ELMBANK CARAVAN PARK, COW LANE, SPITTAL, NORTHUMBERLAND

Archaeological Evaluation

Oxford Archaeology North

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Rural Solutions and Richard Roberts

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SUMMARY

Rural Solutions, on behalf of Richard Roberts, have submitted a planning application (reference B38/47: 4160) for the expansion of the Elmbank Caravan Park, Cow Road, Spittal, Northumberland (NGR NU 0055 5101). The planning application covers two fields with a total area of 4.2ha, although only the central 1.7ha will be developed under current proposals. An appraisal of the site, organised by OA North in January 2008, identified putative archaeological features through aerial photograph analysis and geophysical survey, several of which could have been affected by the proposed development. Accordingly, Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT) issued a brief for a programme of archaeological investigation to be undertaken in advance of the development, in order to further inform the planning process. Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Rural Solutions, on behalf of Richard Roberts, to undertake an archaeological evaluation to meet the standards of the NCCCT brief, which was conducted in July 2008.

The evaluation, comprising the excavation of seven trial trenches of various dimensions, focused principally on those putative features identified during the previous appraisal, including several curvilinear features, possible boundary ditches, and areas of potential settlement activity. Three trial trenches represented a control sample to test the veracity of the geophysical results in areas that appeared nominally blank or affected by magnetic interference. The evaluation revealed the presence of 23 archaeological features, most of which had not been identified during the appraisal. In turn, those putative features identified during the appraisal could not be directly equated with archaeological remains revealed during the evaluation, although at times it was possible to see how the clustering of features may have produced more coherent geophysical anomalies.

Those features identified during the evaluation comprised a series of ditches, most of which followed alignments similar to local enclosure-period boundaries; several tree throws/boles, and a number of pits of varying dimensions. Many of these features contained fills that derived not from local deposits, but probably from the weathering of industrial waste (coal and shale) that appeared to have been periodically dumped on the area. As such, most features appeared to be post-medieval or industrial-period in date, as implied by the extremely sparse finds assemblage. The spreading of industrial material across the site may help to explain the level of background 'noise' encountered during the geophysical survey, whilst the incorporation of unburnt or non-biological material within the fills of many of the features would limit their susceptibility to magnetic detection. There were no remains associated with the most prominent curvilinear feature identified by the appraisal (Cropmark A/Geophysical Anomaly 1), and it may be possible that the boundaries and internal elements of this feature have been largely truncated.

With the exception of the possibly shallow and still enigmatic curvilinear feature in the northern part of the site, any groundworks within the topsoil are unlikely to have any impact on the archaeological resource. All of the features identified during the evaluation would be impacted by any ground reduction down to, and beyond, the natural geology (ie, 0.3m - 0.4m below ground level).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Ian Butter of Rural Solutions for commissioning the project and for his assistance and support during the works. OA North are also grateful to Nick Best, Assistant County Archaeologist for the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team for his advice and liaison. OA North would also like to thank Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage Scientific Advisor, North East Region, for her advice concerning the Palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Andrew Frudd, Liz Collison and Fiona Gordon, with survey by Will Gardner. The evaluation report was written by Andrew Frudd and the drawings were produced by Marie Rowland. The palaeoenvironmental samples were processed and assessed by Sandra Bonsall and Elizabeth Huckerby. Stephen Rowland managed the project and also edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Rural Solutions, on behalf of Richard Roberts (hereafter the 'client') has submitted a planning application (B38/47:4160) for the expansion of the Elmbank Caravan Park, Cow Road, Spittal, Northumberland (NGR NU 0055 5101; Fig 1). The proposed extension lies within an area considered to have high archaeological potential and, in accordance with a specification from the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT), a non-intrusive archaeological appraisal of the site was undertaken in January 2008 (OA North 2008). This identified a number of putative archaeological features that would be impacted upon by any development, and accordingly, NCCCT issued a brief (*Appendix 1*) for a programme of targeted archaeological evaluation to be undertaken, in order to further inform the planning process in advance of the development. Following submission of a project design (*Appendix 2*) to meet the requirements of the NCCCT brief, OA North were commissioned by Rural Solutions and Richard Roberts to undertake the work.

1.1.2 The development site comprises a 1.7ha rectangular area of grass, 150m north-east/south-west by 120m (Fig 1), corresponding with Area 2, as defined within the archaeological appraisal report (OA North 2008). Although the NCCCT brief included the evaluation of the green field area to the immediate west (defined as Area 3 in the archaeological appraisal), this will not be affected by the development, and was thus not considered within the programme of evaluation. As such, the evaluation site was bound to the east by existing static caravans, to the south by Cow Road, to the west by a clubhouse and to the north by recent residential development. The work was undertaken over a period of two weeks in July 2008.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The proposed development site at Spittal lies on the coast of Northumberland, on the opposite side of the mouth of the river Tweed to the principal settlement and historically significant port of Berwick, *c* 1km to the north (Fig 1). The study area, of which *c* 20% has been developed for static caravans, otherwise comprises rough pasture bound along the southern and eastern sides by Cow Road, with the principal open areas separated by the Highcliffe Jubilee Centre (Fig 2). The site is located on land which slopes substantially eastwards towards the coast, from 75-50m AOD.

1.2.2 The solid underlying geology comprises rocks of Carboniferous Limestone (Countryside Commission 1998, 14). These repetitive sediments outcrop in the Tweed estuary area to form eroded soft limestone headlands and cliffs, with glacial deposits occurring inland (*op cit*, 13-15)

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 ***Prehistoric Period (c 8000 BC - AD 43):*** little in the way of confirmed prehistoric settlement has been identified in this most northerly part of Northumberland, and the earliest definitive evidence close to the development site is a possible Bronze Age cist at Tweedmouth (LUAU 1996). However, this lack of investigation belies a much wider potential for prehistoric human activity and settlement, as indicated by the results of aerial surveys. These have revealed what appear to be settlement remains along the eastern coast south of the Tweed, alongside possible large field systems. A potential prehistoric settlement focus, in the form of a circular cropmark (SMR 4217) alongside smaller circular enclosures, has also been identified within the application area (Fig 2) (OA North 2008).

1.3.2 ***Romano-British Period (c AD 43 - AD 410):*** the Scheduled Ancient Monument site at Springhills (SMR 4131; SM 341), some 250m to the south-west of the study area, was initially thought to be a Roman fort. The site has since been reassessed as a native settlement, although the alignment of a Roman Road (the Devil's Causeway) towards Tweedmouth may indicate some form of hitherto unidentified Roman military presence on the southern side of the river (Keys to the Past REF N13761, accessed 2008).

1.3.3 ***Early Medieval (AD 410 - 1066):.*** little is known of the early medieval history of the immediate region and, in the centuries immediately following the end of Roman Britain, the area is likely to have fallen within various petty tribal polities until its subsumation into the Anglian kingdom of Northumbria, which stretched well into modern lowland Scotland. There is virtually no material evidence for such activity in the immediate area, although Berwick is believed to be of Anglian origin, its name perhaps deriving from the Old English *berewic*, meaning barley farm, denoting a grange or outlying part of an estate (Hunter 1982).

1.3.4 ***Medieval (AD 1066 - 1540):*** Berwick is not mentioned in the Domesday book, but this should not be interpreted as a lack of settlement activity in the area; England's border with Scotland was under constant dispute. It is thus not surprising that the earliest documentary reference dates to 1097, when Fordun's Chronicle records the gift of lands in the 'village of Berwick' by the Scottish (but very Anglian-sounding) King Edgar to the monastery of Coldingham (LUAU 1996, 8).

1.3.5 Berwick was Scotland's most important port, with around 25% of the country's revenue passing through; the monastic wool trade with Europe was particularly important. From the twelfth century, the Scottish kings appear to have minted coins at Berwick (Gordon 1985, 44). The thirteenth century marked the peak of Berwick's importance and prosperity, with a population believed to number several thousand people, and the town frequently was used as a base by the Scottish kings. It was captured by Edward I of England, retaken by Robert the Bruce, and changed hands between English and Scots 14 times before the English successfully recovered and held the town in 1482 (LUAU 1996, 8; OA North forthcoming). By then, Berwick was little more than a garrison town and a shadow of its former self. The wool trade collapsed

as connections with the wool-producing hinterland were severed and trading became impossible due to persistent warfare, and the town's Edwardian defences became seriously dilapidated until rebuilt by Elizabeth I (OA North forthcoming).

1.3.6 Medieval religious establishments were major landowners in the town of Berwick, and five religious hospitals were also located around the town. The thirteenth-century leper hospital (SMR 4135), located approximately 250m to the west of the study area, gives the town of Spittal its name.

1.3.7 ***Post-medieval (AD 1540 - present):*** whilst the town plan of Spittal appears to retain some medieval appearance, with burgage plots aligned perpendicular to the main street, concentrated settlement is more likely to have originated in the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries (Keys to the Past REF N13761, accessed 2008). Herring fishing is one possible reason for the growth of Spittal, with a fishermans's shiel located on Spittal Point and some of the older cottages in the town are thought to represent fisherman's cottages. The further growth of the village during the later post-medieval period is tied to the exploitation of coal, in keeping with much of the North East. A steam engine of some description was located within 100m of the study area to the south-west, associated with the 'Old Berwickhill Pit' (SMR 4155)

1.4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

1.4.1 In January 2008 an archaeological appraisal of the site was undertaken in three phases (OA North 2008), comprising a review of the available aerial photographs of the site, a site visit, and a geophysical survey. The aerial photographic analysis examined all available images, comprising nine examples from the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (NHER), and one from the Newcastle Museum of Antiquities. Within Area 2, corresponding with that of the present evaluation, a putative cruciform cropmark (Cropmark C) of potential archaeological origin was identified across much of the eastern part of the field on several photographs, whilst a sub-circular cropmark (Cropmark A) appeared on four separate photographs towards the north-western edge of Area 2. Neither of these features could be defined as extant earthworks by the walkover survey, although one additional feature, a slightly raised earthwork platform, was identified just to the east of the caravan park clubhouse.

1.4.2 Despite severe magnetic disturbance and interference from services and modern features over a large part of the site, the geophysical survey of Area 2, undertaken by GSB Prospection, successfully identified several anomalies of archaeological potential, including the ring ditch clearly visible on the aerial photographs (Anomaly 1/Cropmark A). In addition, there are suggestions of a possible adjacent small rectilinear enclosure (Anomaly 2) and a distinct area of increased magnetic response (Anomaly 3), together with a series of linear trends, all within the central part of Area 2. In addition, a possible linear boundary feature ran parallel with the western limit of the site (Anomaly 4). Finally, there was a potential concentration of archaeological features in the

western extremity of the survey area (Area 1), the latter of which presently falls outside of that part of the site which will be developed.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 Throughout the investigation the NCCCT-approved OA North project design (*Appendix 2*) was adhered to as fully as possible and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and generally accepted best practice. During the evaluation it was, however, necessary to make several amendments to the programme of works; all such amendments were made in consultation with NCCCT and the client. Such amendments comprised the relocation or expansion of several trenches (Fig 2). Trench 7 was moved *c* 5m northward to avoid a pile of concrete rubble blocking its original location whilst Trench 2 was extended to the north in an attempt to locate the targeted geophysical anomaly. Trench 1 was extended to the west, in an attempt to locate the geophysical anomaly it had targeted, and also to the south, to provide further information on several exposed archaeological features.

2.2 METHODOLOGY

2.2.1 The seven trial trenches were set-out in pre-arranged locations using a Leica GPS accurate to +/- 0.02m. In accordance with the NCCCT brief, the first four trial trenches were located to target specific putative features identified during the appraisal, whilst the last three were placed in apparently blank areas in order to act as a control sample. As the location of Trench 5 fell outside of the development area, there was no requirement for its excavation under the present scheme of works, and is thus not included within the numbered sequence. Table 1 provides a summary of the targets and dimensions of each trial trench.

Trench	Targeting	Length	Extension	Orientation
1	CMa/ GA1 (curvilinear enclosure); CMc (cruciform cropmark)	40m	4.5m; 3m x 3m	East/west
2 and 2a	GA2 (curvilinear/sub-rectangular enclosure)	25m	4.5m	East/west & north-west/south-east
3	GA3 (area of possible pits); CMc (cruciform cropmark)	50m	-	North-west/south-east
4	GA4 (linear anomaly)	25m	-	East/west
6	Control	25m	-	East/west
7	Control & CMc (cruciform cropmark)	25m	-	East/west
8	Control	25m	-	North-west/south-east

Table1: Summary of Evaluation Trenches: CM = cropmark, GA = geophysical anomaly

2.2.2 Working under archaeological supervision, topsoil and overburden deposits were removed in 0.1m spits by an 8 ton mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless ditching bucket, down to the first significant archaeological horizon or the surface of the sandy clay natural geology. These strata were then cleaned to reveal the presence of any archaeological features. In trenches

6 and 7 a sondage was machined into the natural geology on the advice of NCCCT to assess the veracity of the material.

2.2.3 Archaeological features were defined and then sample excavated in accordance with the project design: 50% by volume of discreet features, 25% of non-uniform linear features and 10% of uniform linear features. All features were excavated down to natural deposits where safety considerations allowed. Palaeoenvironmental samples were taken from appropriate sealed archaeological deposits and all spoil was visually checked for artefacts.

2.2.4 An indexed photographic record was made of each trench and archaeological feature, comprising digital, monochrome print and colour slide images. All features were drawn in section and plan and, in turn, were located on the general trench drawings with levels referenced to Ordnance Datum. All trench drawings were at a scale of 1:50; features were either drawn at 1:10 or 1:20. A written record was also produced for each context on *pro-forma* context sheets and a summary for each trench was also produced.

2.3 PALAEONVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

2.3.1 During the evaluation, ten bulk samples were taken from several sealed contexts within negative features, representing a range of ditches (four samples) and pits (two samples) of various sizes. In consultation with NCCCT and EH, ten litres from six of these samples were processed for the assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains.

2.3.2 The samples were desegregated in water and hand-floated, with the flots (light fractions) collected on a 250 micron mesh and air dried. The flots were scanned with a Leica MZ60 stereo microscope and the plant material was recorded and provisionally identified (Table 2) with botanical nomenclature following Stace (2001). Plant remains were scored on a scale of abundance of 1-4, where 1 is rare (up to 5 items) and 4 is abundant (>100 items). The components of the matrix were also noted.

2.4 ARCHIVE

2.4.1 A full and professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The primary paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Northumberland County Record Office, Morpeth and copies of this report will be lodged at the Northumberland Historic Environment record, Morpeth. Any finds that meet criteria for retention will be kept at the Great North Museum. An OASIS form has been completed as part of the works.

3 RESULTS

3.1 TRENCH 1

3.1.1 Located close to the northern site boundary, Trench 1 originally measured 40m east/west by 2m but was later extended by 4.5m to the west and a further 3m x 3m extension added along the southern side (Fig 2; Plates 1 & 2). The modern ground surface sloped from 111.84m OD at the eastern end to 109.05m OD at the west. Topsoil ***148***, 0.35m thick, was removed revealing sandy clay natural geology ***149*** and a number of archaeological features (Fig 3). The most easterly of these features, pit or ditch terminus ***163***, was revealed for a distance of 1.72m east/west x 1m and extended beyond the limit of excavation to both the south and east (Plate 3). The feature was a maximum of 1.47m deep below ground level with six internal deposits identified (***164***-***169***), two of which were sampled. Despite the presence of quite large quantities of shale within deposits ***165*** and ***167***, none of these deposits appeared to represent a deliberate backfill, rather, their fine composition and lens-shaped profiles suggested they may have accumulated naturally. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

3.1.2 A series of layers were identified within the western part of Trench 1, whilst a collection of roughly north/south aligned linear features were identified within the central part of the trench. These were represented by four distinct cuts to a maximum depth of 1.23m below ground level (Fig 3; Plate 4 & 5), each with very dark fills that contrasted strongly with the natural geology; none of these fills produced finds. Of these linear features, gully ***140*** was the latest and measured 1.04m wide by 0.48m deep, continuing within the southward trench extension to over 5m in length (Fig 3). The single fill of this gully, ***160***, was finely banded and indicated a natural silting. Gully ***140*** cut layer ***158/161*** which appeared to be a 0.2m thick spread of waste material, containing coal. This deposit overlay 0.24m thick subsoil-like deposit ***157/162***, which sealed the natural geology and the remaining three linear features identified within Trench 1. Ditch ***142***, measuring 2.94m wide and 0.95m deep, was next in the stratigraphic sequence. The lower of the two deposits in this feature, ***155***, was sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Ditch ***142*** truncated ditch ***147*** quite significantly and was a possible re-cut or of that earlier feature. Ditch ***147***, measuring 0.84m wide by 0.36m deep, was filled by deposit ***156***, which was also sampled. Ditch ***141*** was the earliest of these features and, though truncated on its eastern side by ditch ***147***, measured 2.96m wide by 0.42m deep. The single fill, ***159***, was sampled.

3.2 TRENCH 2

3.2.1 ***Introduction:*** in order to fully-investigate the putative curvilinear/rectilinear enclosure of Geophysical Anomaly 2, Trench 2 was excavated in a Y-shape, with Trench 2 forming the principal north-west/south-east axis, and Trench 2A the 12m long westward offshoot.

3.2.2 Trench 2 initially measured 15m north-west/south-east by 2m wide and was later extended by 4.5m to the north-west (Figs 2 & 4). The modern ground surface sloped from 113.19m OD in the north to 112.66m OD in the south and the natural geology was encountered 0.3-0.4m below ground level. Topsoil ***182*** was removed by machine and the sandy clay natural geology ***183*** was then cleaned by hand to reveal several archaeological features. Located close to the intersection with Trench 2A, cuts ***179*** and ***181*** were both shallow gullies of unknown date. Gully ***179*** was on a rough north-east/south-west alignment and measured 0.3m x 0.08m deep; it was filled by ***178***, a silty sand which had accumulated through natural processes. Gully ***181*** curved from a rough north-east/south-west to an east/west alignment and measured 0.25m x 0.1m. Its fill, ***180***, was very similar to ***178*** and was also probably accumulated through natural processes.

3.2.3 Towards the centre of Trench 2, large pit ***188*** extended from the south-western baulk and measured 3m by 1.8m; it was excavated to a depth of 1.16m below ground level. The upper fill, ***184***, representing a deliberate backfill, was re-deposited natural geology, whilst fill ***185*** was a topsoil-like deposit. The clay and re-deposited natural geology of the two other fills, ***186*** and ***187***, seem to have accumulated through two distinct events as there was no mixing of the two. No dating evidence was found in pit ***188***. Two metres to the west, feature ***201*** was a small pit or posthole measuring 0.55m in diameter and 0.27m deep. The two fills within this feature, ***199*** and ***200***, were natural silting deposits from which no dating evidence was recovered.

3.2.4 Ditch ***209***, aligned north-east/south-west, was found in the north-westward extension to the trench (Fig 4; Plate 6) continuing beyond the limit of excavation in three directions. Its width exceeded 3m and its base was 1.74m below ground level. The five deposits within the feature varied; ***206*** was certainly water-deposited, as it was finely banded, but ***207*** below contained shale and may have been deliberate backfill due to the uncertain relationship with basal fill ***208*** and the natural geology. No dating evidence was found in this feature.

3.3 TRENCH 2A

3.3.1 The modern ground surface in the area of Trench 2A sloped from 113.85m OD to 112.98m OD. Topsoil ***202*** was removed by machine to a depth of 0.35m, revealing two features cutting sandy clay natural geology ***203***. The two features, ***194*** (2.4m x 1.5m, 0.35m deep) and ***198*** (>2m x 1.6m, 0.75m deep) were both highly irregular, both in shape and the nature of the deposits within them (Fig 4; Plate 7). Feature ***194*** had mixed fills without a clear stratigraphic sequence, whilst its cut was very irregular, being undercut in places. Features ***194*** and ***198*** were most likely natural in origin, perhaps tree throws, and produced no dating evidence.

