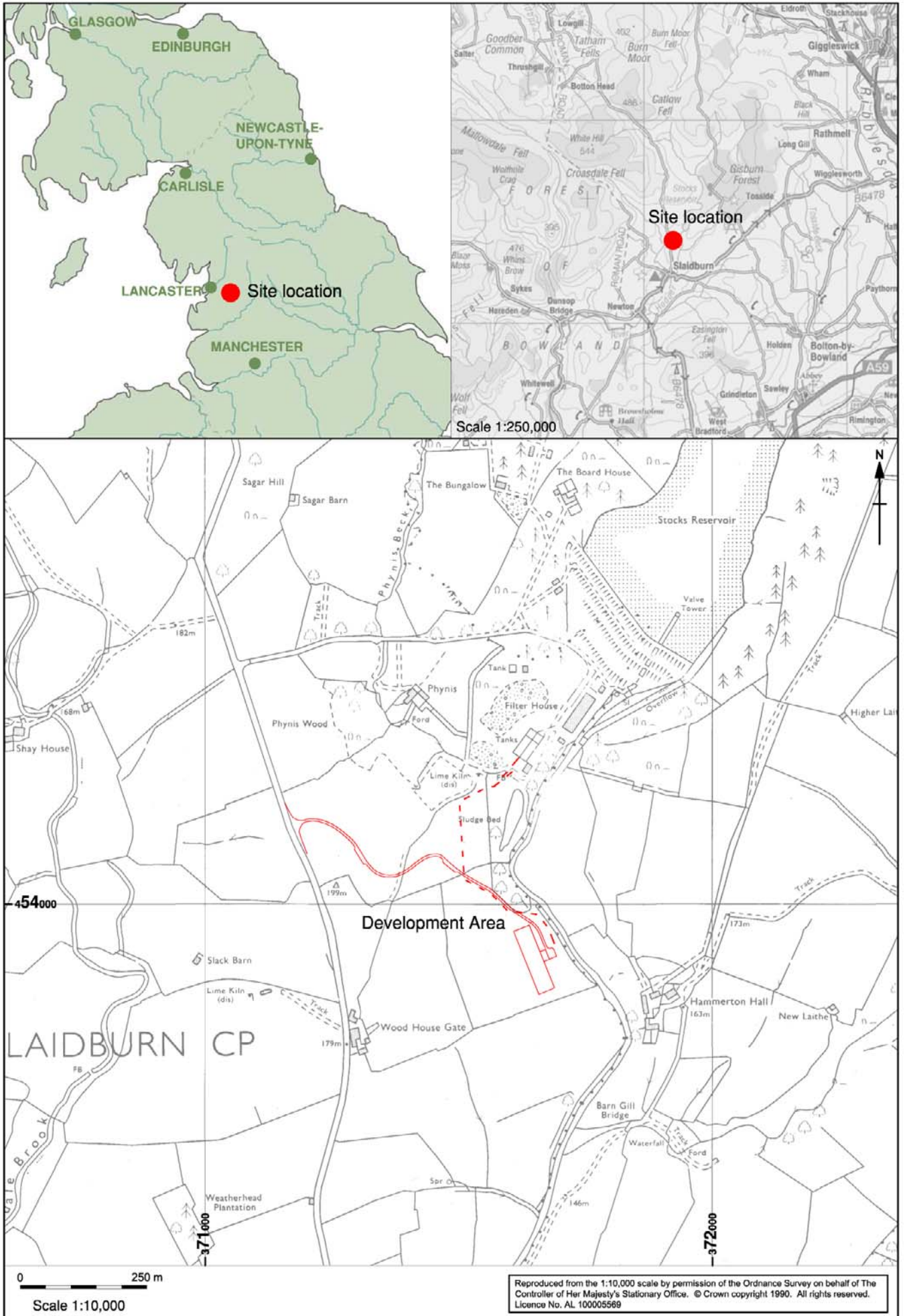


Figure 1: Site Location

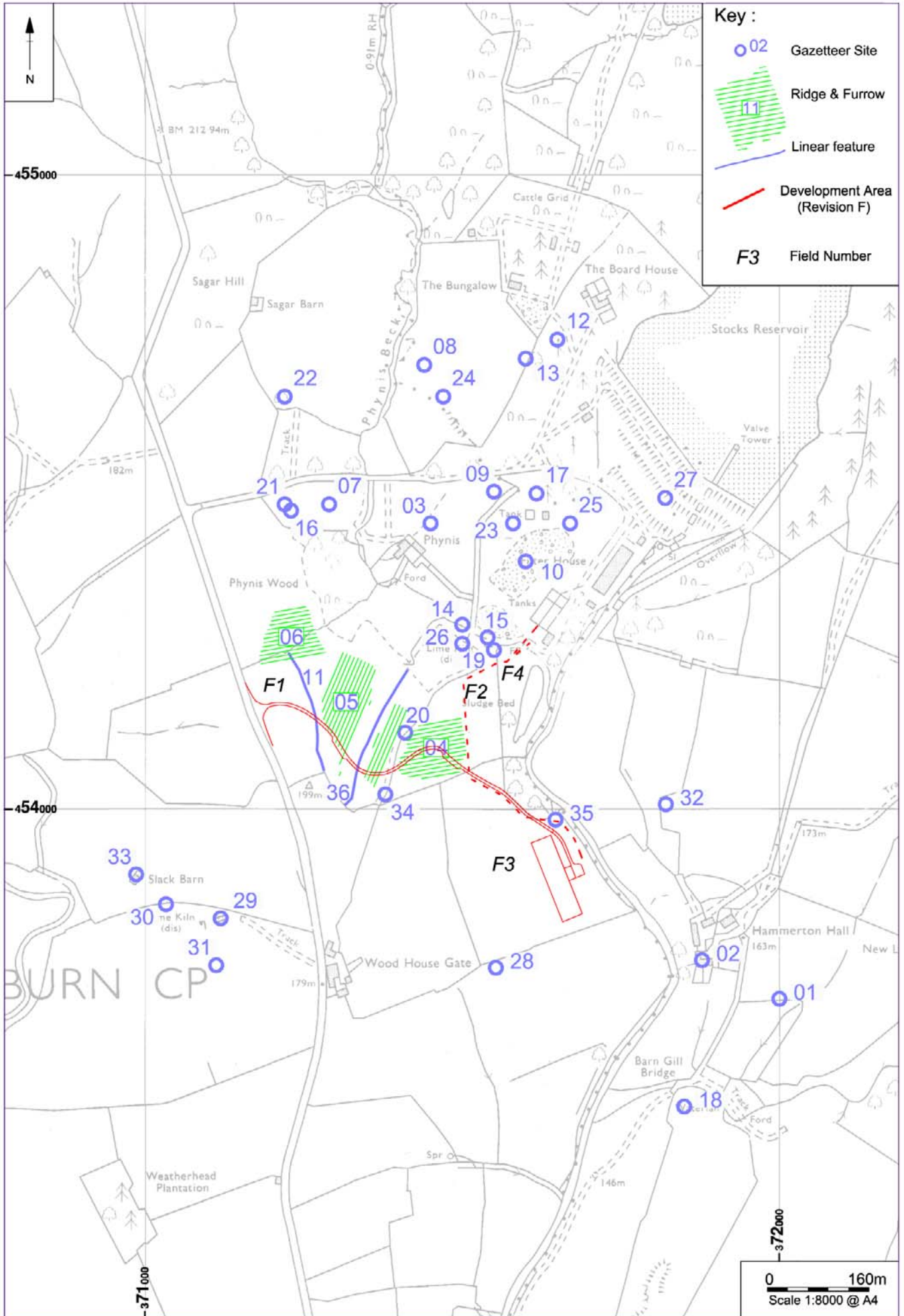


Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites

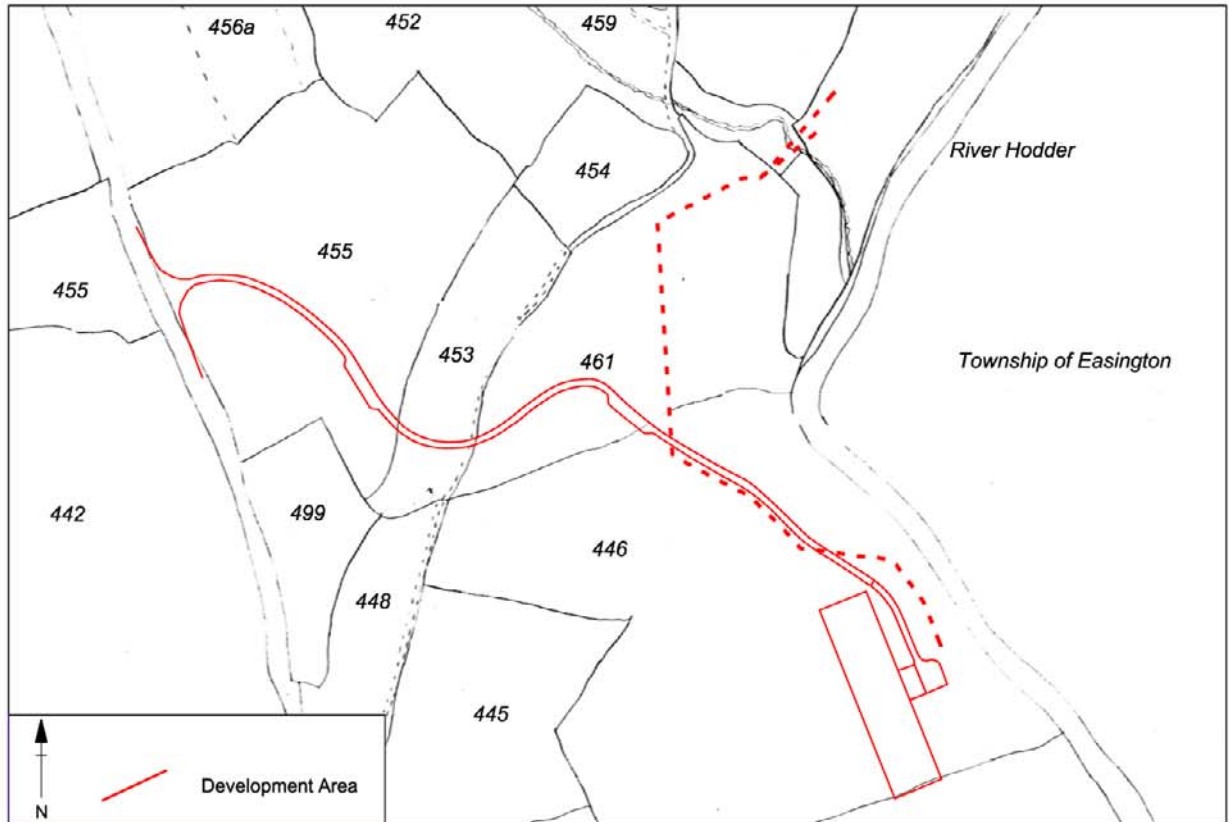


Figure 3: Proposed development area superimposed upon the Tithe map, 1844

