



TOWNHEAD FARM MELMERBY

Cumbria

Archaeological Building Investigation and Evaluation Report



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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North was commissioned by J Parkinson and Sons to undertake a programme of archaeological recording at Townhead Farm, Melmerby, near Penrith, Cumbria (NY 6162 3723) in advance of a residential development. The work involved the implementation of a fabric survey of the existing farm buildings prior to their demolition and conversion, and an evaluation beneath the new build developments to investigate underlying sub-surface remains. The work was undertaken in September and November 2002 and was in accordance with a project design by OA North, which was based on a verbal brief by Helena Smith of Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service.

The fabric survey was undertaken to RCHM(E) level 2 standards, resulting in the production of a ground plan, by means of enhancement of an architects plan, a photographic record, and a detailed description of the structure. The investigation was intended to explore the relationships between different parts of the building in order to establish a general chronology of its development and main uses. The evaluation involved the excavation of three trenches, two 5m long and one 10m long, by means of mechanical and manual techniques. Two of the trenches were to the west of the farm courtyard where two detached buildings were to be built and the third was beneath the east range, which was part demolished to accommodate a new build structure.

The farm buildings were arranged around a central courtyard, of which the eastern range was an earlier build. The arrangement of the courtyard reflects a deliberate and expansive planned layout for the farm and outbuildings with the farmhouse deliberately removed from the outbuildings. This generic design typically reflects a relatively late date for its construction, potentially from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries, with the eastern range only predating it by a matter of decades.

The evaluation did not identify any archaeological features that were considered to pre-date the post-medieval period, with the possible exception of two shallow linear features in Trench 3, whose date and purpose were unresolved.

Given the absence of significant below ground archaeological remains and that the buildings have been subject to mitigation recording prior to their demolition / conversion, it is considered that there is no requirement for further recording in advance of the development.

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OA North would like to thank J Parkinson and Sons for commissioning the work and for Helena Smith, Cumbria County Council Archaeological Service, for her advice and assistance in the design of the project.

The building investigation was carried out by Daniel Elsworth, and the evaluation was conducted by Andrew Bates and Peter Schofield. The report was written by Daniel Elsworth and Andrew Bates, with a contribution by Jo Cooke, and was edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Carol Allen. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Following a proposal by J Parkinson and Sons for the development of the Townhead Farm complex at Melmerby, near Penrith, Cumbria (NY 6162 3723; Fig 1) the Cumbria County Council Archaeological Service (CCCAS) recommended a programme of archaeological survey and evaluation. The development proposed the demolition of part of the Townhead Farm complex and the redevelopment of the remainder. A verbal brief was issued by CCCAS and following the acceptance of a project design (*Appendix 1*) submitted by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), the work was commissioned by J Parkinson and Sons.
- 1.1.2 The aims of the study were two fold: firstly to produce a record of the existing building prior to any demolition and redevelopment Secondly, following the demolition of parts of the east range of the farm, three evaluation trenches were excavated within the footprint of the demolished buildings and the site of proposed new buildings in order to identify any further archaeological remains. The work was undertaken in September and November 2002.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the survey and evaluation, with a discussion of the results. This is followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the site, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and recommendations for further work.

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.2.1 Melmerby lies to the north-east of Penrith on the A686, below Melmerby Fell (Fig 1). It is situated between the upland region of the north Pennines and lowland region of the Eden Valley, and is at an altitude of c170m AOD. The Pennine region to the east is one of upland moorland, with high plateaux of blanket bog, and broad ridges of heather moorland and acid grassland managed for sheep and grouse (Countryside Commission 1988, 43). The lower regions of the north Pennines comprise pasture and hay meadows, bounded by dry stone walls and hedgerows, with small scattered stone built villages and farmsteads displaying a strong vernacular architecture (*ibid*).
- 1.2.2 The Eden Valley to the west is an area of improved pasture and arable land, containing large farms in the lower regions, with broad river valley landscapes and local variations in topography and land cover. The local red sandstone features prominently in the buildings, walls and gateposts of the area. Activities in the foothills of the Pennines has produced an area less intensively managed, with hilly pasture and lowland heath, intersected by various gills (*op cit*, 38).

1.3 PHYSICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The underlying geology of the region consists of a thick layer of Permo-Triassic red sandstone above red mudstones and silts, formed during a period of shallow 'dead' seas surrounded by deserts in the area (Taylor *et al* 1978, 7 and 70). These were subsequently uplifted by the folding of the strata during the Tertiary period,

and faulted by the Pennine Fault, both of which assisting in forming the Eden Valley (*op cit*, 8).

1.4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.4.1 **Prehistoric:** there is little information specifically relating to the area during the prehistoric period. Cumbria has only a few remains of the Late Upper Palaeolithic period, which are largely in the south-west of the county (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 32-33), although these are sparsely represented. The Mesolithic period is represented by numerous sites along the west coast (summarised in Rollinson 1988), as well as the limestone uplands of east Cumbria (Cherry and Cherry 1987), although little is known of the area specifically around Penrith. By the Neolithic the landscape across Cumbria was changing rapidly with large amounts of forest being felled and the large scale production of stone axes at Langdale (Rollinson 1988, 11-14). Large monuments began to be built at this time, and to the south-east of the site Mayburgh Henge was possibly in place as early as the late Neolithic (*op cit*, 15).
- 1.4.2 During the Bronze Age there was a general increase of forest clearance, and an expansion of settlement out from areas of Neolithic settlement onto the adjacent marginal uplands. The Eden Valley was such an area of both Neolithic and subsequent Bronze Age activity, and the remains of Bronze Age settlement and cairnfields abound on the limestone uplands to the west and to a lesser extent on the Pennine uplands to the east. Neolithic or Bronze Age rock art has been identified in the area, either on outcrop rock, steadfast boulders or portable stones, or as part of a larger Bronze Age monuments, at Stag Stone Farm, Penrith, Honey Pots Farm, Long Meg and Little Meg stone circles, Glassonby and Old Parks (Frodsham 1989, 2). Many of the agricultural systems probably remained in use into the Iron Age and, although there are few dated examples, there was probably a degree of continuation (Rollinson 1988, 26).
- 1.4.3 **Roman:** there are extensive Roman military remains in the general area. The fort at Brougham, on the south-east side of Penrith, was probably established at an early date, and continued in use until the fourth century (Shotter 1993). The road extending north from the fort passes within two kilometres of the site, but there are no specific connections with Melmerby itself (Richardson 1984, 82). A single find of a Roman coin, an *Alexandrian Tetradrachm*, was however recovered from the village, minted between AD 123-4, but there are no known Roman settlements within the immediate vicinity of the village.
- 1.4.4 **Early Medieval:** the archaeological evidence for the post-Roman centuries in the North West is sparse, particularly compared with that from many other parts of England. Until recently, excavated settlement evidence from eastern Cumbria was confined to the proposed monastic site of Dacre, near Pooley Bridge, where sixth to eleventh century remains were found (Newman and Leech forthcoming), although there are indications that Penrith may have developed from a pre-Conquest nucleus around St Andrew's Church (Newman *et al* 2000; Winchester 1987, 124). However, the presence of these two high status centres implies the existence of well-established agricultural hinterlands, and ephemeral traces of rural settlements are now being found for the first time. Over the last decade, evidence for timber buildings, probably predating AD 800, has been found at Fremington (Oliver *et al*

1996, 127-169) and Whinfell Forest (Heawood and Howard-Davis 2002) and at Shap (*ibid*). Artefactual evidence from these sites has been limited, as is often the case in this period, but has included loom weights (from Fremington and Shap) and pottery (from Fremington).

- 1.4.5 Finds of stone sculpture in the parish of Lowther further support the hypothesis that the landscape remained settled in the pre-Viking period, which came under Scandinavian influence from the tenth century. Two cross-shafts of later eighth- to early ninth-century date were formerly present inside Lowther Castle, and may have originated from nearby St Michael's Church (LUAU 1997, 23; Bailey and Cramp 1988, 127-129). These suggest the presence of a contemporary church or monastic institution, with access to an agricultural surplus. Three rather later Anglo-Scandinavian hog-back stones are still present within the church porch (Bailey and Cramp 1988, 130-1), and imply some degree of Scandinavian influence by the late tenth or early eleventh century.
- 1.4.6 Place name evidence and the layout of the village of Melmerby would suggest a medieval origin for a settlement. The influx of place names ending in *-bý* are considered to be the result of the Scandinavian presence in the area (Fellows-Jenson 1985, 66-67). Many of the place names of this type can be shown to contain specific personal names which have been traced to people who are known to have been borne in the twelfth century (*ibid*). Gillian Fellows-Jenson has argued that the Scandinavian *-bý* place names of the Eden valley above Temple Sowerby represent the influx of Danes from the Danelaw into a landscape already well-settled by the English; some of the English *-tun* names survived, whilst others were partially or completely Scandinavianised (*op cit*, 80).
- 1.4.7 **Medieval:** the settlement morphology, and surviving earthworks, of many villages in the upper Eden Valley have been interpreted as representing evidence of medieval origins (CCAS nd). Many show a rectangular plan, sometimes around a green, but more often based around a narrow street (Roberts 1993, 131-3); the village fields were laid out at right angles to the street, and there were often two parallel streets, which is not uncommon in highland areas of Britain (*ibid*). Historical and recent mapping of the village of Melmerby shows a similar form. The village encloses a relatively large triangular shaped green around which the core of the settlement is situated. The narrow strip fields, or furlongs, are still visible extending away from the settlement, many displaying the reverse 'S' shape of the aratral curve characteristic of ploughing with oxen (Beresford and Joseph 1979, 25). The extent of this fossilised field system surrounding Melmerby may well reflect the presence of a larger settlement than the current village, which has since reduced in size. The shrinking of medieval settlements in the Eden Valley is often put down to a series of disasters in the fourteenth century, including plague, crop failure, diseased stock and Scottish raids (Winchester 1987, 44-45).
- 1.4.8 **Post-medieval:** examination of the cartographic evidence shows that by the time of the OS first edition map (1867) the village had retained much of its original medieval character. The village fabric was spread around a large triangular village green, through which Melmerby Beck passed, and within which there have been only three small intrusions into the common land; two of these are now called Yew Tree House and Pear Tree House, the names reflecting the occupation of common and orchard land. The third was a smithy at the western end of the green, beside the beck, which had presumably exploited the water power to drive bellows, but this

structure had gone by the time of the second edition map (1897) (Fig 2). Townhead Farm was in its present form at the southernmost part of the green. The OS 1st edition map of 1895 shows that the field system comprised strip fields extending out from farms and reflecting the enclosure of medieval open fields. Significantly the north/south road past Townhead farm is at a divergent angle to the general line of the strip fields, and would appear to be a later imposition onto the medieval field system (Fig 2).