3.4 TRENCH 3

3.4.1 Trench 3 ran north-west/south-east and measured 50m x 2m (Fig 5; Plate 8). The modern ground level sloped very gently from 111.49m OD in the north-west to 111.2m OD in the south-east. Topsoil ***134***, 0.4m thick, was removed by machine and natural sandy clay geology ***135*** was cleaned to reveal the presence of four archaeological features. Located at the north-west end of the trench, north/south aligned gully ***133*** had two water-borne fills, ***131*** and ***132***; this, coupled with its slightly sinuous nature, suggest it may have been a natural water-worn feature. Thirteen metres from the northern end of the trench, feature ***143*** showed as a semi-circle extending beyond the eastern limit of excavation; it was either the terminus of a large linear feature, or more likely, a large pit (Fig 5; Plate 9). Its dimensions were 4.3m x >2m, and was excavated to a maximum safe depth of 1.2m below ground level. The two earlier fills of this feature, ***145*** and ***146***, were both sampled. All fills were silting events, with the primary fill, ***146***, being a varied mix of re-deposited material. No functional or dating evidence was found in any of the deposits within this feature.

3.4.2 Two further pits were identified towards the centre of the trench. Pit ***137***, measuring 1.8m x 1.5m x 0.57m deep (base 1.2m below ground level), revealed no obvious evidence for dating or function and deposit ***136***, the sole fill of this pit, was sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. The other pit, ***139***, lay 2m south of pit ***137*** and measured 1.28m x 0.73m x 0.31m deep; a piece of modern pottery was found in the fill of this pit, suggesting a modern date for backfilling.

3.5 TRENCH 4

3.5.1 Trench 4 lay over the shelf of land at the western end of site where ground level sloped from 116.46m OD down to 114.38m in the east (Fig 5; Plate 10). Topsoil ***108*** was removed revealing sand and clay natural geology ***109*** and three features. Features ***113*** and ***114*** were both natural anomalies, probably tree throws. Pit ***112***, located 2m from the eastern end of the trench, measured 3.96m x >0.76m and 0.56m deep. The profile of this pit was quite irregular, although fill ***110*** was similar to the dark clays found in other features across the site; there was, however, no evidence of date or function for this feature.

3.6 TRENCH 6

3.6.1 Trench 6 ran 25m east/west down the slope to the east of the site, with the modern ground level a maximum of 114.71m OD and a minimum of 112.54m OD (Plate 11). Topsoil ***100***, 0.45m thick, was removed by machine in spits down to sandy clay natural geology ***101***, revealing a single archaeological feature at the western end of the trench. Feature ***105***, which extended beyond the limit of excavation, measured >2.8m x >1.8m and was excavated to 1.05m below ground level. Modern pottery and plastic were found in its single fill, ***106***, and there was a large amount of ground water in the feature (Plate 13). It was concluded to be a fairly modern, element of the drainage system. At the

eastern end of the trench, a sondage was dug into the natural geology to a maximum depth of 1.3m below ground level, revealing that the natural clay was composed of a series of banded sediments. This was quickly recorded and then partially backfilled for safety (Plate 12).

3.7 TRENCH 7

3.7.1 Trench 7 ran 25m x 2m west/east across the large cruciform cropmark (CMc), (Plate 14), with the modern ground level sloping from 110.18m OD in the west down to 107.96m OD in the east. Topsoil ***176***, 0.3-0.4m thick, was removed in spits by machine down to sandy clay natural geology ***177*** to reveal the presence of one archaeological feature, pit ***175***, 8m from the eastern end of the trench. The pit extended 1.05m from the southern limit of excavation, by 2.2m wide and a maximum depth of 1m below ground level (Fig 6; Plate 15). This feature contained similar grey clay deposits to those seen across the site, and again, no dating evidence was recovered.

3.8 TRENCH 8

3.8.1 Trench 8 was aligned north-west/south-east across a slope descending to the east from 114.09m OD to 112.7m OD. Topsoil ***119*** was removed in spits down to sandy clay natural geology ***120***, 0.3m-0.4m below ground level, revealing two archaeological features (Fig 5; Plate 16). Pit ***117***, 3m from the south-east end of the trench, was large and rectangular (1.76m x 1.26m, base at 1.12m below ground level; Plate 17) and contained the articulated skull and vertebrae of a horse (probably male) and one Industrial-period pottery fragment.

3.8.2 Ditch ***118*** (1.7m wide) was partially exposed at the north-west end of the trench aligned north-east/south-west (Fig 5; Plate 18), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.44m below ground level. Upper fills ***122***, ***123***, ***124*** and ***125*** all seemed naturally-derived deposits washed into the feature; ***125*** was particularly banded and was sampled. Deposit ***127*** did not fit stratigraphically and may represent an animal burrow or the silted up void left by decomposed organic matter. No dating or functional evidence was recovered.

3.9 FINDS

3.9.1 The recovered finds assemblage was restricted to a few sherds of industrial-period pottery (two fragments of stoneware and four sherds of whiteware, mostly transfer-printed), ceramic building material (cbm), and modern plastic (*Appendix 4*). The pottery, all dated to the nineteenth century or later, derived from drain backfill ***106*** (which also produced a fragment of modern plastic road sign), from pit fill ***138***, from redeposited topsoil backfill ***115*** of pit ***117*** and from topsoil ***134*** (which also produced the fragment of cbm). From the size and condition of the sherds they are all likely to have washed into the features from the surrounding topsoil. Also recovered was the partial skeleton of a large and elderly male horse from pit ***117*** in Trench 8; the latter feature

had the appearance of a square-sided machine-excavated feature, and is likely to be fairly recent in origin.

3.10 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

3.10.1 ***Results***: the palaeoenvironmental assessment examined six samples in total, three from ditch fills in Trench 1, another ditch fill from Trench 8, and two pit fills from Trench 3; the results and the relevant stratigraphic information are presented in Table 2. Modern waterlogged seeds were recorded in ditch fills ***125*** and ***155*** and also pit fills ***145*** and ***136***, and included *Juncus* (rushes), *Betula* (birch), *Chenopodium album* (fat-hen) and *Calluna* (heather) twigs. Amorphous plant remains were present in fill ***145*** of pit ***143***, and fill ***156*** of ditch ***147***. The only charred plant remains were small fragments of charcoal in ditch fill ***155*** along with pit fills ***136*** and ***145***, the latter of which also contained a few charred roots. The matrix of the samples contained large quantities of coal, and two contexts, ditch fills ***156*** and ***159***, contained pre-Quaternary spores, derived from the coal.

3.10.2 ***Discussion, potential and recommendations***: although four of the samples (from contexts ***125***, ***145***, ***136*** and ***155***) contained waterlogged seeds, these were thought to be the result of modern contamination. However, the nature of the amorphous plant remains in pit fill ***145*** and ditch fill ***156*** suggest that there is a potential for the recovery of waterlogged plant remains from future works at the site, a factor that should be considered within any programme for further mitigation. There is, however, no potential for any further analysis of those samples collected during the evaluation.

Sample No	Context	Feature	Flot volume (ml)	Flot description	Plant Remains	Potential
2	***125***	Ditch ***118*** Trench 8	50	Coal (4), modern roots (3), insect remains (1)	WPR (1) *Juncus*	None
3	***145***	Pit ***143*** Trench 3	20	Charcoal >2mm (2), Coal (4), charred roots (2), insect remains (1), amorphous organic (4)	WPR (1) *Juncus*	None
7	***136***	Pit ***137*** Trench 3	20	Charcoal >2mm (2), coal (3), clinker (2), fungal sclerota (4), modern roots (4), modern seeds (4), insect remains (2), invertebrate eggs (4)		None
8	***155***	Ditch ***142*** Trench 1	90	Charcoal >2mm (4), coal (4), modern *Betula* seeds and *Calluna* twigs		None
9	***156***	Ditch ***147*** Trench 1	65	Coal (4), amorphous organic (3), pre-Quaternary spore (1), modern invertebrate remains		None
10	***159***	Ditch ***141*** Trench 1	200	Coal (4), pre-Quaternary spore		None

Table 2: Assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains from Elmbank Caravan Park. Plants recorded on a scale of 1-4, where 1 is rare (up to 5 items) and 4 is abundant (>100 items). WPR = waterlogged plant remains.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 DISCUSSION

4.1.1 ***Introduction:*** to allow informed decisions to be made in relation to the future development of the site, the project was designed to assess the presence, nature and date of any archaeological features or remains within the development area, in particular targeting those features identified in the appraisal. In total, 23 archaeological features were identified within the development area, but of these, only three contained dating evidence (rather modern pottery), rendering any chronological interpretation difficult.

4.1.2 ***Cropmark A/Geophysical Anomaly 1 (Trench 1):*** despite the fact that this putative curvilinear feature showed-up consistently on the aerial photographs, and was clearly-defined by the geophysical survey, the results of the evaluation of Trench 1 were a little more enigmatic. The trench was placed to investigate the possible entrance to the enclosure, as well as part of the opposite, 'rear', boundary; despite the extension of the trench to the west, no feature corresponding with this 'rear' boundary could be identified. Similarly, there was no evidence of any archaeological features within the western part of the trench traversing the interior of the enclosure. Had the feature represented a small domestic enclosure, remains of postholes, drip-gullies or other such structural evidence could be expected; even a hearth or pits, might be present within such an area. If the feature was the remains of a round funerary monument, again, some sort of structural component might be expected somewhere within the investigated area. It is even possible that the curvilinear feature was so shallow that it did not penetrate the underlying natural geology.

4.1.3 Those features that were identified within the evaluation trench do lie sufficiently close to the terminus of the curvilinear feature to suggest that they *might* correspond with elements of the geophysical anomaly. With the exception of perhaps much later gully ***140***, the intercutting nature of ditches ***141***, ***147*** and ***142*** would appear to represent the repeated reinstatement of a long-standing boundary feature. Although the exact alignment of a ditch within a 2m wide trench is not always easy to judge, all three ditches, and indeed, gully ***140***, would appear to be aligned on a more northerly, or even north-west/south-east plane. As such, there is a suspicion that they would not follow the trend of the curvilinear feature, but instead conform to that of former field boundaries shown on older maps of the development area. In which case, it is strange that these features should not be detected along their entire lengths. It is however, notable that none of those boundaries shown on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps since 1866 correspond exactly with the positions of the Trench 1 ditches.