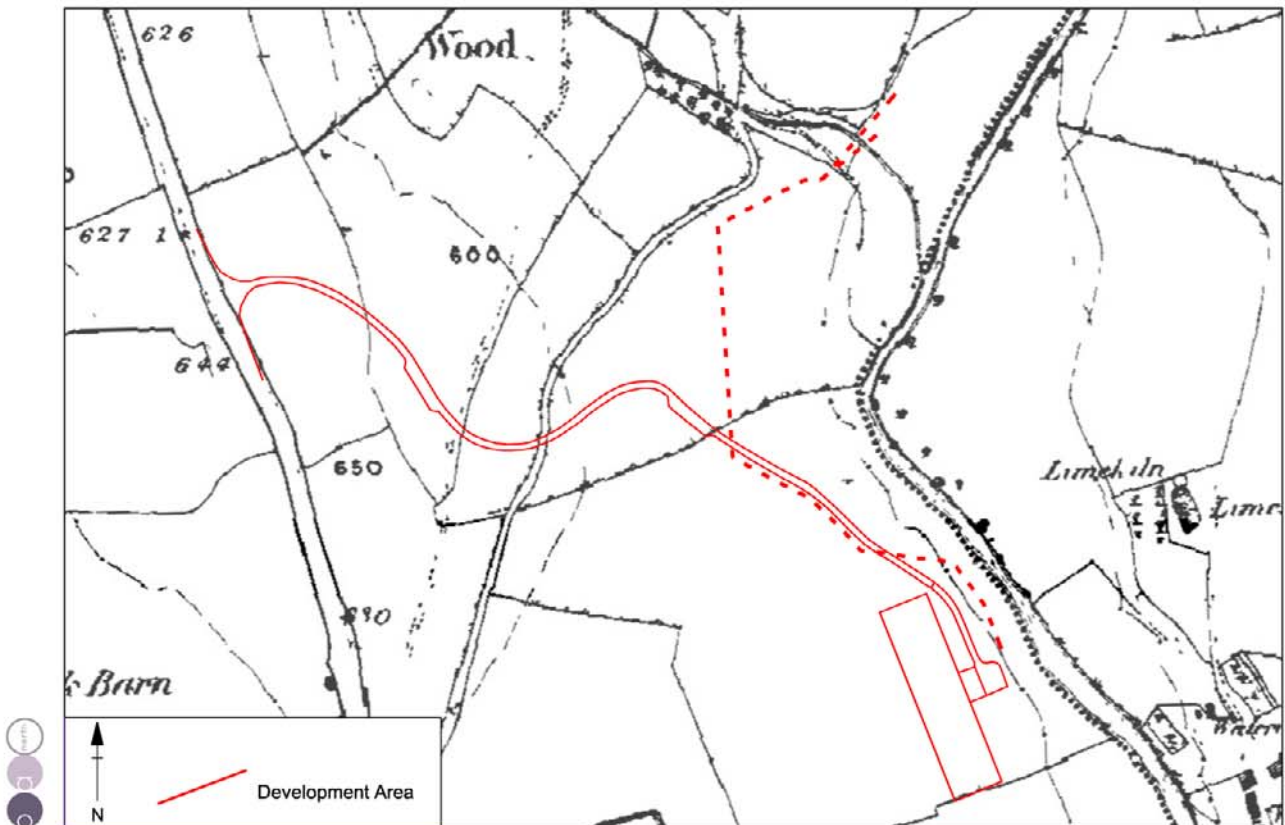


Figure 4: Proposed development area superimposed upon the Ordnance Survey First Edition 6":1 mile map, 1850