- 1.4.9 In the course of the subsequent period there has been relatively little change to the village. The green is still open and undeveloped, and there has been only limited infilling of the eastern side of the village mainly in the backlands of existing farms; however, there has been localised development of two frontage plots, one on the east side of the green, and one on the northern side. These changes to the village are relatively minor, and neither the character of the village or its field system have been impaired over this period of 150 years.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix I*) was produced in accordance with a verbal brief by CCCAS, and J Parkinson and Sons accordingly commissioned OA North to undertake the work. The project design 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 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

- 2.2.1 The survey of the remaining fabric of Townhead Farm was undertaken on the 17th and 18th of September 2002. The survey was undertaken to RCHM(E) level 2 standards, resulting in the production of a ground plan, a cross section, a photographic record, and a detailed description of the structures. The investigation was intended to explore the relationships between different parts of the building in order to establish a general chronology of its development and main uses.
- 2.2.2 ***Drawn Record:*** an architect's plan was annotated by means of manual survey to enhance the graphic record and to provide a detailed record of important architectural components (Fig 3). A cross section through the farm buildings was produced through similar means (Fig 4).
- 2.2.3 ***Photographic Survey:*** a general oblique photographic survey was undertaken of the building in accordance with RCHM(E) Level 2 recording. The record was fully indexed and photographic views were shown with respect to the existing architect's plans. This included external and internal elevations and appropriate architectural detail. A record was made as shown below.
- 2.2.4 The photographic record of the building included:
- i) general external coverage (colour slide, black and white and digital);
 - ii) general internal coverage (black and white contact prints, colour slide (35mm) and digital);
 - iii) general views showing the overall setting of the building;
 - iv) close-up views of significant internal and external architectural details (black and white contact prints and colour slide; 35mm);
 - v) general views of representative structural detail (black and white contact prints and colour slide; 35mm);
- 2.2.5 ***Descriptive Record:*** the survey of the site involved the production of a detailed descriptive record of the fabric of the building in accordance with the RCHM(E) Level 2 standard. This involved internal and external examination of the extant fabric, and an assessment of the development of the building.

2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

- 2.3.1 The work undertaken followed the method statement detailed in the project design (*Appendix 1*) and complied with current legislation and accepted best practice, including the Code of Conduct and the relevant professional standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1992).
- 2.3.2 The programme of field observations recorded the location extent and character of any surviving archaeological features. A total of three evaluation trenches were excavated, two 5m long and one 10m long (Fig 5). Each trench was initially excavated with a 22 ton 360° mechanical excavator, fitted with a 2.0m wide ditching bucket; thereafter excavation was completed by hand. All trenches were hand cleaned and where archaeological features were encountered, these were subject to limited archaeological excavation in order to ascertain their date, character, and extent. All trenches were excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand.
- 2.3.3 **Recording:** comprised a full description and accurate location of all features and deposits encountered. The recording methods employed by OA North accord with those recommended by English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology (CfA). Recording was in the form of *pro forma* Context Sheets for each of the discrete features and deposits identified, together with an accompanying plan. A photographic record was also maintained, comprising monochrome prints and colour slides formats.
- 2.3.4 An accurate plan of the trenches was produced, and their location was plotted using a Global Positioning System (GPS), which provides an accuracy of $\pm 0.2\text{m}$. The locational information was superimposed with map data within a CAD system to create the location map (Fig 5).
- 2.3.5 **Finds:** no finds were recovered from the site as the small amount of animal bone discovered was considered to be of modern date.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full archive of the archaeological building investigation, and archaeological evaluation has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The archive will be placed in the Cumbria County Record Office in Carlisle, and copies of the report will be submitted to the Sites and Monuments Record, in Kendal. An archaeological fieldwork record form will be forwarded for deposition in the National Monuments Record.

3. BUILDING INVESTIGATION RESULTS

3.1 FABRIC SURVEY

- 3.1.1 **The Farm Complex:** the survey area consists entirely of barns, byres and other functional buildings arranged in three ranges around a large courtyard (Fig 3). The present farmhouse was separate and to the north-west of the outbuilding complex, but attached via a small porched passageway. For the purposes of this report the buildings will be divided into three blocks: the North-west range, the North-east range, and the East range. Most of the buildings are only a single storey tall, the exception being the north end of the East range, which was of two storeys.
- 3.1.2 There was a total of 16 complete rooms, only two of which were above the ground floor (Rooms 4 and 5), and the remains of a badly damaged room in the south-west corner (Room 16a). The courtyard was covered by a mix of cobbles, concrete and earth.

3.2 EXTERNAL ELEVATIONS

- 3.2.1 **General Build:** the entire complex is built in red sandstone, generally in rough courses with roughly dressed blocks. The roof is finished with a mix of sandstone slabs, corrugated concrete sheets and slate. The internal walls are also built in sandstone, though often more randomly coursed, while the roof trusses are generally hand-finished timbers.
- 3.2.2 **East Range:** this consists of a large threshing barn at the south end (Plate 2) and a smaller two-storey building at the north end. The lower part of the roof was finished with sandstone while the upper part is part slate and part corrugated concrete sheeting (Plate 1).
- 3.2.3 **West elevation:** the west elevation faces into the courtyard; its build changes noticeably from the south-east end to the north-west, from rougher, less obviously dressed courses, to neater faced blocks with short string courses levelling the stonework where necessary (Plate 1). There are pedestrian doorways at the south end, centre and north of the centre of the elevation. Each of these has large quoined jambs and a heavy stone lintel. There are six horizontal vent slots across the southern part of the elevation, which forms the threshing barn, and which are cut into the blocks forming the 'sills'. The majority of the stonework at the southern end is badly eroded and has been affected by water, resulting in bulges extending out from the plane of the wall. There is a small window at first floor level of the threshing barn, with a plain, square surround, and along the roof line are a line of small square holes, possibly vents. To the south of the northern doorway into the barn is a small hole, blocked with stone, and south of this are two shallow squares gouged into the stonework.
- 3.2.4 In the centre of the elevation is a large stone staircase butted to the wall, leading up to a doorway giving access to the first floor at the south end. The space below the staircase is open and has a flag floor; a large tether post is inserted into the ground, and there is a further timber upright and iron bracket supporting the stairs. At the top of the stairs is a doorway with quoined jambs and a large stone lintel, to the north of which, still on the first floor, is a window with plain square stone jambs.

North of the threshing barn is a pair of ground floor windows, each with square stone surrounds, and slightly splayed sills, and between these windows is a doorway (Room 3; Plate 3). The build at this end is noticeably different, with much neater courses of dressed blocks, augmented by short string courses levelling the stonework, which extends across the top of the south end. There is another large aperture above the north door forming a first floor loading door, in the same style as the one below but shorter. There are also four narrow slit vents across the wall top.

- 3.2.5 **South elevation:** this is the gable end of the threshing barn. It has a large wagon doorway in the centre, which has been enlarged if not totally inserted. The jambs are rebuilt in sandstone and it has a concrete lintel. There is a thin concrete layer below the roof line, and the corners are finished with ashlar quoins.
- 3.2.6 **East elevation:** the south-east corner is finished with quoins, the lowest of which has a bench mark inscribed into it. There are eight, modern cross-shaped tie-bolts across the threshing barn wall, which is entirely constructed of roughly dressed sandstone courses. There are two large wagon doorways either side of the centre of the barn, the southern of which has been infilled with smaller sandstone blocks. Both doorways have ashlar four-point arches, with a projecting keystone, set on a projecting plinth. There is a gutter attached below the roof line, and a row of small holes, which were probably small vents. At the north end it turns slightly to the west, and there is a down-pipe built into the wall at this point. At the north end are two windows at first floor level, with square stone surrounds, both blocked internally with a course of small sandstone blocks; there are three ceramic pipe vents built into the wall below these. At the north end the east range meets the north-east range, which was clearly of the same build.
- 3.2.7 **North elevation:** the opposing gable of the north-east range is only partially visible above the lower north-east range. It has ashlar quoins at the corners and a concrete skim below the roof line; it is essentially the same build as the south elevation.
- 3.2.8 **North-East Range:** the north-east range consists of a row of four single storey rooms, mostly comprising byres. The roof is constructed entirely from sandstone slabs, and the build is typically of roughly dressed courses of sandstone.
- 3.2.9 **South-west elevation:** there are four pedestrian doorways; one at the south-east end, one to the north-west of the centre, one in the centre and one at the north-west end. All of the doors are finished with quoined jambs and heavy stone lintels, although the central two have noticeably narrower lintels (Plate 4). The doorway to the south-east of the centre, is markedly larger, and has been enlarged if not inserted, utilising an iron I-beam lintel and has rebuilt jambs. There is an area of possible rebuild to the south-east side of the south-east doorway and the ruined remains of a wall running into the courtyard, butting the wall at this point. There are small holes above the two central, pedestrian doorways which are of unknown function.
- 3.2.10 **North-east elevation:** the entire elevation is constructed in uniform courses of dressed blocks with the occasional short string course bringing them level. It is keyed into the turn at the south-east end, and finished with quoins at the north-west end. There is a large wagon doorway in the north-west end, like those in the east elevation of the east range, with a four point arch of ashlar stone, and a projecting keystone on projecting plinths. It extends across, and forms, the north-east elevation of the north-west range of the complex, and has a gutter and down pipe attached.

- 3.2.11 **North-West Range:** a row of five single storey rooms, forming part of the north-east range at the corner. These consist of a large byre at the north-east end and probable workshops to the south-west. The roof consists of sandstone slabs with a small stone chimney near the centre.
- 3.2.12 **East elevation:** at the north end is a down pipe attached to the wall, with a narrow gouged vertical line in the stonework, approximately 0.7m long, to the south-west and two holes, forming part of removed fixtures (Plate 5). There are five small holes below the roof line at the north end, which were probably ventilation slots. There are two large doorways into the byre, one at either end, both with ashlar quoined jambs, recessed to hold iron door hooks, and each with heavy stone lintels. Between these two doors are two further narrow gouged lines in the stonework and another attached downpipe. The build is typically of roughly coursed dressed sandstone blocks, with short levelling string courses.
- 3.2.13 In approximately the centre of the elevation, between the byre and the workshops, is a large wagon doorway leading to the farmhouse beyond. The jambs are finished with large dressed quoins, and the lintel is of a large timber beam with peg holes (possibly reused) with additional modern timber battens. South-west of this is another pedestrian doorway, finished with ashlar quoins, and with a stone lintel, which has fallen noticeably on the south-west side. South-west of this is a tall window with square stone surrounds, which is also collapsing on the south-west side. To the south-west of this is another pedestrian doorway in the same style as the rest, on the south-west side of which are the remains of a wall project into the courtyard. This has a mix of sandstone blocks, flags and modern materials but is in part original. South-west of this is a large wagon doorway which has been inserted into the wall, with iron and timber lintels, and rough plastered jambs. The south-west end of the building is almost totally ruined, and there are the remains of a small building projecting into the courtyard (Room 16a).
- 3.2.14 **South elevation:** this is the gable end of the building. It is very ruinous and has been extended on the east and west sides with additional walls, the eastern of which has the remains of a large window visible within it. The build is relatively rough compared to the rest of the external elevations, and there are the remains of two small outshuts still visible in the form of a low roof scar and ruined walls, as well as the smashed remains of a toilet. The wall attached to the west side forms part of the garden wall of the farmhouse.
- 3.2.15 **West elevation:** the centre of this elevation is obscured by the porch connecting the farmhouse to this range, while the south end is obscured by a large oil tank. The build is of coursed sandstone blocks, which key into the walls of the porch. In the centre is a large wagon doorway, leading into Room 12, corresponding to that in the south-east elevation, with a large four-point arch, projecting key stone and plinths. In the byre at the north end are two inserted windows, two-light and eight-light, with concrete sills. There are also three narrow gouged lines in the stonework, as on the east elevation.