4.1.4 ***Geophysical Anomaly 2 (Trench 2/2A):*** although not apparent from aerial photographs, GA2 had the potential to be an enclosure feature similar to GA1. As with Trench 1, there was no evidence for an enclosure feature, nor for settlement. However, in the case of GA2, the concentration and arrangement

of archaeological features encountered within Trench2/2A, comprising the tree throws, pit ***188*** and ditch ***209***, could produce a series of geophysical anomalies that might understandably be interpreted as a more continuous feature. Gullies ***179*** and ***181*** could be related to the linear trends identified by the geophysical survey, and perhaps represent a combination of deeper plough furrows and water-worn features. The alignment of ditch ***209*** is not dissimilar to the boundaries of the present development area, although again, it cannot be matched to any features shown on the OS maps.

4.1.5 ***Geophysical Anomaly 3 (Trench 3):*** GA3 was initially interpreted in the appraisal as an area of disturbance, perhaps a complex of pits, and it is perhaps gratifying that pit ***143*** lies on the southern edge of this anomaly, with gully ***133*** at its northern extremity. It is curious, however, that the other features, pits ***137*** and ***139***, lay outside the area occupied by the geophysical anomaly, and it is hard to understand why pit ***143*** should create such an extensive anomaly whilst the other, essentially very similar, pits should leave no trace.

4.1.6 ***Other anomalies and features:*** despite its apparent certainty, GA4 remained as elusive as any of the other discrete anomalies and, although a number of archaeological features were identified within Trench 4, none were likely to relate to such a boundary feature. Tree bole ***113*** did lie on the line of GA4, and it is not impossible that GA4 might represent a boundary formed by a line of trees, but, like pits ***137*** and ***139*** in Trench 3, pit ***112*** in Trench 4 was not identified by the geophysical survey. Similarly, Trenches 6, 7 and 8 all contained large features not identified by the geophysical survey. Considering that most of these features were filled with clay deposits similar to other features on site, it could be concluded that this type of feature does not show up through the techniques used. This may relate to the fact that the fills of these features were not particularly organic, or had not been burnt, despite their overall similarity. For example, despite its size, drainage feature ***105*** was unlikely to have been picked-up by the geophysical survey as its components would not have produced a magnetic response. The evaluation demonstrates the value of using control trenches and physical excavation as a means of assessing and supporting the accuracy and reliability of non-invasive techniques.

4.1.7 It is impossible to establish whether all of the features represent contemporary elements of the landscape, but it is of some interest that many contained similar and distinctive fills, mostly from natural silting rather than deliberate backfilling. Field observations and the palaeoenvironmental assessment indicated that these fills frequently contained a significant shale and coal component, unlikely to derive from the weathering of natural deposits on site. It would appear, therefore, that the site had been subject to periodic dumping; the paucity of finds of any date would suggest a general absence of domestic refuse within this material, and a more industrial origin may be possible. Certainly, coal mining was taking place just over 1km to the south at Scremerston at least as early as 1827, when it is mentioned in contemporary directories (Northumberland County Council 2008). Indeed, the dumping of large amounts of industrial or upcast material may help to explain the high levels of background ‘noise’ encountered during the geophysical survey. As

such, several dumping episodes may be represented, much of it directly onto the topsoil. For example, ditches ***141***, ***142*** and ***147*** must post-date one such event, as they are backfilled with the in-washed residue, but have in turn been sealed by later dumping horizons represented by ***162*** and ***158***. The inclusion of coal waste may imply that the silting-up of the features dates to the post-medieval or industrial periods, and certainly the alignments of those ditches identified in Trenches 1 and 2 would appear to conform quite closely to the existing regular boundaries of the site. These boundaries display the typical regularity of enclosure-period land division, and could represent boundaries that had fallen out of use prior to the area being depicted on the earliest nineteenth-century OS map (OS 1866).

4.1.8 Although many of the pits contain similar material, and are likely to date to the post-medieval or industrial periods, the disparity in their proportions would suggest that they did not share the same functions. Some may be clay extraction pits, presumably a fairly widespread practice (Northumberland County Council 2008), whilst other might represent trial investigations associated with the nearby Elmbank Quarry. None, however, would appear to be refuse pits, and virtually all seem to have been left to silt-up naturally, with certain implications for the contemporary lack of intensity of landuse for the immediate area. Indeed, the overall lack of finds from the fieldwork would imply that the area had not been heavily night-soiled, implying limited agricultural exploitation and likely to be a product of the more marginal location of the development area relative to the settlement focus of Spittal to the north.

4.2 SIGNFICANCE

4.2.1 Although the evaluation has identified a number of archaeological features, some of which may relate to those identified during the appraisal, others of which seem not to have been previously detected, the fact that the form of these features could not be matched to those of the appraisal and that they produced little or no information in terms of date or function makes the results hard to interpret in terms of their significance. Within traditionally aceramic areas, features containing a complete lack of dating evidence are often interpreted as being of prehistoric date; however, the incorporation of coal, and potentially other industrial detritus, within the fills of many of the features identified during the evaluation indicates a more recent origin. Any preserved remains of curvilinear feature CMa/GA1 that could be identified may well be significant, but the present evidence would suggest that the inside of this feature has been largely truncated, whilst its outer margins may in fact be very shallow, perhaps not even penetrating the natural geology.

4.3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.3.1 Given that the significance of those identified features is difficult to determine, the scale of the impact of the proposed development can only by judged in physical terms. The main variable in the extent of the impact will be the depth to which the current ground level is altered. The topsoil is between 0.3m and

0.4m thick, and in the case of the majority of features, these would only be adversely affected by development works extending to or beyond that level; this would include the full removal of topsoil, the insertion of drainage features or footings, and the passage of heavy plant. Whilst the majority of features extend to some depth, it is possible that any remains of the curvilinear feature CMa/GA1 are more shallow, warranting especial care within the corresponding area of site.

5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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6 ILLUSTRATIONS

6.1 FIGURES

6.2 PLATES

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

ELMBANK CARAVAN PARK, COW ROAD, SPITTAL,

NORTHUMBERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford Archaeology North

July 2008

Rural Solutions

Grid Reference: NU 0055 5101
Planning Reference: B38/47: 4160
OA North Job No: L10052

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Rural Solutions, on behalf of Richard Roberts (hereafter the 'client') has submitted a planning application (B38/47; 4160) for the expansion of the Elmbank Caravan Park, Cow Road, Spittal, Northumberland (NGR NU 0055 5101). The proposed extension lies within an area considered to have high archaeological potential and, in accordance with a specification from the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT), a non-intrusive archaeological appraisal of the site was undertaken in January 2008. This identified a number of putative archaeological features that would be impacted upon by any development, and accordingly, NCCCT issued a brief for a programme of targeted archaeological evaluation to be undertaken, in order to further inform the planning process in advance of the development. The following project design for an archaeological appraisal has been compiled by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to meet the requirements of the NCCCT brief.

1.1.2 The development site comprises a 1.7ha rectangular area of grass 150m north-east/south-west by 120m, corresponding with Area 2, as defined within the archaeological appraisal report (OA North 2008). Although the NCCCT brief includes the evaluation of the green field area to the immediate west (defined as Area 3 in the archaeological appraisal), this will not be affected by the development, and is thus not considered within the following programme of works. As such, the evaluation site is bound to the east by existing static caravans, to the south by Cow Road, to the west by a clubhouse and to the north by recent residential development.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.2.1 The proposed development site lies within a wider landscape containing evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement activity. Much of this evidence comprises cropmarks, such as the nearby Springhill Romano-British settlement, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and there is evidence that several circular cropmarks lie within, and immediately around, the proposed development area itself. In January 2008 an archaeological appraisal of the site was undertaken in three phases (OA North 2008): a review of the available aerial photographs of the site, a site visit, and a geophysical survey.

1.2.2 The aerial photographic analysis examined all available images, comprising nine examples from the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (NHER), and one from the Newcastle Museum of Antiquities. Within Area 2, a putative cruciform cropmark (Cropmark C) of potential archaeological origin was identified on several photographs, whilst a sub-circular cropmark (Cropmark A) appeared on four separate photographs. Neither of these features could be defined as extant earthworks by the walkover survey, although one additional feature, a slightly raised earthwork platform, was identified just to the east of the clubhouse.

1.2.3 Despite severe magnetic disturbance over a large part of the site, the geophysical survey of Area 2, undertaken by GSB Prospection, successfully identified several anomalies of archaeological potential, including the ring ditch clearly visible on the aerial photographs (Anomaly 1/Cropmark A). In addition, there are suggestions of a possible adjacent small rectilinear enclosure (Anomaly 2), a distinct area of increased magnetic response (Anomaly 3), and a possible linear boundary feature (Anomaly 4) and a potential concentration of archaeological features in the western extremity of the survey area, the latter of which presently falls outside of that part of the site which will be developed. However, any interpretation is tempered by the extent of magnetic interference from services and modern features in the area.

1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.3.1 The company, both as Oxford Archaeology North and under the former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU), has considerable experience of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 25 years. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.

1.3.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists **(IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed to assess the subsoil deposits within the development area in order to determine the presence, extent, nature, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits that may be threatened by the proposed development. To this end, the following programme of archaeological work has been designed. The results of each stage will influence that which ensues and will provide information as to whether further mitigation works are required prior to, or during, ground works associated with the development. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 ***Archaeological evaluation:*** to implement a programme of focussed evaluation through the excavation of six linear trial trenches within Area 2, equating to 430m^2.

2.3 ***Report and archive:*** a written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the results of the evaluation and would make an assessment of the archaeological potential of the area, and any recommendations for further work.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 EVALUATION

3.1.1 The programme of trial trenching will establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and, if established, will then test their date, nature, depth and quality of preservation. In this way, it will adequately sample the threatened available area.

