BRIDGE FARM, LYTHAM ST ANNES, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Oxford Archaeology North

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Messrs Laycock

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY

The construction of a new farmstead at Bridge Farm, Ballam Road, Lytham-St-Anne's, Lancashire (NGR SD 3619 3084) by Messrs Laycock required them to approach Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service (LCCAS) regarding the planning application. The proposed development area lies adjacent to an area of known late Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint scatters, with one flint previously located within the development area.

In February 2004 Oxford Archaeology North, in accordance with a brief from LCCAS, carried out an archaeological fieldwalking survey of the site, to assess the potential of the development area for archaeological remains and provide supporting documentation for the proposed development. The results of this fieldwalking survey were presented in a separate report (OA North 2004). Following on from the results of the fieldwalking, in May 2005 an archaeological evaluation was carried out on the proposed development site comprising six trenches totalling 180m in length. The evaluation trenches were characterised for the most part by features relating to drainage - nineteen modern field drains were observed across the six trenches, together with a further five linear features, which were interpreted as drainage gullies of indeterminate date. Aside from the drainage, five discrete features in the form of pits or small pits and four linear features, interpreted as field boundaries, were also noted during the trenching programme. One possible posthole feature and a small spread of charcoal were also recorded. Two tree-boles and two areas of animal burrowing, which initially gave the appearance of archaeological features, were found to be otherwise.

Trench 1 contained one pit, ***101***, and four modern drains. Trench 2 included one pit, ***205***, a small pit, ***203***, and was crossed by three modern field drains. Trench 3 produced one pit, ***305***, four drainage gullies, ***301***, ***303***, ***307*** and ***311***, and two field boundary ditches, ***315*** and ***318***. This trench was also crossed by four field drains and two features which were subsequently interpreted as tree-boles. Trench 4 contained one pit, ***403***, a drainage gully, ***400***, and a field boundary ditch, ***405***. Trench 4 was traversed by five modern field drains. Trench 5 included one possible posthole feature, ***500***, and five modern drains. Trench 6 contained one ditch, ***600***, and two modern drains, and two features which were seen to be the product of animal burrowing.

Whilst no datable evidence was recovered from any of the features, two of the eight contexts sampled for artefactual or charred remains were considered suitable for further analysis with a view to scientific dating.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Messrs Laycock for their continued co-operation during the evaluation, and for commissioning the work.

Kathryn Blythe, Christina Clarke, Pascal Eloy and Dave McNicol undertook the evaluation. Kathryn Blythe and Chris Healey prepared the report and the illustrations. The finds were examined by Ian Miller, and the environmental samples by Elizabeth Huckerby. The project was managed by Alison Plummer, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 Lancashire County Council Archaeological Service (LCAS) was consulted with regard to a planning application for the construction of a new farmstead at Bridge Farm, Ballam Road, Lytham-St-Anne's, Lancashire (SD 3619 3084). LCAS advised that a programme of archaeological work would likely form a condition of any planning consent given for the site. This would involve two phases of work, archaeological fieldwalking and evaluation trenching, with the possibility of further work being recommended following on from this work.

1.1.2 Messrs Laycock approached Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake the work, the first phase of which was the archaeological fieldwalking, carried out in February 2004 (OA North 2004). The second phase was the archaeological evaluation which was undertaken in May 2005, the results of which are presented in this report.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 In response to a request from Messrs Laycock, OA North submitted a Project Design (*Appendix 1*) for archaeological fieldwalking and evaluation trenches prior to the construction of a new farm. The Project Design was prepared in accordance with specifications from and discussions with LCAS. 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 EVALUATION

2.2.1 In total, six north/south aligned trenches were mechanically excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist to the level of the natural subsoil or to the level of identified archaeological deposits. The trenches were hand cleaned, and potential archaeological deposits were manually excavated in order to test their date, character and extent.

2.2.2 The trenches were recorded using a system devised from that used by the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. The archive includes both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at appropriate scales. Recording was principally in the form of a *pro-forma* Trench Record sheet for each trench, which noted the orientation, dimensions and description of the topsoil and subsoil present in the trench. Features thought to be of possible archaeological potential were recorded using *pro-forma* Context Record sheets.

2.3 FINDS

2.3.1 Artefacts recovered from the surface, from layered deposits and from within secure contexts within features were collected and taken to OA North for assessment.

2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

2.4.1 Samples recovered for paleoenvironmental analysis were collected from suitable deposits using hand shovels and 10-litre buckets. In sampled features either the entire fill was recovered or a 30-litre sample, whichever was the lesser.