3.3 INTERNAL DETAILS

- 3.3.1 **East Range:** the east range consists of five rooms (Fig 3): a large threshing barn (Room 1), two byres (Rooms 2 and 3), and two first floor rooms, a hay loft (Rooms 4 and 5) above Room 2.
- 3.3.2 **Room 1, fabric:** the floor is a mix of broken concrete and stone flags, although much of it has been removed revealing a sand bed. The ceiling is supported by seven trusses each consisting of a simple tie beam and overlapping principal rafters, all of which are roughly finished and chamfered, and some appear to be reused. On the west side these are supported by upright iron I-beams, and on the east side there are modern iron inclined struts between the tie beams and the wall (Plate 2).
- 3.3.3 **Room 1:** the north elevation forms the gable end of the room, and was constructed in fairly rough courses with some short string courses levelling them. The east side has been almost entirely rebuilt, and large stones key the rebuild into the east elevation. Scars below the wall top demonstrate that the gable has been raised in height by approximately 0.8m, and the remains of sawn off purlins are also visible. The east elevation is pierced by eight tie rods attaching to the brackets supporting the tie beams to the wall. There are two wagon doorways, the southernmost of which is infilled with concrete blocks internally, while the northernmost has recessed jambs with iron gate hooks still *in situ*. Both doorways have heavy, roughly finished timber lintels, and there are a series of small ventilation holes piercing the wall below the roof line. The build is typically of coursed, dressed sandstone blocks.
- 3.3.4 The south elevation is a corresponding gable, although it is almost totally rebuilt in sandstone and concrete blocks where the large wagon doorway has been added. The west elevation is a more complex mix of builds, generally consisting of roughly coursed blocks. All of the doors and windows have hand finished timber lintels, as do the horizontal ventilation slots, and the small vent slots along the wall top are just visible. Above the doorway north of the centre is a large, roughly finished, beam built into the wall top, with quoins below indicative of a large, now blocked, aperture. The quoins only extend for a short distance and it is difficult to estimate the original size of this doorway. There are small alcoves on the south and north sides of the north door; the northern example has a timber lintel and the southern one has what appears to be a timber lining.
- 3.3.5 **Room 2, fabric:** this consists of a ground floor byre; the floor is a mix of concrete, cobbles, flags and a stone drain creating a dung channel. The low ceiling consists of machine cut timber beams supporting boards all held by a large iron 'T'-beam.
- 3.3.6 **Room 2:** the north elevation consists of whitewashed, roughly coursed, rough stonework, a small area of which has been cut away on the east side. The east elevation consists of a similar build, with two inserted ceramic pipe vents. The south elevation is similar again, although the east side appears to have been either rebuilt or badly damaged. The west elevation is the same again, with a broken tie bolt at the south side and a doorway on the north side with a machine cut timber lintel. The doorway has a recessed stone jamb on the south side with ashlar quoins forming the north jamb. A modern fuse box and electrical cables is attached to the south of the doorway.
- 3.3.7 **Room 3, fabric:** Room 3 is another ground floor byre, but much larger than Room 2. The floor is again a mix of concrete, cobbles and flags, with stone drain slabs forming a dung channel, which exits through the doorway. Small, upright iron 'T'-

beams form the remains of stall posts. The low ceiling consists of machine cut timber joists and floor boards supported by an iron 'T'-beam, with a single upright post on the east side and a hatch into the first floor on the south side (Plate 3).

- 3.3.8 **Room 3:** the north elevation consists of whitewashed, roughly coursed masonry but is otherwise unremarkable. The east elevation is of the same build, with three timber lined vent slots below the ceiling and a group of three possible putlog holes north of the centre. The timber upright supporting the ceiling is against the wall south of the putlog holes. The south elevation has probably been rebuilt on the east side, and has a narrow timber beam with numerous peg holes built in on the west side, which was presumably a rack of some sort. The west elevation has two windows either side of a central doorway (Plate 3). The windows have splayed jambs to the ground, and rough timber lintels and beams from the tops of the jambs, which extend across the whole elevation. The doorway is relatively ornate, with slightly proud quoins, recessed jambs and gate hooks. There are two small alcoves within the elevation, one north of the south window, the other north of the doorway, each 0.3m square and 0.2m deep.
- 3.3.9 **Room 4, fabric:** this is the first floor room above Room 2, which was accessed by an external staircase. Its floor consists of wooden floorboards with a simple hatch through to Room 2 below. The ceiling consists of felt underlay on the western side and corrugated asbestos on the east. It is supported by one machine cut truss with tie bedding and overlapping principal rafters. There is one machine cut purlin per pitch.
- 3.3.10 **Room 4:** the north elevation has a rough plaster finish with several patches of repair visible, especially around the roof line; several through stones are visible. There is a gable-top door with a roughly finished timber lintel, that may be a later insertion. The east elevation also has a plaster finish, which has been redone around the top of the wall. There are two blocked windows with roughly finished timber lintels that have been plastered over. The south elevation has the same finish, but has been rebuilt on the eastern side. A heavily repaired gable is visible, with purlin ends exposed and several through stones visible. The wall has been heavily repaired on the western side, and also above the former gable. The western elevation has the same finish, and has been repaired along the top. There is a doorway on the southern side, gaining access from the external stair, that has a roughly chamfered timber lintel, with recessed jambs and gate hooks. There is a narrow water pipe attached to the north of the truss, and a window further north again. This has splayed jambs, a rough timber lintel and a stone sill.
- 3.3.11 **Room 5, fabric:** this is another first floor room, above Room 2. The floor consists of wooden floor boards with an access hatch through to the room below on the southern side. The ceiling is constructed in the same way as Room 4, with three machine cut trusses.
- 3.3.12 **Room 5:** the north elevation has a rock-faced finish with through stones visible, and traces of whitewash. It has been repaired at the eastern and western ends and along the roof line. The eastern elevation has four blocked slit vents and a blocked central aperture with a timber lintel. The lower part of this wall has a relatively fresh coat of plaster, and the top has been repaired. The south elevation has the same finish as the north with through stones visible and some plaster along the base. There is a door on the western side with a timber lintel. The west elevation has the same

finish, but with no covering of plaster. It has four splayed vent slots, and some through stones visible. There is again a central aperture with a rough timber lintel and recessed jambs. The top of this wall has been repaired. In the south-west corner is an iron tank.

- 3.3.13 **North-East Range:** this consists of four rooms (Rooms 6-10), of single storey, thought to consist mostly of byres.
- 3.3.14 **Room 6, fabric:** Room 6 is a roofed area between the North-east and East ranges, but for convenience of description is included under the North-east range section. The floor consists of a rough mix of cobbles and flints and the walls comprise relatively rough stonework. The ceiling has two pairs of roughly finished purlins linking the east and west elevations, and there are some more recent rafters and battens.
- 3.3.15 **Room 6:** the north-east elevation consists of relatively rough finished stonework that is badly damaged towards the top, and has been whitewashed. The elevation is butted by the south-east elevation, which is essentially a gable end with purlins projecting through it. The south-western elevation consists almost entirely of a doorway with a roughly finished timber lintel, quoined jambs and a gate hook attached side on. The north-western elevation is a gable end for the north-east range and has purlins inserted through it. It has been built and finished in a similar way to the south-east; however, there has been some damage at the northern end. The north-eastern wall appears to have been keyed in to this north-western wall.
- 3.3.17 **Room 7, fabric:** this is to the north-west of Room 6. It has a floor of coursed cobbles on the south side, but this has been concreted over on the north side. The walls comprise roughly dressed stone, which has been whitewashed and there are some through stones visible. The ceiling has a single truss with a tie beam, and the principal rafters are roughly finished with two purlins in each pitch, overlapping at the truss (Fig 4).
- 3.3.18 **Room 7:** the north-west elevation comprises roughly coursed, whitewashed stone work with wooden blocks bolted on as wall fixings. The north-eastern elevation has a similar finish with a row of through stones visible. The south-eastern elevation has the same finish again, but a hole broken through on the north-western side. The south-west elevation has the same construction and has a large wagon doorway inserted in the centre. This wagon doorway has replastered jambs and a timber lintel above, supporting the end of a truss.
- 3.3.19 **Room 8, fabric:** Room 8 is to the north-west of Room 7; its floor is concrete, rising to the north to form stalls. The ceiling has a single truss with a tie beam and principal rafters which have been hand finished. There are two purlins in each pitch, overlapping at the truss.
- 3.3.20 **Room 8:** the north-eastern elevation consists of roughly finished coursed stone, which has been thickly whitewashed and the lower part has been covered by a concrete skim, forming part of the relatively recent stalls. There is a single central stall partition wall, with rough concrete troughs, a post on the south-eastern side and a concrete font on the north-western side. The south-eastern elevation has the same finish and the same lower concrete skim. There is a heavy gate inserted for the stalls, with through stones above. The south-west elevation has the same finish but no concrete skim. There is a central doorway with a roughly dressed timber lintel, and quoined jambs and through stones above. The north-western elevation

butts the north-eastern elevation and was clearly a partition wall. It has the same finish as the other walls and also has a concrete skim at the base which continues beyond a door on the south-east side. This door has a machine cut timber lintel. There is a small central drain hole at the base of this elevation.

- 3.3.21 **Room 9, fabric:** Room 9 is to the north-west of Room 8. It has a concrete floor sloping to form a central trough, and stalls and further troughs at the northern side. The roof has a single truss and was constructed in a similar way to Room 8, with two purlins on each pitch, and a beam between the truss and the western wall. The walls were constructed of roughly dressed and roughly coursed stone, which has been whitewashed.
- 3.3.22 **Room 9:** the north-eastern elevation comprises whitewashed roughly dressed stone with a concrete skim at the base. Concrete troughs and an inserted central partition are set against the elevation. The south-east elevation has a similar build and concrete skim, with some through stones visible. A drain hole has been inserted through it, and there is a door on the southern side. The south-west elevation has the same build, with some through stones visible. There is a pedestrian door in the centre of the elevation which has an internal timber lintel and quoined jambs. The north-west elevation has the same finish, with the same concrete skim and some through stones visible.
- 3.3.23 **Room 10, fabric:** Room 10 is the north-westernmost room in the North-east range, and also essentially forms a part of the North-west range. The floor is earthen. The roof has two trusses; the western truss has a king post bolted to the beam and has been cut to fit the principal rafters, with several beams jointed between it and the wall tops. The south-eastern truss is plain, as are the tie beam and principal rafters. There are struts on the south-western side, and additional supporting beams. The entire roof is supported by three steel drums filled with concrete, forming a column (Plate 6). There are two purlins in each pitch with additional joists on the north-western side to fit the change in pitch.
- 3.3.24 **Room 10:** the north-eastern elevation consists of roughly coursed, roughly dressed stone, which has been whitewashed and has a concrete skim over the lower part of the eastern side. There is an arched wagon door on the western side, with quoined jambs, and also an alcove on the western side. The south-eastern elevation has a similar build and whitewash, and has a similar concrete skim on part of the northern side. The south-west elevation has a doorway at the south-eastern end with a hand-finished timber lintel and recessed jambs. There are steps to the southern corner that are partially quoined, and have been partially rebuilt; beyond the steps the build of this elevation is very rough. There is a large inserted doorway leading into the north-west range. It has a machine-cut timber lintel, and above is a small aperture with a timber lintel that has been blocked with stone. This part of the south-western elevation butts the north-western elevation, but is keyed into the eastern elevation of the north-west range. The north-western elevation has the same general build, with a row of through stones towards the top of the wall.
- 3.3.25 **North-West Range:** the North-west range consists of a row of six single storey rooms, one of which (Room 12) forms a passageway through to the farmhouse beyond. Room 11 is a large byre to the north-east of Room 12, and Rooms 13-16 are small workshops to the south-west of Room 12.