3.1.2 ***Trench configuration:*** the evaluation is required to focus on the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey, and it is proposed that seven linear trenches of 2m width and varying length be excavated. Trenches will be located and aligned in order to maximise the identification of archaeological features, particularly ditch terminals, are summarised in Table 1, and shown on Figure 1. Control trenches have been place to test areas that are nominally blank according to the geophysical survey.

Trench	Targeting	Length	Orientation	Corner co-ordinates (OD)
1	CM a & c; GA1	40m	East/west	400488, 651008; 400528, 651008; 400488,651006; 400528, 651006
2	GA2	25m	East/west & north-west/south-east	400478, 650988; 400479, 650986; 400488, 650976; 400489, 650977;400476, 650978; 400474, 650980
3	GA3; CM c	50m	North-west/south-east	400506, 650987; 400507, 650988; 400532, 650944; 400534, 650945
4	GA4	25m	East/west	400453, 650955; 400476, 650965; 400453, 650953; 400476, 650964
6	Control	25m	East/west	400496, 650927; 400517, 650940; 400496, 650925; 400518, 650938
7	Control	25m	East/west	400534, 650965; 400556, 650978; 400535, 650963; 400557, 650976
8	Control	25m	North-west/south-east	400487, 650958; 400488, 650960; 400511, 650949; 400511, 650951

Table 1: Summary of Evaluation trench configuration; CM=CropMark; GA=Geophysical Anomaly

3.1.3 ***Methodology:*** within each trench, the upper horizons of overburden, topsoil, subsoil and any recent made-ground will be rapidly removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless ditching bucket and working under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit or to the level of the natural subsoil. This deposit will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels, depending on the subsoil conditions, and inspected for archaeological features. All features of archaeological interest must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed by NCCCT. The trenches will not be excavated deeper than 1.2m to accommodate health and safety constraints; any requirements to excavate below this depth will involve re-costing.

3.1.4 All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Trenches will be located by use of GPS equipment, which is accurate to +/- 0.25m, or Total Station. Altitude information will be established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum.

3.1.5 Any investigation of intact archaeological deposits will be exclusively manual. Selected discrete features, such as pits and postholes, would be subject to 50% examination (ie, half-sectioned), linear features will be subject to a 25% sample where the fill is found to be non-uniform, and 10% where the fill is uniform., and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal. It is hoped that in terms of the vertical stratigraphy, maximum information retrieval will be achieved through the examination of sections of cut features. All excavation will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features, which appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.

3.1.6 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections, colour slides and monochrome contacts) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.

3.1.7 Results of all field investigations will be recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets. The site archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10). At least one long section of each trench within which archaeological remains have been identified will be drawn. In those trenches where no

remains habe been identified, a measured sketch section will be made, with supporting photographic documentation. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.

3.1.8 ***Reinstatement:*** it is understood that there is a basic requirement for reinstatement; the trenches will be backfilled so that the topsoil is laid on the top, and the ground will be roughly graded. Following agreement with NCCCT, any trenches that do not contain archaeological features would be backfilled as soon as possible. It would be preferable for the landowner to agree to the finished reinstated trenches prior to leaving site. Should there be a requirement by the client other than that stated this will involve recosting for an agreed variation. Similarly, if there is any requirement to cut turf prior to excavation and re-lay it following backfilling, this would need to be costed separately as an agreed variation.

3.1.9 ***Fencing/hoarding requirements:*** following consultation with the client it si understood that this part of the site is free from unauthorised ingress and from animals, and that no stock-proof or intrusion-proof barrier fencing materials will be needed. Open trenches will be demarcated along their long edges by spoil heaps, and at their short ends by orange netlon fencing. Should the hire and erection of heras fencing or similar by OA North staff be required, it can be included as a contingency item and will be invoiced at cost. Costs for hire and delivery of fencing, together with the cost of staff to erect such fencing, would need to be agreed as a variation.

3.1.10 ***Environmental Sampling:*** Jacqui Huntley, the English Heritage North East Region Science Advisor has been consulted as part of the compilation of this document. Environmental samples (bulk samples of 40 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). Buried soil horizons would be sampled in section through the extraction of monolith samples. An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of suitable deposits by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis.

3.1.11 The assessment would include, where appropriate, soil pollen analysis and the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features. In addition, samples from waterlogged deposits would be assessed for plant macrofossils, insects, molluscs and pollen. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if suitable deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of NCCCT and the client.

3.1.12 ***Faunal remains:*** although it is presently thought that the soil conditions will not be particularly conducive to the preservation of bone, if there is found to be the potential for discovery of bones of fish and small mammals, it would be necessary to discuss a means of extracting a meaningful assemblage of such remains. Such works might include onsite sieving where arrangements can be made for water and for silt sumps, but might more practically be addressed through large-scale bulk sampling of suitable deposits followed by laboratory sieving. Faunal remains will be assessed as appropriate by OA North's specialist in faunal remains, and subject to the results, there may be a requirement for more detailed analysis. A contingency has been included for the assessment of such faunal remains for analysis.

3.1.13 ***Human Remains****:* any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. NCCCT and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential, the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Ministry of Justice license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations. The cost of removal or treatment will be agreed with the client and costed as a variation.

3.1.14 ***Treatment of finds:*** all finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.

3.1.15 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.

3.1.16 ***Treasure:*** any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.

3.1.17 ***Contingency plan:*** a contingency costing may also be employed at the request of NCCCT in order to extend the evaluation area in order to address specific research questions; provision has been made within the costing to cover an additional 25m by 2m of evaluation trenching. A separate contingency, again indicated within the costing document, may also be employed for unseen delays caused by prolonged periods of bad weather, vandalism, discovery of unforeseen complex deposits and/or artefacts which require specialist removal, use of shoring to excavate important features close to the excavation sections etc. Contingencies would be charged in agreement with the client.

3.2 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

3.2.1 ***Report:*** one bound and one unbound copy of the final report will be submitted to the client within 14 working days of completion of fieldwork. One bound and one unbound copy of the final report will be submitted to the NCCCT. The report will include:

- a site location plan related to the national grid
- a front cover to include the planning application number, OASIS Reference and the NGR
- the dates on which each phase of the programme of work was undertaken
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results
- an explanation to any agreed variations to the brief, including any justification for any analyses not undertaken
- a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained
- plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of deposits and finds located as well as sites identified during the desk-based assessment
- monochrome and colour photographs as appropriate
- a list of and dates for any finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified
- a description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained
- a summary of the impact of the development on any archaeological remains and, where possible, a model of potential archaeological deposits within as-yet unexplored areas of the development site
- a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design

- the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.

3.2.2 This report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on CD, if required. Recommendations concerning any subsequent mitigation strategies and/or further archaeological work following the results of the field evaluation will be provided in a separate communication.

3.2.3 ***Confidentiality:*** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

3.2.4 ***Archive:*** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context.

3.2.5 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is essential and archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Northumberland HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects with the appropriate Record Office.

3.2.6 All artefacts will be processed to MAP2 standards and will be assessed by our in-house finds specialists. The deposition and disposal of any artefacts recovered in the evaluation will be agreed with the legal owner and an appropriate recipient museum. Discussion regarding the museum's requirement for the transfer and storage of finds will be conducted prior to the commencement of the project, and NCCCT will be notified of the arrangements made.

3.2.7 ***OASIS:*** an OASIS form will be completed as part of the works.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

4.1 OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

4.2 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the fieldwork as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. **Information regarding services within the study area have been received and will be used during the course of the evaluation.**

5 PROJECT MONITORING

5.1 Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, NCCCT will be kept fully informed of the work and its results, and will be notified a week in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with NCCCT in consultation with the client. Fieldwork will be monitored by the NCCCT Assistant Archaeologist on behalf of the developer.

6 WORK TIMETABLE

6.1 EVALUATION TRENCHING

6.1.1 Approximately two weeks from Monday 7/7/08 days will be required to complete this element, although a few additional days may be needed if there is any requirement for OA North to erect heras fencing prior to works commencing and then dismantle it afterwards. Similarly, any requirement for contingency evaluation at the request of NCCCT may extend this period slightly.

6.2 REPORT

6.3.1 Copies of the report, as outlined in *Section 3.2.1*, will be issued to the client and other relevant parties within 14 working days of the completion of fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed.

6.3 ARCHIVE

6.3.1 The archive will be deposited within six months following submission of the report, unless otherwise instructed.

7 STAFFING

7.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. The evaluation will comprise a suitably-sized team of experienced archaeologists led by Andrew Frudd, OA North Supervisor, an experienced archaeologist capable of undertaking small-, medium-scale projects in a range of urban and rural situations. The finds will be processed, studied and reported upon, either by, or under the guidance, of **Chris Howard-Davies** (OA North Finds Manager) who has extensive experience of finds from all periods, but particularly prehistoric and Roman material. All environmental sampling and assessment will be undertaken under the auspices of **Elizabeth Huckerby** (OA North Environmental Manager) who has unparalleled experience of palaeoenvironmental work in the North West and who heads an excellent team of environmental archaeologists. Any faunal remains will be studied by Stephen Rowland who has experience in undertaking the assessment and analysis of faunal assemblages from a wide range of periods and locations.