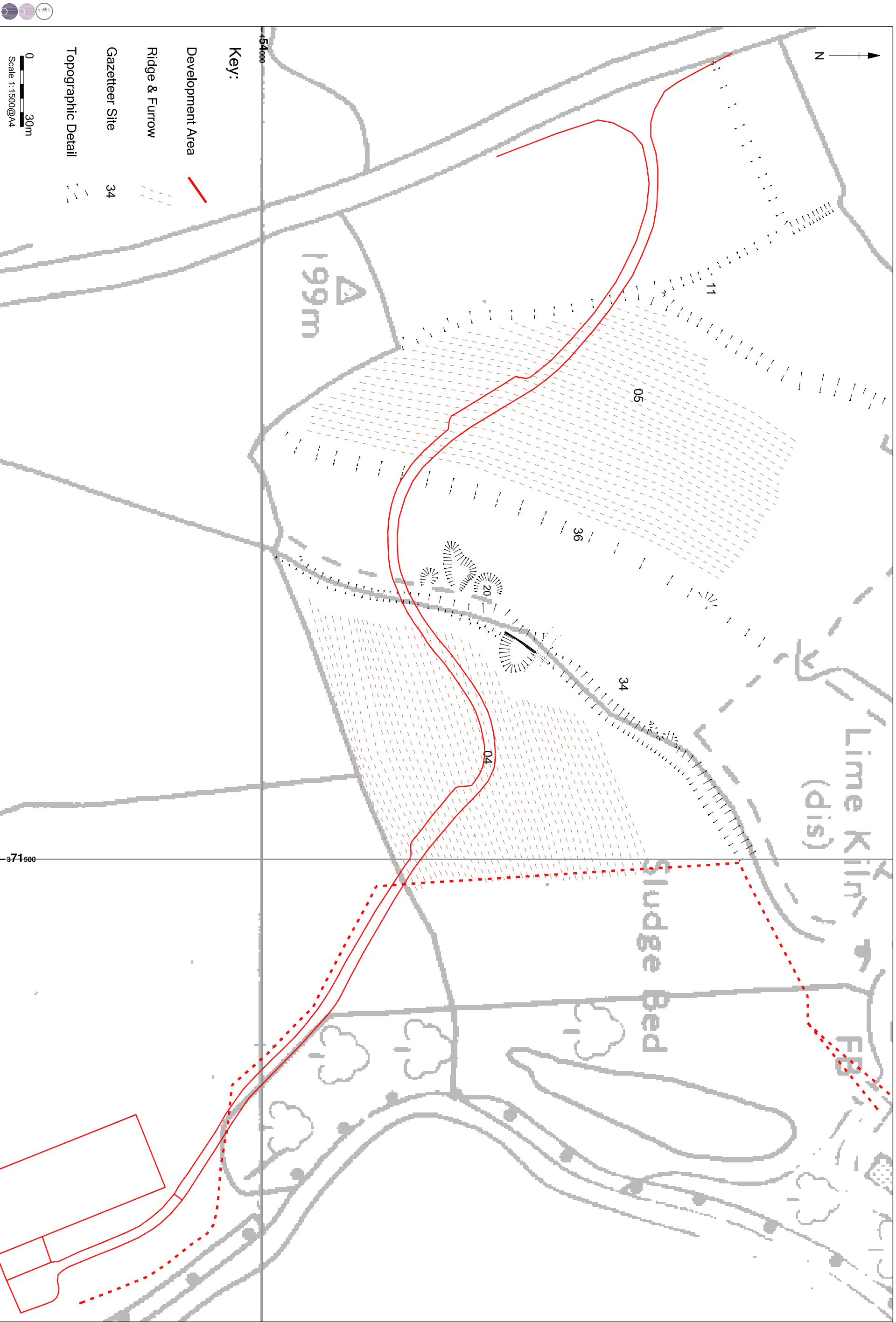


Figure 5: Topographic detail of gazetteer sites 04, 05, 11, 20, 34 and 36



Plate 3: Site **04**, ridge and furrow, looking south-west



Plate 4: Site **05**, ridge and furrow, looking north



Plate 5: Site **11**, old field boundary, looking north-east



Plate 6: Site **20**, possible quarry and field wall, looking south-west



Plate 7: Site **34**, hollow way, looking south-east



Plate 8: Site **35**, gateposts and gate with water pipes in the background, looking north



Plate 9: Site **36**, old field boundary visible as bank and ditch, looking south-east



Plate 10: General view of the field where the proposed new Hodder Service Reservoir will be sited, with ridge and furrow (Site **04**) in the field beyond, looking north-west

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Field Number	Description
1001	1	Ditch fill: soft dark brown sandy-silt 1.40m wide and 0.16m thick. 10% rounded stones less than 40mm in diameter. Fill of 1007
1002	1, 2, 3, 4	Topsoil: a 0.25m thick layer of soft dark- to mid-brown sandy-silt. 5% rounded stones less than 40mm in diameter
1003	1, 2, 3, 4	Subsoil: a 0.25m thick layer of soft dark brown sandy-silt. 10% rounded stones less than 40mm in diameter