- 3.3.26 **Room 11, fabric:** Room 11 is the northernmost room in the north-east range, immediately to the south of Room 10. It has an earth floor, and walls of rough coursed, roughly dressed blocks and a concrete skim over the lower parts. The ceiling has four trusses, which are hand-finished, and numerous additional beams between them. There are joist slots in the beams and two purlins in each pitch that overlap at the trusses. There are pipes for water built into all the walls, behind the concrete skim.
- 3.3.27 **Room 11:** the northern elevation butts the western elevation; it has a large doorway inserted into it with a timber lintel and a gap filled with slate above. There is also a lintel for a small aperture visible but the remainder is obscured by whitewash. The east elevation has the same finish and build as the northern wall. There are the scars of partition walls in the concrete skim which were for stalls, and there are doors at the northern and southern ends with timber lintels. The southern elevation butts both the eastern and western walls but has the same finish and also has scars in the concrete skim. There is a row of through stones, below which is a truss inserted into the wall with beams attached. There are two joist holes visible, one at either end. A beam has been built into the wall on the western side but its function is unclear. There are also water pipes attached to this elevation. The western elevation has the same finish, also with scars in the concrete skim, and a row of through stones; it has two inserted windows with stone sills and thin lintels. In the lower part of the northernmost window a pipe has been inserted.
- 3.3.28 **Room 12, fabric:** this is a passageway through the north-west range to the farmhouse beyond. It has a cobbled floor, and the northern wall has a roughly coursed rock-faced finish. The ceiling comprises only two purlins per pitch. The two side walls, north and south walls, both butt onto the long east and west walls.
- 3.3.29 **Room 12:** on the west side of the north elevation is a doorway, blocked with coarsely dressed stone, which has a stone lintel. The east side of the elevation is quoined with dressed ashlar blocks. Scattered over the eastern part of the elevation are a number of small stone blocks with initialled inscriptions: 'BL', 'IH', 'TM', 'AI', 'ATRK', 'Rabbi?', and 'T.B.'. There is no consistency of style or size and they suggest erratically produced graffiti. The west and east elevations are essentially only doorways; the western doorway is arched and the eastern doorway has a timber lintel. The south elevation is comparable to the north elevation. There has been some repointing and it has a number of holes; a wooden wedge has been inserted at the west end for the door frame. There are further graffiti inscriptions: 'BL', 'KS', 'KL' and '1911'.
- 3.3.30 **Room 13 Fabric:** this is a small square room accessed from the farmhouse side and the courtyard side of the complex, but not from the adjoining room (Room 14) or passageway (Room 12). It has a flagged floor, and the walls are of roughly coursed, and roughly finished stone which has been entirely white washed. It has a single truss, comprising a simple tie beam and has been hand finished; it is marked 'VI'. It has overlapping principal rafters and a skylight on the west side.
- 3.3.31 **Room 13:** the north elevation butts against the east elevation, and probably also the west elevation; it has a row of through stones horizontally across the wall. In the centre of the elevation, some localised collapse has exposed a blocked flue, but there is no evidence for an associated fireplace. A brick coal store has been built into the north-west corner of the room. The east elevation has the same build and

finish as the north elevation. It has a door in the centre, which has a timber lintel and a recessed jam. There is an adjacent window to the south, which similarly has a timber lintel and a recessed surround. The wall has a sink and a stone bench on the southern side. The southern elevation butts against both the west and east elevations, and is of the same build and finish as the northern elevation. On the west side is a former return of the south wall extending out from the west wall, comprising truncated quoin stones; it is evident that the present butting south wall replaced an earlier integral wall which was aligned immediately to north in line with the western entrance. The southern wall has some through stones and occasional putlog holes. The western elevation is comparable in general build to the other three, although the stones are typically slightly larger than those of the later south wall. It has a door set into its southern side, which has a timber lintel and frame.

- 3.3.32 **Room 14 Fabric:** this is a simple room to the south of Room 13, with a single point of access into the courtyard. It has a raised concrete floor, with two sawn-off posts set into it, and holes for two others; these were probably the remains of a timber byre. The roof comprised two purlins per pitch, which are machine cut and apparently fairly modern. It has roughly coursed, roughly dressed masonry which has been whitewashed throughout.
- 3.3.33 **Room 14:** the north elevation butts onto both the east and west elevations, and has a horizontal row of through stones. The east elevation has a door on the south side, which has a stone lintel externally and internally has a hand-dressed timber lintel; it has recessed jams. There is a small alcove on the south side which is partially blocked. The south elevation butts onto the east and west elevations, and has some through stones. It has numerous putlog holes and inserted pieces of timber and iron bolts as wall fixings. The west elevation has a row of through stones and inserted timber blocks as wall fixings.
- 3.3.34 **Room 15 Fabric:** this is a simple room to the south of Room 14, with a large wagon entrance to the east. It has a part concrete and part dirt floor. The roof comprised two purlins per pitch, which are machine cut and apparently fairly modern. It has roughly coursed, roughly dressed masonry which has for the most been whitewashed.
- 3.3.35 **Room 15:** the north elevation butts onto the eastern and western elevations. There is an extension of the wall to the east of the wall, which is partly collapsed. The east elevation has a large, inserted wagon doorway, which has iron and timber lintels and a marked absence of quoin stones. The doorway comprises most of the elevation and there is little original fabric surviving. The south elevation butted onto the western, and probably also the east elevation. It has a window set very low on the east side, which was inserted and has a reused timber lintel. The west elevation is of the same general build, although slightly better coursed and again has through stones.
- 3.3.36 **Room 16 Fabric:** this is the end room of the north-west range, and is substantially decayed; it is no longer roofed and its eastern wall is predominantly collapsed. A part of this room (Room 16a) extended east into the courtyard, but the walls of this part are even more decayed than the western section. The western wall has been extended and it is evident that this was a later extension to the north-west range. It has a raised concrete floor which extends into the courtyard. The walls are of

roughly dressed and roughly coarsed masonry, with some through stones throughout. Where there are indications of roof timbers, notably purlins, they are of modern machine cut timbers.

- 3.3.37 **Room 16:** the north elevation butts the west elevation; to the east it extends through into the courtyard, where it forms the footings of a small outbuilding. It has a low window at its east side. The east elevation is largely destroyed, although there is some original build keyed into the south elevation. The south elevation has two parts, the gable wall of the north-west range and the extension forming the southern wall of the outbuilding (Room 16a). Significantly, even though it is a gable wall it butts onto the western wall, suggesting that it was not an original feature of this southern extension of the north-west range. It has a number of through stones and putlog holes. The west elevation is of similar build, although the stone work is slightly better dressed than that of the southern and northern elevations. There is an obvious wall break, and the southern part of the wall was evidently a later extension.
- 3.3.36 **Room 16a:** the walls of this outbuilding survive only as foundations. There was a possible door in the east elevation, a window with a splayed sill in the south elevation and a doorway in the dividing wall between Rooms 16 and 16a.

4. EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The evaluation investigated the locations of two proposed new houses (Trenches 1 and 2) and a further trench (Trench 3) was excavated beneath the foundations of the northern part of the east range following its demolition (Fig 5).
- 4.1.2 The natural substrata of the area consisted of a layer of medium red sand, **13**, with the underlying parent material of Permo-Triassic red sandstone visible in places. This substrata was located below all other deposits in all three trenches. All of the contexts are listed in *Appendix 2*.

4.2 TRENCH 1

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was excavated on a north/south alignment, measuring 6.0m in length, 2.0m wide and was 0.70m deep. The upper layer was a 0.3m deposit of recent rubble; this overlay a 0.05m of compact gravel hardcore, **15**, which was the former farmyard surface. The yard surface overlay a 0.30m deep, dark-brown fine, sandy silt clay, **12**, which was a sealed soil horizon containing post-medieval and modern pottery. This modern deposit directly overlay the natural subsoils, **13**.
- 4.2.2 Cutting into the natural subsoils, **13**, was a post-medieval, horseshoe shaped, ceramic field drain, running along the base of the trench, from the north-west to the south-east corner, **14**. No other features were identified within the trench

4.3 TRENCH 2

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 measured 5.0m in length, 2.0m wide and 0.70m deep, excavated on a north/south alignment (Fig 6). The upper layer was a 0.22m depth of modern rubble overburden, which overlay a 0.05m depth of compact hardcore, **15**, the former farmyard surface. This overlay a 0.43m depth of the same dark-brown fine, sandy silt clay, **12**, that was found in Trench 1. At the northern end of the trench was a sub-oval pit, **01**, measuring 0.85m long by 0.6m wide and was 0.17m deep (Fig 6 and 7). The pit had a concave base, and a shallower lip to the south, filled with a dark reddish brown, friable, sandy silt, **02**.
- 4.3.2 Finds from this feature included a small collection of immature animal bones, including pig, cattle and sheep, all less than one year old; none of the remains represented complete individuals. Small residual remains of soft tissue were noted on the bones, and, although no direct dating evidence in the form of pottery was recovered from this pit, it is considered that it was of modern date and the finds were not collected or recorded in detail.
- 4.3.3 Pit **01** (Fig 7) cut a thin layer of dark grey fine sandy silt clay subsoil, **03**, present at the southern end of the trench only, and it probably also cut sub-soil **12**; however, soil formation processes had destroyed the stratigraphy in this area and the relationship between the subsoil, **12**, and the pit could not be confirmed. Some further immature animal bones were also recovered from the spoil heap, possibly associated with this feature.

4.4 TRENCH 3

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 was located beneath the east range (Fig 6). It was aligned in a north/south direction, measuring 10.0m by 2.0m with a maximum depth of 0.80m. The highest deposit was a 0.2m depth of modern rubble, which overlay a 0.2m depth of dark-brown fine, sandy silt clay, **12**. This in turn overlay the natural substrata, **13**.
- 4.4.2 Three archaeological features were recorded within the trench. At the southern end of the trench were two parallel north-east/south-west aligned linears, **05** and **07** (Fig 6), which were 0.45m apart and cut into the natural sand, **13** (Fig 7). They were of unknown lengths, linear **05** was 0.40m wide and linear **07** was 0.32m wide, and both were 0.11m deep. They were both filled with a dark brownish-grey, fine sandy silt clay, **04** and **06**, with frequent small stone inclusions; deposit **06** had a single larger stone, 80mm by 40mm in size.
- 4.4.3 One possible interpretation is that they were plough marks; however, they run across the alignment of the surrounding strip fields or furlongs and their function, therefore, remains unresolved.
- 4.4.4 The third feature, **08**, comprised part of a possible pit, much of which was beneath the baulk of the trench; it cut through the clay subsoil **12** (Fig 7). The cut had steep, concave, sides with an uneven base; the basal fill comprised a 0.14m thick deposit of dark-brownish-orange silty clay with a high percentage of charred grains, and occasional small rounded stone inclusions, **10**. This was sealed by a mid-brownish-orange silt clay with frequent small rounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks, **09**, and in turn was overlain by a mid-brownish-orange silty clay with small to medium sized angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks, **11**. It is possible that these two latter layers represent a single episode of backfilling.
- 4.4.5 This appears to be a relatively large pit for what was a relatively small amount of waste material. No direct dating evidence was recovered from the pit, but, as it visibly cuts the post-medieval sub-soil horizon, **12**, it is unlikely that this feature predates the building of Townhead Farm, which was constructed over it, by any great number of years. A post-medieval date for this feature is therefore considered likely.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