8 INSURANCE

8.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

9 REFERENCES

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, second edition, London

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SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers), 1997 *Health and Safety Manual*, Poole

UKIC, 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*, London

UKIC, 1998 *First Aid for Finds*, London

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT INDEX

CONTEXT	TR	TYPE	FINDS	SAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
100	6	Deposit	N	N	Topsoil
101	6	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
102	6	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
103	6	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
104	6	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
105	6	Cut	N	N	Modern land drain (L>2.8m, W>1.8m, D 0.7m)
106	6	Deposit	Y	N	Re-deposited topsoil; fill of ***105***
107	6	Deposit	N	N	Re-deposited natural; fill of ***105***
108	4	Deposit	N	N	Topsoil
109	4	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
110	4	Deposit	N	N	Grey clay; fill of ***112***
111	4	Deposit	N	N	Purple/brown sand; fill of ***112***
112	4	Cut	N	N	Irregular feature (L 3.96m, W 0.76m, D 0.56m)
113	4	Deposit	N	N	Tree throw (L 1.52m, W 1.25m, D 0.41m)
114	4	Deposit	N	N	Tree throw (L 2.08m, W 0.86m, D 0.22m)
115	8	Deposit	Y	N	Re-deposited topsoil; fill of ***117***
116	8	Deposit	Y	1	Re-deposited natural; <5%stones/pebbles, fill of ***117***
117	8	Cut	N	N	Modern burial pit for horse remains (L>1.76m W1.26m D 0.57m)
118	8	Cut	N	N	Ditch, north-east/south-west (L >2m, W >1.7m, D >1.5m)
119	8	Deposit	N	N	Topsoil
120	8	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
121	X	X	X	N	VOID - NOT USED
122	8	Deposit	N	N	Grey clay with greenish-yellow striations, flecks of sandstone and shale; fill of ***118***
123	8	Deposit	N	N	Sandy clay, flecks of manganese and shale; fill of ***118***
124	8	Deposit	N	N	Grey clay; fill of ***118***
125	8	Deposit	N	2	Banded mid-grey grit sandy clay/light grey/brown fine sand, fill of ***118***
126	8	Deposit	N	N	Re-deposited natural, 10% sub-rounded sandstone pieces 5-20mm; fill of ***118***
127	8	Deposit	N	N	Dark brown sand, organic; fill of ***118***
128	8	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
129	8	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
130	8	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology

CONTEXT	TR	TYPE	FINDS	SAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
131	3	Deposit	N	N	Dark brownish-grey silty sand; fill of ***133***
132	3	Deposit	N	N	Mottled mid-brownish-orange / light grey silty sand; fill of ***133***
133	3	Cut	N	N	Meandering curvilinear gully, possibly natural (L >8m, W 0.49m, D 0.08m)
134	3	Deposit	N	N	Topsoil
135	3	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
136	3	Deposit	N	7	Dark brownish-grey silty sand, <1% small-medium stones 30mm; fill of ***137***
137	3	Cut	N	N	Irregular small oval pit (L 1.8m, W 1.5m, D 0.57m)
138	3	Deposit	Y	N	Dark brownish-grey silty sand; fill of ***139***
139	3	Cut	N	N	Small oval pit (L 1.28m, W. 0.73m, D 0.31m)
140	1	Cut	N	N	Shallow linear gully, aligned north/south (L >5m, W 1.04m, D 0.48m)
141	1	Cut	N	N	Large linear ditch, north/south, (L >5m, W 2.96, D 0.42m)
142	1	Cut	N	N	Large linear ditch, north/south, (L >2m, W 2.94m, D 0.95m)
143	3	Cut	N	N	Large pit, (L 4.3m, W >2m, D 0.98m)
144	3	Deposit	N	N	Mid to dark grey clay, patches of 25% shale and sandstone pieces 5-10mm; fill of ***143***
145	3	Deposit	N	3	Mid-grey sandy clay, occasional sandstone pieces 100-200mm; fill of ***143***
146	3	Deposit	N	4	Mixed; orange/brown and grey sandy clays, re-deposited natural; fill of ***143***
147	1	Cut	N	N	Cut of linear ditch, north/south, (L >2m, W 0.84m, D 0.36m)
148	1	Deposit	N	N	Topsoil
149	1	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
150	1	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
151	1	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
152	1	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
153	1	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
154	1	Deposit	N	N	Mottled dark grey clay, 5% coal, 5% shale; fill of ***142***
155	1	Deposit	N	8	Mottled mid- to dark grey clay, coal 10%, shale 15%; fill of ***142***
156	1	Deposit	N	9	Mottled light grey clay, coal 5%, shale 5%; fill of ***147***
157	1	Deposit	N	N	Subsoil, dark brown organic clay
158	1	Deposit	N	N	Lens of very dark mottled grey clay, coal 25%, shale 10%

CONTEXT	TR	TYPE	FINDS	SAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
159	1	Deposit	N	10	Mottled mid- to light grey clay, coal 10%, shale 5%; fill of ditch ***141***
160	1	Deposit	N	N	Lenses of dark to mid-grey clay sands; fill of ***140***
161	1	Deposit	N	N	Lens of very dark mottled grey clay, coal 25% shale 10%
162	1	Deposit	N	N	Subsoil, dark brown organic clay
163	1	Cut	N	N	Elongated oval pit/ditch terminus (L 1.72m, W >1m, D 1.48m)
164	1	Deposit	N	N	Mid to pale grey clay, 2% 10mm stones; fill of ***163***
165	1	Deposit	N	N	Black to very dark grey clay; fill of ***163***
166	1	Deposit	N	5	Mid-purple grey clay; fill of ***163***
167	1	Deposit	N	N	Mottled mid-pale yellow and mid-pale grey clay; fill of ***163***
168	1	Deposit	N	6	Mottled mid- to dark blue/grey and mid-yellow/orange clayey sand; fill of ***163***
169	1	Deposit	N	N	Mid-pink/purple grey clayey sand; fill of ***163***
170	7	Deposit	N	N	Dark grey/brown silty sand, occasional sandstone pieces; fill of ***175***
171	7	Deposit	N	N	Light blue/grey gritty clay, 50% shale flecks; fill of ***175***
172	7	Deposit	N	N	Light blue/grey clay; fill of ***175***
173	7	Deposit	N	N	Mid- to dark brown silty sand, 5% small stones; fill of ***175***
174	7	Deposit	N	N	Re-deposited natural geology; fill of ***175***
175	7	Cut	N	N	Circular pit (L 2.2m, W >1.05m, D 0.62m)
176	7	Deposit	N	N	Topsoil
177	7	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
178	2	Deposit	N	N	Mid-brown silty sand; fill of ***179***
179	2	Cut	N	N	Linear gully, east/west (L >1.9m, W 0.3m, D 0.08m)
180	2	Deposit	N	N	Mid-brown silty sand; fill of ***181***
181	2	Cut	N	N	Curvilinear gully, north-eeast/south-west to east/west (L >2.2m, W 0.25m, D 0.1m)
182	2	Deposit	Y	N	Topsoil
183	2	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
184	2	Deposit	N	N	Yellow/orange sandy clay; fill of ***188***
185	2	Deposit	N	N	Mid- to dark greyish-brown silty sand; fill of ***188***
186	2	Deposit	N	N	Mid-grey clay, 40%shale flecks; fill of ***188***
187	2	Deposit	N	N	Yellow/orange sandy clay; fill of ***188***
188	2	Cut	N	N	Circular pit (L 3m, W >1.8m D 0.75m)
189	2A	Deposit	N	N	Mid-purple/brown silty sand; fill of ***194***

CONTEXT	TR	TYPE	FINDS	SAMPLE	DESCRIPTION
190	2A	Deposit	N	N	Pale yellow/grey sandy clay; fill of ***194***
191	2A	Deposit	N	N	Mottled yellowish-pinkish-orange/brown clay, 20% sandstone pieces 5-10mm; fill of ***194***
192	2A	Deposit	N	N	Mottled purple/grey clay, 20% shale gravel; fill of ***194***
193	2A	Deposit	N	N	Blue/grey clay; fill of ***194***
194	2A	Cut	N	N	Irregular feature, possibly natural (L 2.4m, W 1.5m, D 0.35m)
195	2A	Deposit	N	N	Mottled dark to mid-grey clay, 5%coal flecks; fill of ***198***
196	2A	Deposit	N	N	Yellow/orange clay; fill of ***198***
197	2A	Deposit	N	N	Purple/grey silty sand; fill of ***198***
198	2A	Cut	N	N	Irregular feature, possibly natural (L >2m, W 1.6m, D 0.75m)
199	2	Deposit	N	N	Dark grey sand; fill of ***201***
200	2	Deposit	N	N	Light greenish-grey sand, fill of ***201***
201	2	Cut	N	N	Small pit (DIA 0.56m, D 0.27m)
202	2A	Deposit	N	N	Topsoil
203	2A	Deposit	N	N	Natural geology
204	2	Deposit	N	N	Mid-grey clay; fill of ***209***
205	2	Deposit	N	N	Mid-grey clayey sand; fill of ***209***
206	2	Deposit	N	N	Banded greenish-grey silty sand; fill of ***209***
207	2	Deposit	N	N	Grey clay, 40% 5-10mm shale; fill of ***209***
208	2	Deposit	N	N	Mid-yellow orange sandy clay, occasional sandstone pieces; fill of ***209***
209	2	Cut	N	N	Large linear ditch, north-east/south-west (L >2m, W >3m, D 1.1m)

APPENDIX 4: FINDS CATALOGUE

Context	Material	Category	No frags	Description	Date
106	Plastic	Sheet	1	Part of modern road sign	Modern
106	Ceramic	Vessel	1	White-glazed stoneware jar base with gnurling	Nineteenth-century or later
106	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Transfer-printed whiteware	Nineteenth-century or later
115	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Brown-glazed stoneware jar fragment	Nineteenth-century or later
116	Bone	Animal	1*	Poorly-preserved partial skeleton of a large elderly horse, comprising skull, mandibles, cervical vertebrae and a few fragments of clavicle	Not datable
134	Ceramic	Building material	1	Slightly curved tile	Nineteenth-century or later
134	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Transfer-printed whiteware	Nineteenth-century or later
134	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Glazed whiteware	Nineteenth-century or later
134	Mollusc	Natural shell	1	Fragment of marine mollusc (dog whelk)	Not datable
138	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Transfer-printed whiteware	Nineteenth-century or later