1004	1	Ditch fill: a 0.77m thick layer of soft dark- to mid-brown sandy-silt. 10% rounded stones less than 70mm in diameter. Fill of 1006
1005	1	Natural underlying drift geology: firm greyish-brown clay. 5% large flat stones less than 0.15m in diameter
1006	1	Ditch cut: U-shaped cut of a curvilinear ditch. 3.50m wide and 0.90m deep with gently sloping and slightly concave sides. Filled by 1004 , 1003 , and 1002
1007	1	Ditch cut: shallow U-shaped cut of a curvilinear ditch 2.46m wide and 0.18m deep. Possible recut of ditch 1006
1008	1	Ditch cut: U-shaped cut of a curvilinear ditch 4.50m wide and 2m deep. Steep-sided with a fairly flat bottom. Filled by 1004 , 1010 , 1002 , and 1003
1009	2	Ditch cut: Asymmetric cut of a curvilinear ditch 2.72m wide and 1.18m deep. The steep eastern side of the ditch featured a step approximately halfway down and the western side was steep and slightly concave. Filled by 1002 and 1003
1010	1	Ditch fill: a 0.14m thick layer of firm mid-brown sandy clay containing approximately 60% rounded stones less than 50mm in diameter. A possible track surface deliberately laid within partially filled ditch 1008 .