- 5.1.1 The building investigation examined an extensive complex of outbuildings belonging to Townhead Farm, extending around a courtyard. Two major phases of building were identified, although it is clear that a considerable amount of rebuilding, which is more difficult to date, has been carried out. The arrangement of the buildings reflects a deliberate planned layout for the later phase of the farm, which entailed an expansive complex of farm buildings around a courtyard, with a farmhouse that was deliberately located away from the farm buildings. This general design corresponds with the 'Courtyard' type layout of buildings (Brunskill 1978, 82). All the buildings were single storey apart from the northern part of the east range which was a two storeyed structure incorporating an elevated hay loft. The buildings were all built of local red sandstone, and the earliest roofing structures were tie beam trusses using hand finished timbers.
- 5.1.2 It is likely the east range is the earliest part of the complex. This is demonstrated in part by the difference in construction of the west elevation and more badly worn stonework. Its relationship with the north-east range also suggests it is earlier than the rest of the complex. It is noticeable that the dividing walls between Rooms 1 and 2, 2 and 3 and 3 and 6, are not keyed in on the eastern side (Fig 3). In the case of the wall dividing Rooms 1 and 2 it is evident that a considerable amount of rebuilding has taken place on the east side only. This suggests that Rooms 1-5 are earlier.
- 5.1.3 At a later date the entire farm layout was altered. A farmhouse was built to the west, separate from the outbuildings, and the courtyard arrangement that survives today was constructed. The east range was probably subject to some major rebuilding at this stage, including raising the roof level of room 1 and probably 3-5, and, in order to present a unified neat façade in the same style, the eastern wall of the original farmhouse and barns must have been dismantled and rebuilt to fit with the newly constructed north-east and north-west ranges. The roof may have been raised to accommodate a horse gin, which, according to the former owner of the complex, was attached to the west side of the building. This may account for some of the holes cut into the wall and the stone footings inside.
- 5.1.4 The new courtyard complex was itself altered at a later date. It appears that some or all of Rooms 12-16 were originally part of a single large building such as a barn, which was later subdivided. It is difficult to be sure of the exact size of this given the poor condition of the south-east end of this range, although evidence for a return in Room 13 might suggest that original subdivisions were replaced or rearranged. Room 13 may have acted as a smithy or forge, which might suggest it was contemporary with the farm complex; certainly the access through a porch between Room 13 and the farmhouse seems original. Room 12 is presently a passageway between two large wagon doors and as such afforded access between the farmhouse and the courtyard. However, both side walls of the passageway butt onto the long walls, and the eastern entranceway has an external timber lintel, which contrasts with the stone lintels used elsewhere and the original arched wagon way entrance on the north-east side of Room 10 and the west side of Room 12. It

would therefore appear that the passageway and the eastern entrance were a later addition, turning a single wide access to a barn into a through passage.

- 5.1.5 A number of minor alterations and repairs were also carried out. Wider, wagon-style, doorways were inserted into Rooms 1, 7 and 15. A truss was replaced in Room 10 and supported by concrete filled steel drums. Steel I beams were added to Room 1 to support the trusses, with inclined steel struts fastening them to the east wall. All of these alterations seem somewhat *ad hoc*, carried out either as necessary repairs or due to alterations in the use of certain parts of the complex. The addition of steel I beam supports to Room 1 demonstrates that the alterations that had already been made resulting in the raising of the roof could not be supported by the original fabric of the structure.
- 5.1.6 **Date:** the building is shown on the OS first edition map (1867; 1895) in its present layout, and clearly predated this. The later complex has a designed courtyard layout with a detached farmhouse and as such is a relatively late feature (late eighteenth or nineteenth centuries). The earliest trusses were of the simple tie beam type, and as such are very undiagnostic, typically of eighteenth or nineteenth century date (Brunskill 1978, 108); however, they were made of hand finished timbers, which suggests the earlier part of the broad date range. The earlier phase of the east wing must predate the later courtyard complex; it also is eighteenth or early nineteenth century in style (*ibid*), and would suggest that the earlier building probably predates the courtyard complex by a matter of decades rather than centuries.
- 5.1.7 In general the design of the farm would appear to relate to the period of expansion of estate farming associated with the programme of parliamentary enclosure; such farms would typically be within an area of newly enclosed land, but instead this one is within the extent of a long established medieval village. This period of farming expansion took was in part linked to social changes occurring throughout the country. The increased demand for food during the Industrial Revolution, in particular dairy products, led to a move away from wheat processing at many farms and the adaption of buildings to house more animals (Brunskill 1987, 67-8). In the case of Townhead the farm was probably adapted to fit in with this economic boom and allow for the housing of more cattle. Some threshing was probably still undertaken on the site but the use of a horse engine allowed more man-power to be concentrated on dairying.

5.2 EVALUATION

- 5.2.1 The evaluation did not identify any archaeological features that were considered to pre-date the post-medieval period, with the possibly exception of two shallow linear features, 5 and 7, in Trench 3, whose date and purpose were unresolved. The other two features were small rubbish pits; one, in Trench 2, contained the remains of immature domestic animals most likely to represent the first year fatalities expected in any flock or herd, and the feature was of relatively recent date. The second, in Trench 3, contained a deposit of charred oats, and cut a post-medieval layer indicating that it was also of post-medieval date.

6. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 IMPACT

- 6.1.1 The fabric survey involved the recording of a building complex that was in origin of a single build, and which was broadly of the period late eighteenth to early nineteenth century date. The evaluation identified no remains that could be confirmed as pre-dating this complex. Despite the location of the farm complex on the outskirts of a medieval village there was no evidence of remains that date back to this earlier period of the village's history. It is considered, therefore, that the development will not impact upon a significant sub-surface archaeological resource. The most significant archaeological resource, however, was the single build outbuilding complex which has been mitigated as part of the present archaeological programme.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 No further archaeological investigations are recommended prior to the development taking place.

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APPENDIX 1 PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford
Archaeology
North

August 2002

TOWNHEAD FARM, MELMERBY, PENRITH CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FABRIC SURVEY AND EVALUATION

Proposals

The following design is offered in response to a request from Leck Construction for an archaeological fabric survey and evaluation in advance of a residential development of Townhead Farm, Melmerby, Cumbria.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Leck Construction has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for archaeological recording at Townhead Farm, Melmerby, Cumbria in advance of a proposed residential development at the site.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of the archaeological survey and evaluation of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 20 years. Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. OA North has considerable experience of the recording of historic buildings together with the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 20 years. Fieldwork has taken place within the planning process and construction programmes, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 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, in accordance with a verbal brief by Cumbria County Council Archaeological Service (CCCAS) to provide a fabric survey of the farm-buildings, and an evaluation. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 FABRIC SURVEY

- 2.2.1 To provide a basic survey record of the extant fabric of the mansion house, in accordance with Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments (England) (RCHME) Level 3 survey. This would involve the production of a ground plan, and the production of a cross-section through the building. The survey would provide for a basic analysis of the fabric and would result in a textual assessment of the development and form of the building.

2.3 EVALUATION

- 2.3.1 To implement a programme of trial trenching examining 2% of the study area.

2.5 REPORT

- 2.5.1 A written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the fabric survey and evaluation results and would make an assessment of the development of the buildings and site.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 FABRIC SURVEY

- 3.1.1 A survey will be undertaken of the farm complex in accordance with the RCHM(E) Level 2 recording. This would involve the creation of a ground floor plan of the complex coupled with a profile through the building.

- 3.1.2 **Oblique Photography:** a general photographic survey will record the character of the building. The photographic coverage will include close up views of architectural details, both structural and decorative. Oblique photography will be undertaken using both monochrome and colour (35mm) and/or digital photography in order to provide a general record of these buildings. The site will need to have been cleared of obscuring vegetation at ground level by the client in advance of the photographic survey and other elements of the survey.
- 3.1.3 **Ground Plan of Building:** a ground plan will be created for the building and its environs which will be tied into a 1:10,000 digital base for the site. The building will be surveyed by means of manual survey with respect to an architects plan. The data from the survey will be incorporated into a CAD system and output as a series of plots for further annotation. The graphic results of the survey will be digitised into the CAD system to enhance the manipulation and presentation of the results.
- 3.1.4 **Cross Section Recording:** a cross section through the building will be produced by means of a reflectorless total station which is capable of measuring distances to architectural detail by reflection from the surface of that detail element; consequently it does not require the placement of a prism on the detail. It is therefore an ideal tool for the recording of detail where there is no safe physical access. The survey will be undertaken with respect to a series of accurately surveyed control stations established by traverse around the building. The data from the instrument will be incorporated into a CAD system and output as a series of plots to enable the enhancement of the drawing by manual survey. The graphic results of the survey will be digitised into the CAD system to enhance the manipulation and presentation of the results.
- 3.1.5 **Analysis:** a programme of analysis will be undertaken examining the construction and form of the building. This will involve the internal and external examination of the extant fabric, where health and safety allows, and will generate a description and assessment of the function, operation and phasing of the building.

3.3 EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 3.3.1 A programme of evaluation trenching will establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits and, if established, will then test their date, nature, depth and quality of preservation.
- 3.3.2 **Methods:** the evaluation is required to evaluate 2% of the development area, and will entail the excavation of two 10m x 2m trenches. Provisionally the trenches will be put in the areas of the proposed new build and at least one in the area of the farm complex following its demolition.
- 3.3.3 The trenches will be excavated by a combination of mechanised and manual techniques; the topsoil will be removed by mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket, and archaeological deposits beneath will be first manually cleaned and then any features identified will be manually excavated. The machine excavation will not intrude into any potential archaeological stratigraphy and all machine excavation will be undertaken under careful archaeological supervision. Following mechanical excavation the floor of the trench will be cleaned by hoe and Manual excavation techniques will be used to evaluate any sensitive deposits, and will enable an assessment of the nature, date, survival and depth of deposits and features. The trenches will not be excavated deeper than 1.25m to accommodate health and safety constraints; any requirements to excavate below this depth will involve recosting.
- 3.3.4 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, altitude information will be established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. Archaeological features within the trenches will be planned by manual techniques.
- 3.3.5 **Environmental Sampling:** environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 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). Subject to the results of the excavation an assessment of any environmental samples will be undertaken by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The assessment would examine the potential for macrofossil, arthropod, palynological and general biological analysis. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if

good waterlogged deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of CCCAS and the client.

- 3.3.6 Samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeozoological specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.
- 3.3.7 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.3.8 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage. The 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). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. 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.

3.4 REPORT

- 3.4.1 **Archive:** the results of the fieldwork will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, and finds recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context. This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be included in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record. A copy of the archive can also be made available for deposition with the National Archaeological Record. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum.
- 3.4.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further copy submitted to the Cumbria County Council SMR. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and present an assessment of the sites history, the architectural significance of the structures on the site and an assessment of the sites below ground survival; the report will include photographs of any significant features. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail.
- 3.4.3 Illustrative material will include a location map, site map, historic maps, building plans, cross sections, site plans and also pertinent photographs. It can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion. The report will be in the same basic format as this project design.