Figure 1: Site location

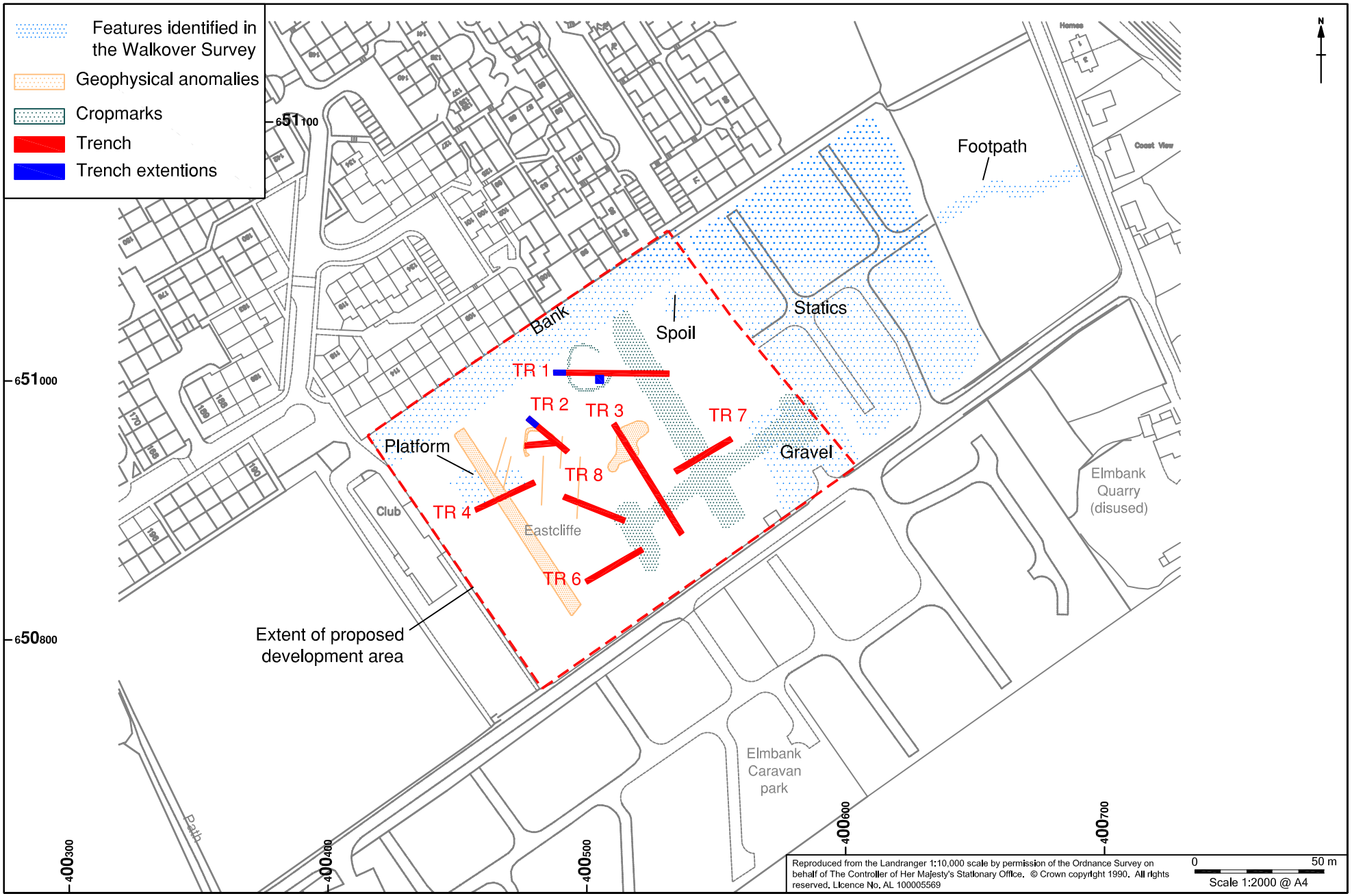

Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

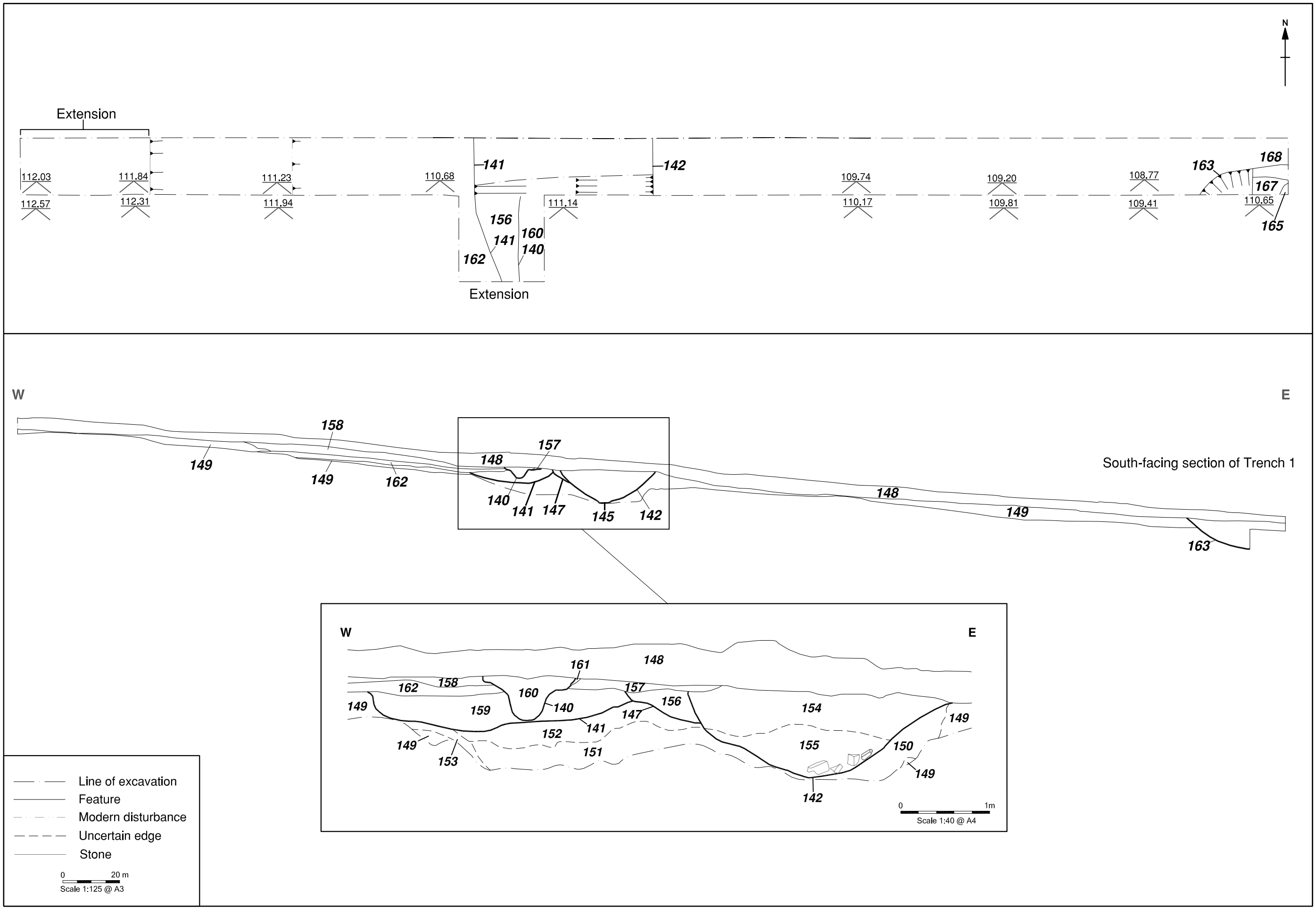

Figure 3: Plan and section of Trench 1

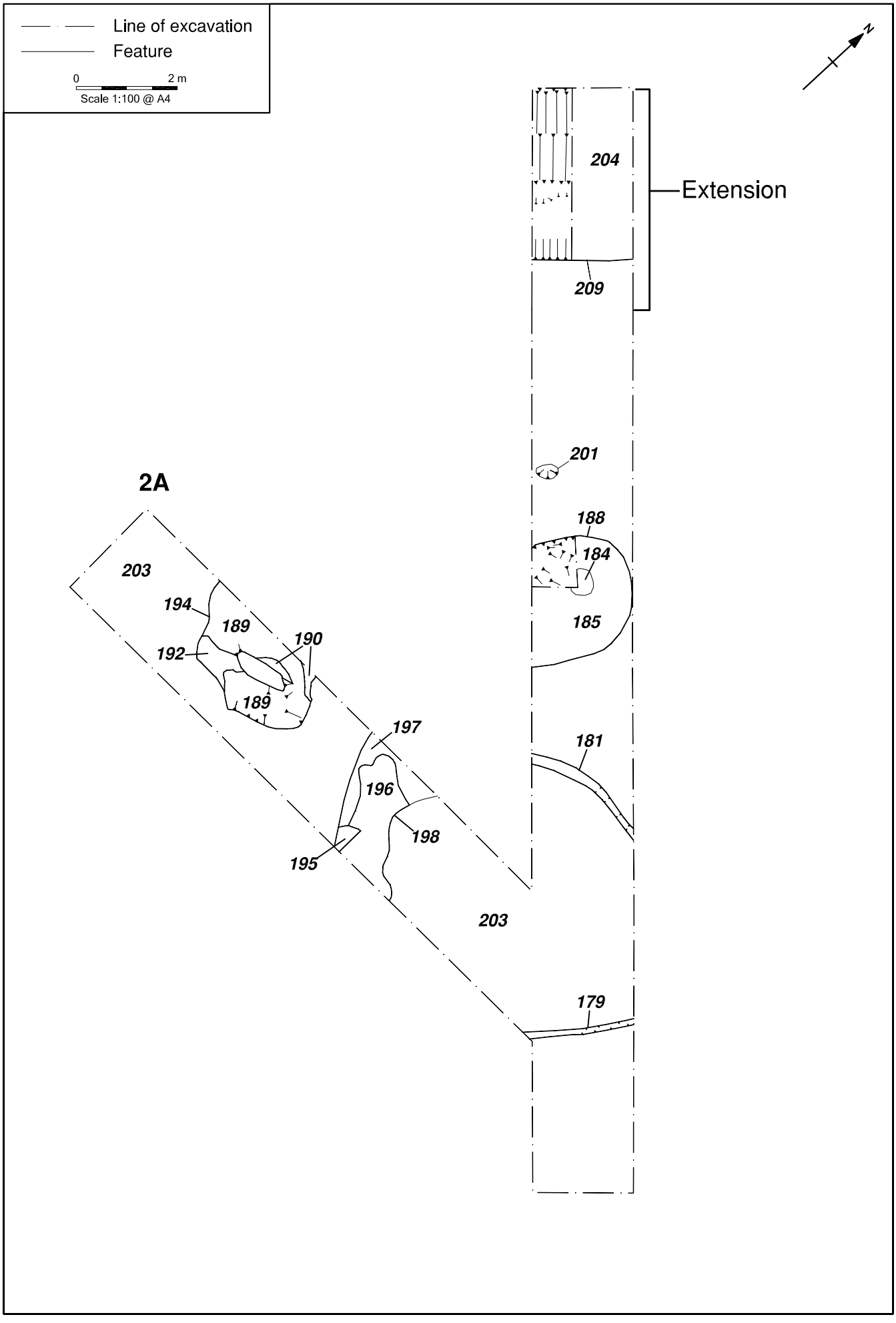

Figure 4: Plan of Trench 2/2A

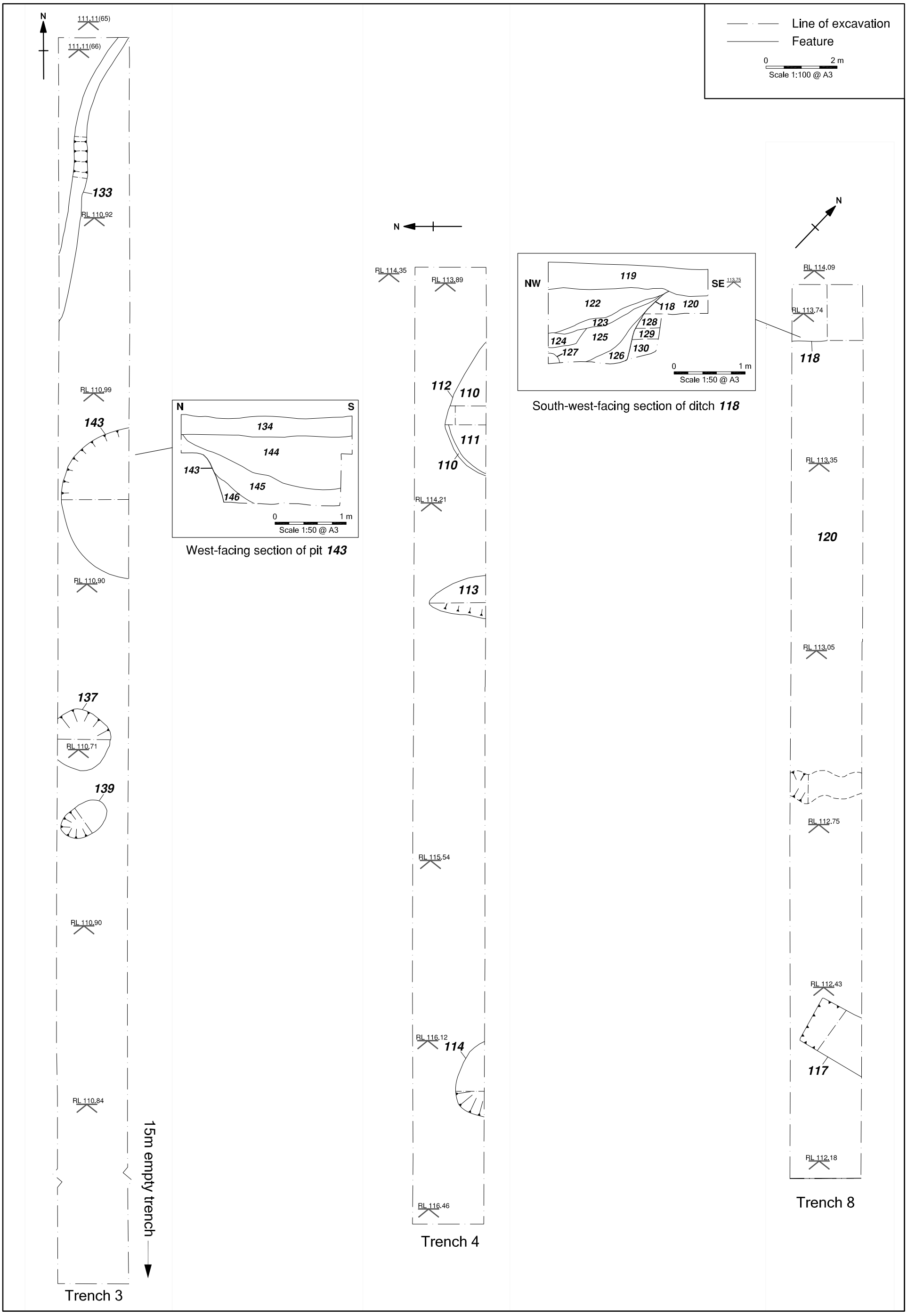

Figure 5: Plans and sections of trenches 3,4 and 8

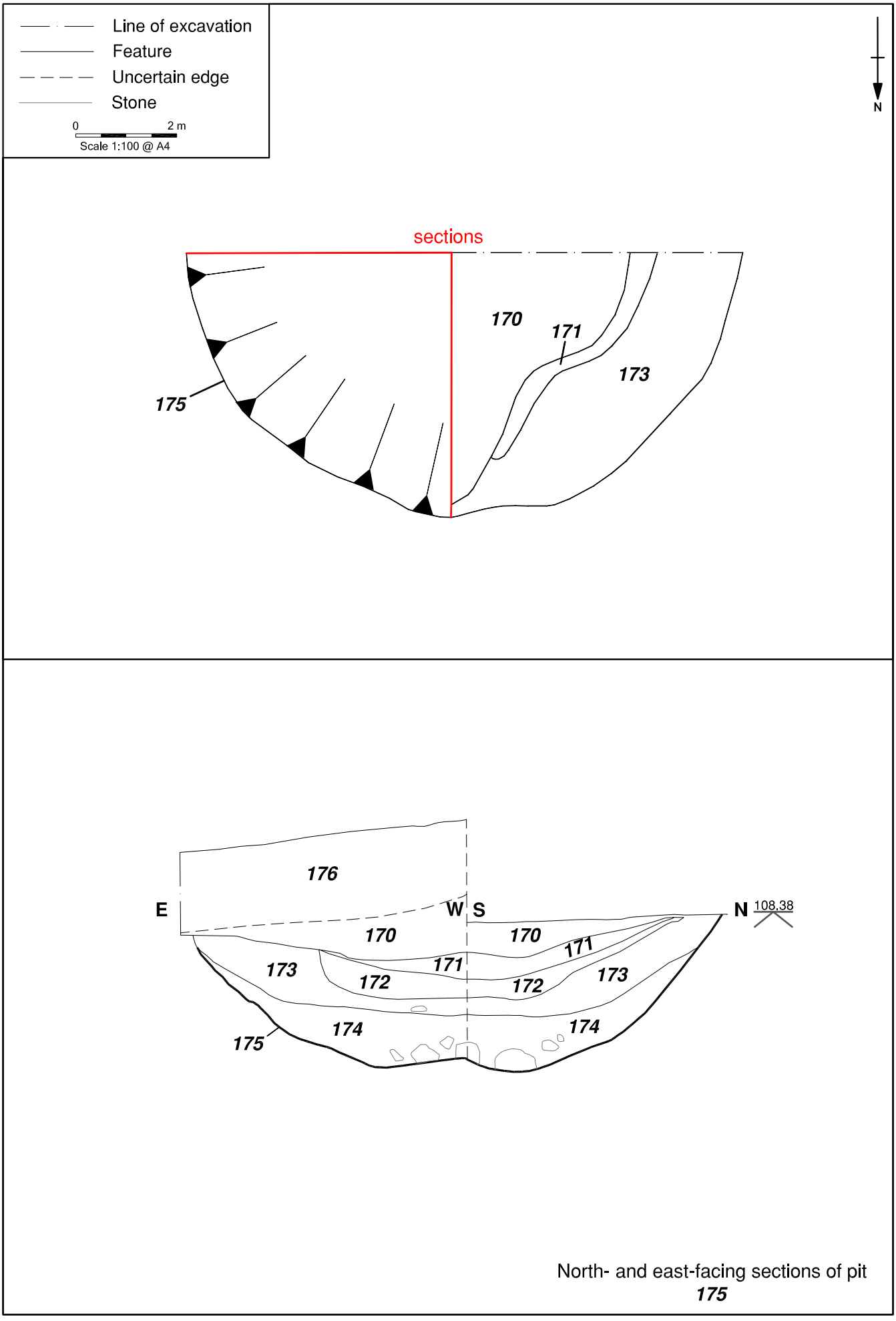

Figure 6: Plan and sections of pit ***175***

PLATES

Plate 1: Plan view of Trench 1 showing pit ***163***

Plate 2: Oblique view of pit ***163***

Plate 3: Extension to the south side of Trench 1, showing gully ***140*** and ditch ***141***

Plate 4: North-facing section of ditches ***140***, ***141***, ***142***, ***147***, Trench 1

Plate 5: Plan view of ditches ***140***, ***141***, ***142*** and ***147*** in Trench 1

Plate 6: East-facing section of ditch ***209***, Trench 2

Plate 7: East-facing section of irregular feature ***194***, Trench 2A

Plate 8: General shot of Trench 3 showing gully ***133*** and pit ***143***

Plate 9: North-facing section through pit ***143***, Trench 3

Plate 10: General shot of Trench 4 showing feature ***112***

Plate 11: General shot of Trench 6 showing land drain ***105***

Plate 12: Sondage into natural geology, eastern end of Trench 6

Plate 13: North-east-facing section through drain ***105***, Trench 6

Plate 14: General shot of Trench 7

Plate 15: North-facing section through pit ***175***, Trench 2

Plate 16: General shot of Trench 8 showing linear feature ***118*** and pit ***117***

Plate 17: North-west-facing section through pit **117**, Trench 8

Plate 18: South-west-facing section through ***118***, Trench 8