3.5 OTHER MATTERS

- 3.5.1 **Health and Safety:** OA North conforms to all health and safety guidelines as contained in the Lancaster University Manual of Health and Safety and the safety manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. The work will be in accordance with Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the Council for British Archaeology Handbook No. 6, *Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork* (1989).

- 3.5.2 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the watching brief and fabric survey, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. A risk assessment will be completed in advance of the project's commencement.
- 3.5.3 The programme is designed so that there is no need for project staff to work against or in the immediate vicinity of unstable high walls, as all recording techniques will be remote from the face.
- 3.5.4 **Insurance:** the insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the unit and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of OA North, in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of OA North or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £2m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.
- 3.5.5 **Confidentiality:** the report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.
- 3.5.6 **Project Monitoring:** OA North will consult with the client regarding access to the site. Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the County Archaeologist will be kept fully informed of the work and its results. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with CCCAS in consultation with the Client.
4. WORK PROGRAMME
- 4.1 The following programme is proposed:
- Fabric Survey**
A three day period would be required for this element
- Evaluation**
A two day period will be required for this element
- Report**
A fifteen day period would be to complete this element
- 4.2 LUAU can execute projects at short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client.
- 4.3 The project will be managed by **Jamie Quartermaine BA Surv Dip MIFA** (Unit Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. LUAU adheres by the IFA's Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

APPENDIX 2

CONTEXT LIST

<i>Context Number</i>	Trench no	Description
01	2	Small pit
02	2	Fill of pit 1
03	2	Layer
04	3	Fill of linear 5
05	3	Linear cut
06	3	Fill of linear 7
07	3	Linear cut
08	3	Pit
09	3	Upper-mid fill of pit 8
10	3	Lower charred material of Pit 8
11	3	Upper fill of pit 8
12	1, 2, 3	Plough soil
13	1, 2, 3	Red sand natural subsoils
14	1	Ceramic field drain
15	1, 2, 3	Hardcore surface

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: OS 1st edition 25" map (1895) of Melmerby village

Figure 3: Townhead Farm Outbuildings Ground Floor Plan

Figure 4: Cross-section through the North-east Range

Figure 5: Trench Location Plan

Figure 6: Plans of Trenches 2 and 3

Figure 7: Section 1 (Trench 2) and Sections 2 - 5 (Trench 3)

PLATES

Plate 1: Western external face of the East range

Plate 2: Threshing Barn (Room 1) looking north

Plate 3: Internal view of Room 3 looking west

Plate 4: South-west external face of the North-east range

Plate 5: Eastern external face of the North-west range

Plate 6: Internal view of Room 10 showing the makeshift use of concrete filled drums
to support the roof



Plate 1: Western external face of the East range



Plate 2: Threshing Barn (Room 1) looking north



Plate 3: Internal view of Room 3 looking west



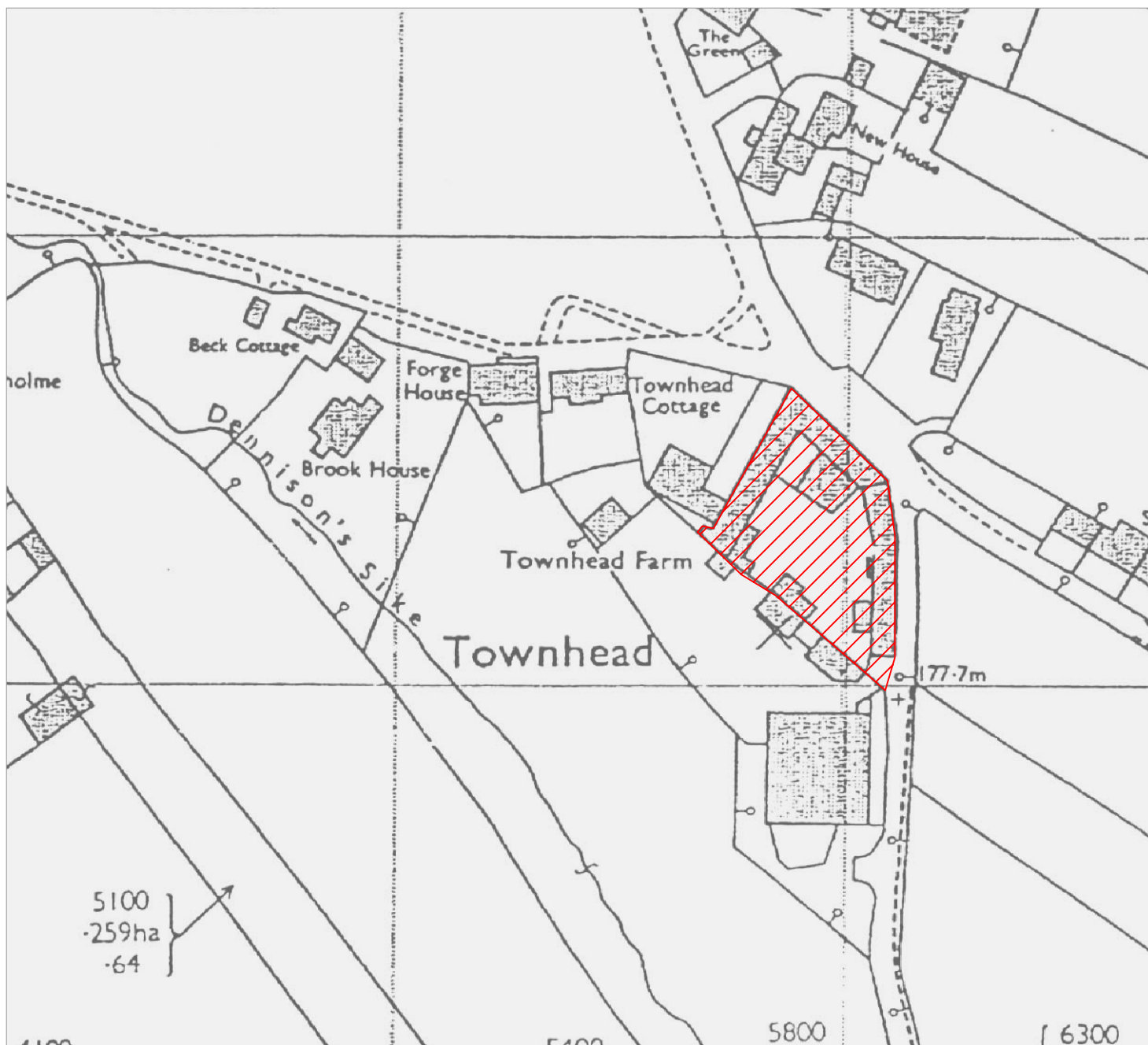
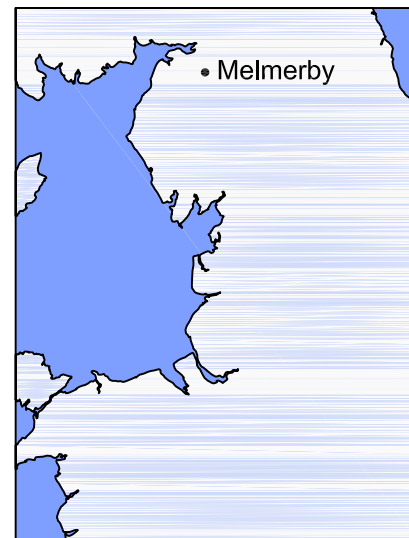
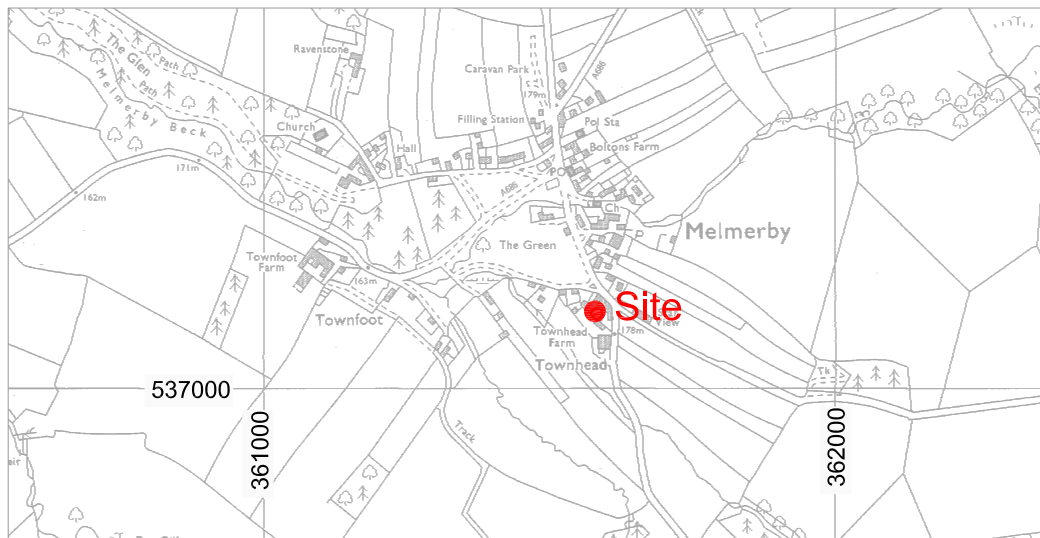
Plate 4: South-west external face of the North-east range



Plate 5: Eastern external face of the North-west range



Plate 6: Internal view of Room 10 showing the makeshift use of concrete filled drums to support the roof



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0 500
metres

Figure 1: Location Map

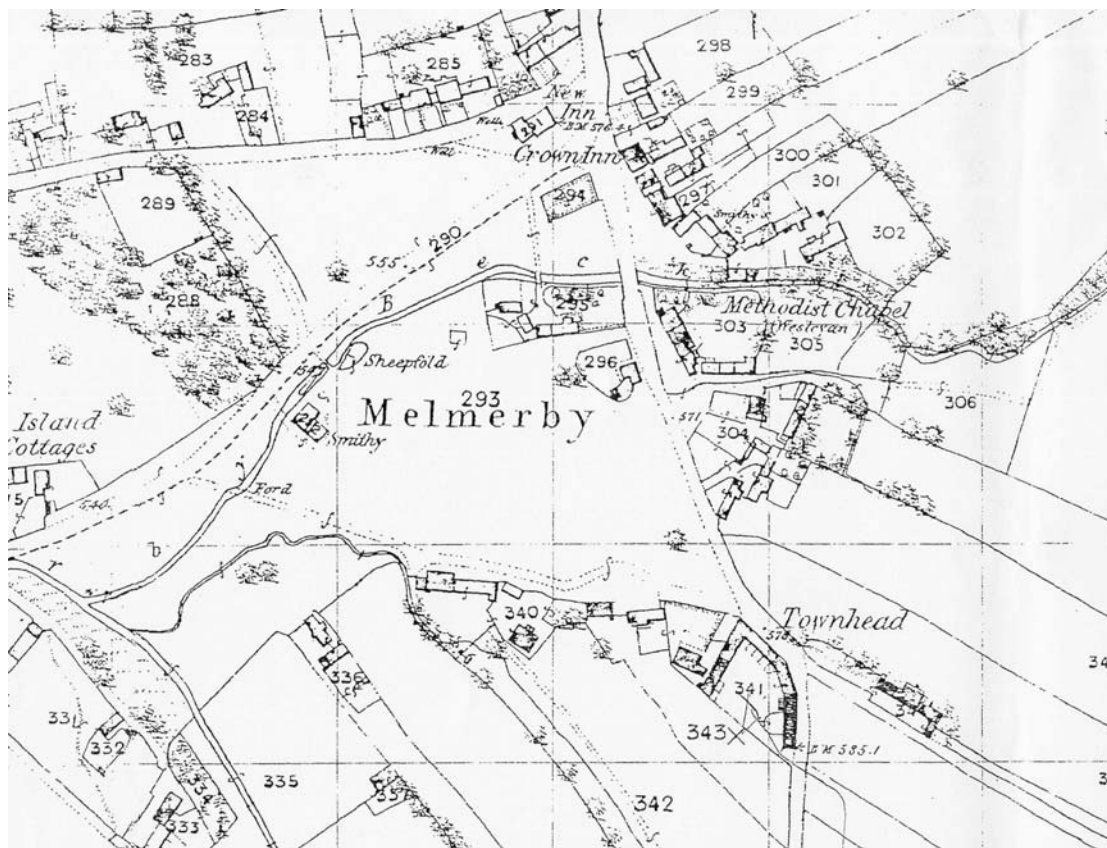
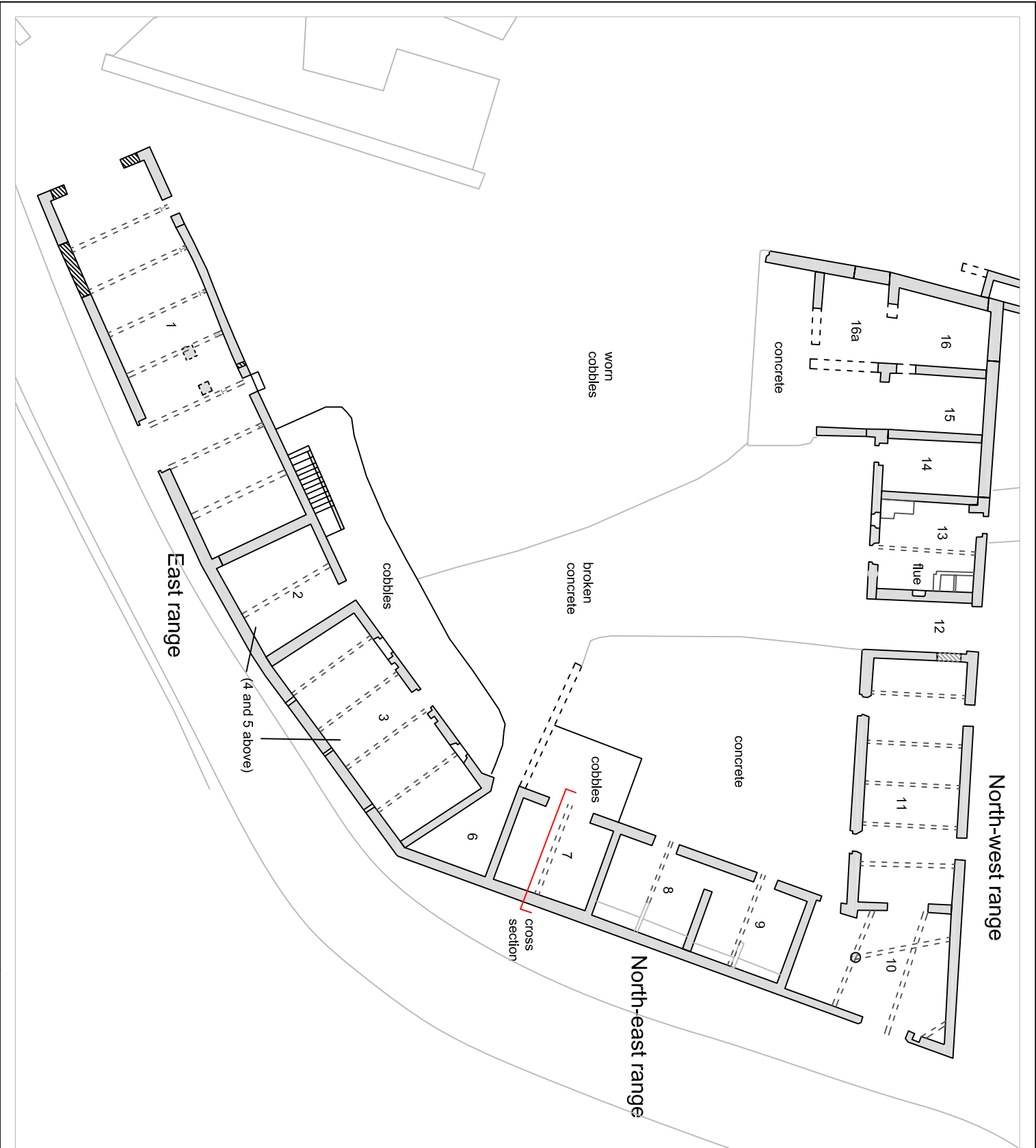


Figure 2: OS 1st edition 25" map (1895) of Melmerby village



Oxford Archaeology North
Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF
Tel 01524 848666
Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT:

Townhead Farm, Melmerby

DRAWING NO:

03



Scale 1:200 at A3

DRAWN BY: ELC

DATE: October 2002

LOCATION:



KEY

- wall
- timber
- roof trusses
- modern brick/blockwork
- iron girder
- concrete
- line of foundation

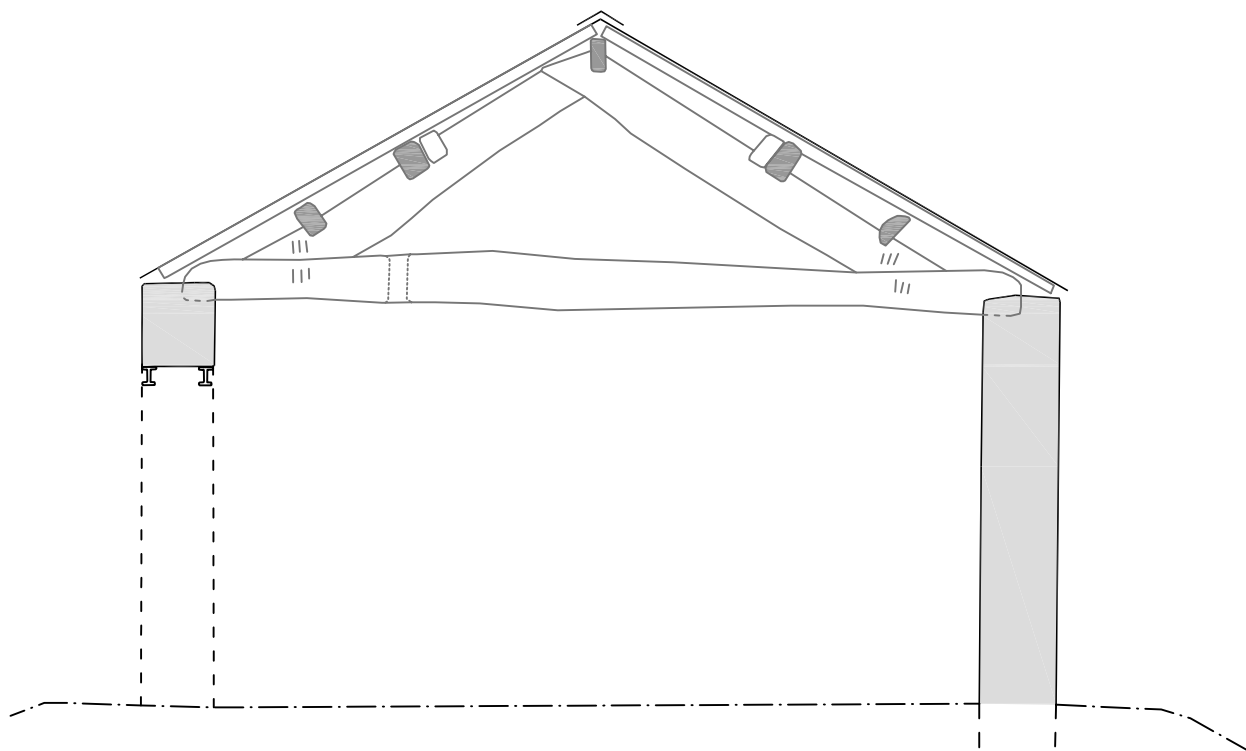
TITLE:

Ground Floor Plan


COMMISSIONED BY:

J Parkinson and Sons

Figure 3: Townhead Farm Outbuildings Ground Floor Plan



Oxford Archaeology North
 Storey Institute
 Meeting House Lane
 Lancaster
 LA1 1TF
 Tel 01524 848666
 Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT: Townhead Farm, Melmerby
 DRAWING No: 03
 SCALE: 1:50 at A4 
 TITLE: Cross Section
 CLIENT: J Parkinson and Sons
 DRAWN BY: ELC
 DATE: October 2002

LOCATION:



KEY






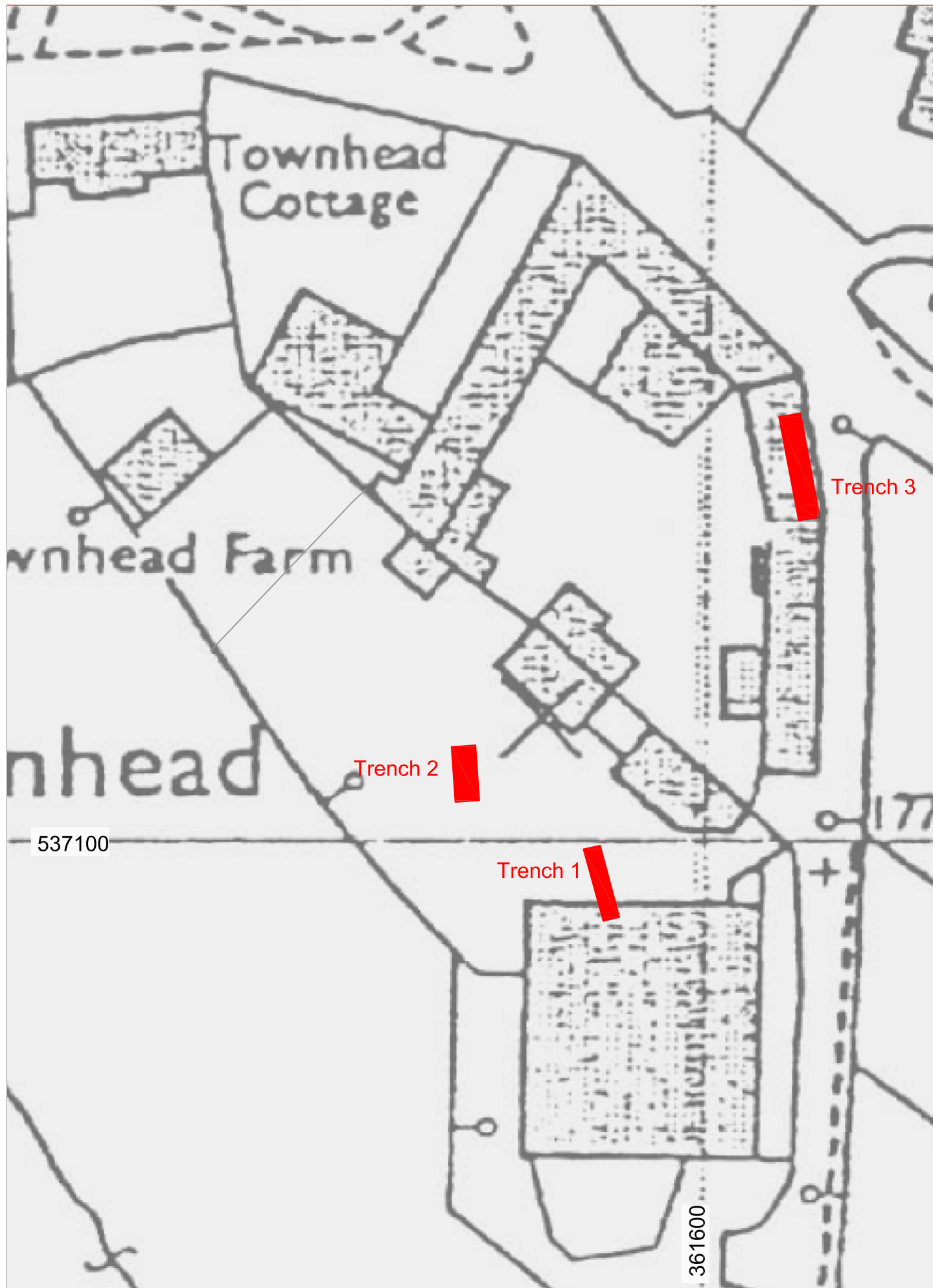
-  walls
-  timber
-  sectional timber
-  iron
-  ground line

Figure 4: Cross section through the North-east range



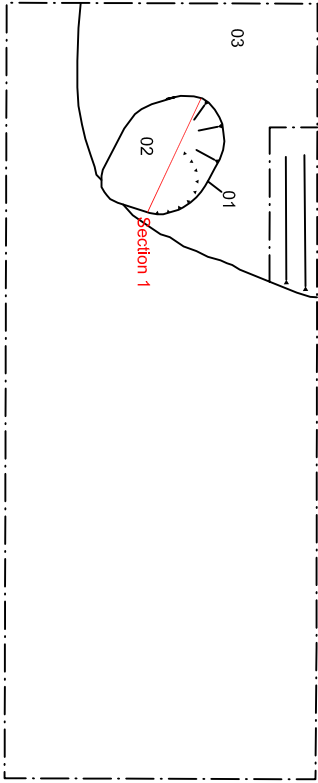
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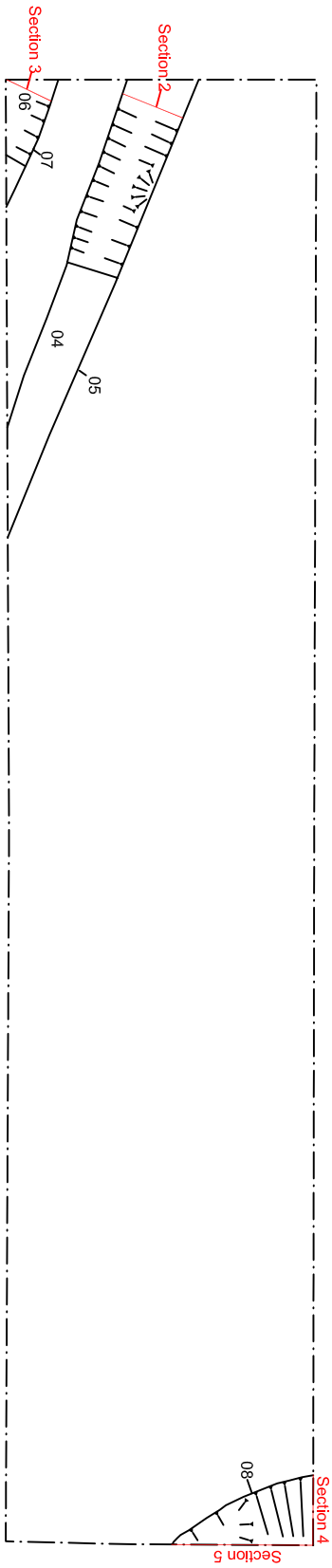


Figure 5: Trench Location Plan

Trench 2



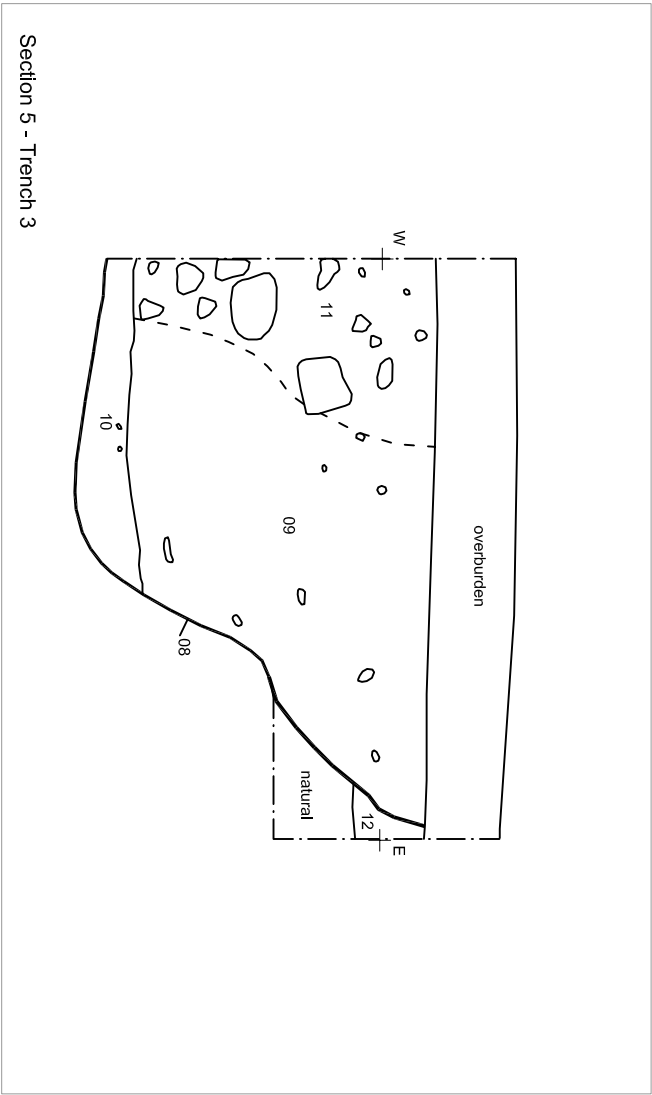
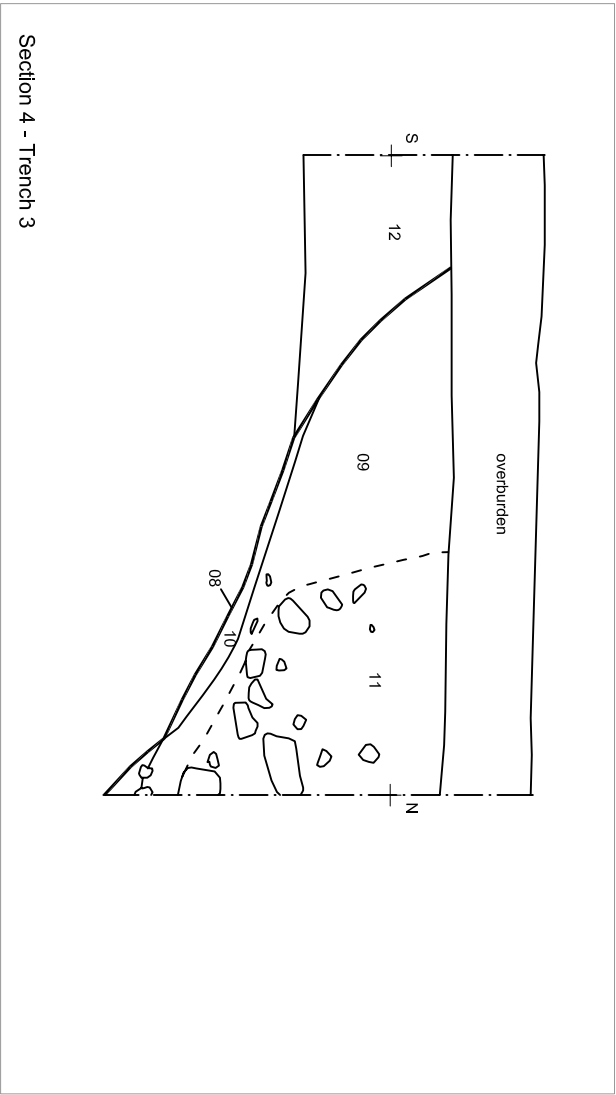
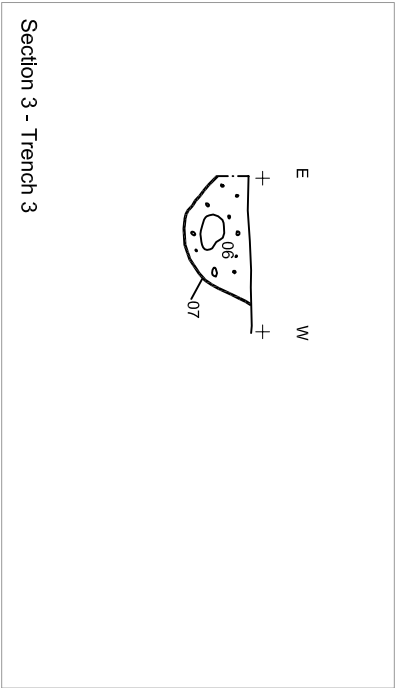
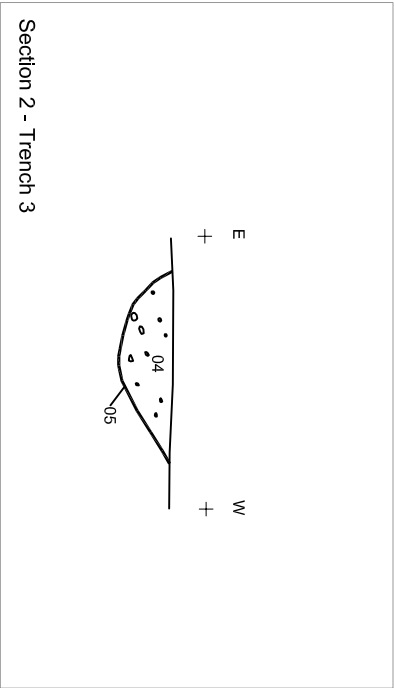
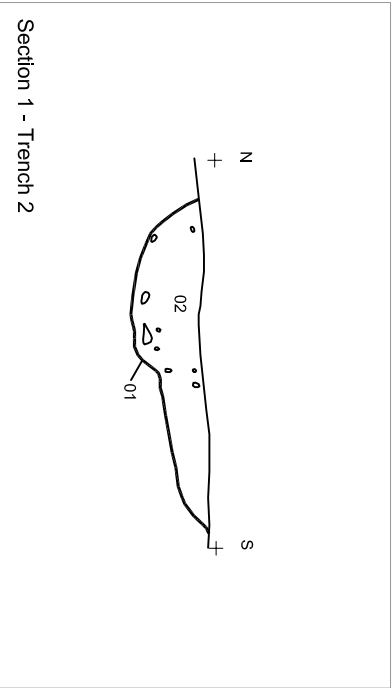
Trench 3



Scale 1:20 at A4



Figure 6: Plans of Trenches 2 and 3



Scale 1:20 at A4



Figure 7: Section 1 (Trench 2) and Sections 2-5 (Trench 3)