2.5 ARCHIVE

2.5.1 A full archive has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the Project Design (*Appendix 1*) and current IFA and English Heritage

guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Lancashire County Record Office on completion of the project, with a copy of the report deposited with the Lancashire Sites and Monument Records in Preston.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1.1 The site (Fig 1) lies between Lower Ballam and Higher Ballam, at SD 3619 3084, 2.5km north-east of Lytham-St-Anne's (Fig 2). The field lies predominantly in an area of peat. This was formerly an area of salt marsh which, following a marine regression, developed into an area of alder carr by the Neolithic period, becoming raised mires in the Bronze Age (Middleton *et al* 1995, 168 and 181). These mosses were drained in the 19th century (Countryside Commission 1998, 89) and the area is now surrounded by agricultural land, currently predominantly used for the cultivation of autumn-grown cereals, with smaller areas of potatoes and rape.

3.1.2 The underlying geology of the area comprises of Permo-Triassic (280-195 million years ago) Mercia Mudstone Group (Aitkenhead *et al* 1992). Saltbeds are an important component of the Singleton to Kirkham mudstones in the Blackpool district to the west, particularly in the Preesall saltfields (*ibid*, 59). Overlying the solid geology of the Fylde are deposits of Devensian (70,000 to 10,000 BP) boulder clay, with areas of outwash sediments forming multilayered complexes up to 50m thick (*ibid*, 61-63).

3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.2.1 The following is reproduced from the 'New Farm, Lytham St. Annes, Field Walking Survey Report' (OA North 2004).

3.2.2 ***Prehistory:*** the first evidence for human activity in the area comes from Palaeolithic (35,000 to 10,000 BP), comprising barbed points found associated with the skeleton of an elk (*Alces alces*), which is thought to have lived during the Windermere interstadial between 12,400 ± 300 BP (OxA-150) (Jacobi *et al* 1986). This was a period when the area was covered with lightly-wooded park tundra (Middleton *et al* 1995, 87). However, evidence of hunter-gatherer activity in the area is scant, although five Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flint sites have been found in the region (*ibid*).

3.2.3 Flint scatters continue to form the most numerous site type during the early Neolithic in Lancashire (Middleton 1996, 36), the most relevant Neolithic flint scatters in this instance having being published as part of the North West Wetlands Survey (Middleton *et al* 1995, 89-99). Only one early Neolithic flint scatter has been located within the vicinity of the study area near Moss Side (NGR SD 3762 2961). Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity is attested in the immediate vicinity by the location of flint scatters in the field to the west of the study area (Fig 2), with particular concentrations adjacent to the study area (LA40, LA42 to LA4 - Middleton *et al* 1995, 97). Similar small quantities of flint have also been found in the fields to the south of the road (LA47 and LA48 - *ibid*, 97), and one undated flint to the east (LA50 - *ibid*, 97). However, only a single undated flake has previously been recovered from the study area

itself (LA 49). The mosses and coast appear to be the focus for settlement activity during the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, and the flint scatters located around the study area may represent repeated visits to a favoured location within the landscape (*ibid*). There are indications from pollen diagrams at Peel, to the north, that the occupation of these sites may have been associated with clearance of woodland and the cultivation of cereals (*ibid*).

3.2.4 No sites are recorded in the area between *c* 1000 BC and the Romano-British period, and it has been speculated that this period is marked by the expansion of raised mires to cover the area currently known as Lytham Moss, spreading to areas currently buried under modern sand dunes (*ibid*).

3.2.5 ***Romano-British:*** no sites indicating local inhabitation of the area are known from this period in the area, although archaeological visibility of rural sites of this date is very poor within the region as a whole (*ibid*).

3.2.6 A possible Roman road was described by Thornber (1837) running from Kirkham to the mouth of the river Wyre at Fleetwood, where he suggested the Roman town of *Portus Setantiorum* was sited. Alternatively, Whittaker (1773) suggests this town if located at Freckleton Naze on the River Ribble, and Shotter (1997, 114) suggests that it may be located near the southern end of Lake Windermere in Cumbria. During the North West Wetlands Survey (Middleton *et al* 1995) no trace of this road was located, although at the time of its original description in 1837 the *agger* was said to be being removed for road stone.

3.2.7 The Roman fort at Dowbridge, Kirkham, contains three phases of development (Howard-Davis and Buxton 2000), comprising a series of three temporary camps with some permanent or semi-permanent structures in the late AD 70s or early 80s, followed by a small signal station/fortlet. The construction of a stone fort at the site, with outworks and a defensive annex, is thought to mark an increase in road and river commerce at Kirkham with other Roman sites in the Ribble Valley and with other seaports.

3.2.8 ***Medieval:*** Ballam, comprising Lower and Higher Ballam, is considered part of Westerby, in the township of Westerby-with-Plumpton within the Hundred of Amounderness (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 174-175). The nearest largest settlement is that of Lytham to the south-west. In 1066 the township of Lytham was assessed at two plough-lands, part of Earl Tostig's Amounderness Lordship, subsequently held by the crown in thegnage by the Lord of Woodplumpton (*op cit* 214-215). In 1190 Lytham passed to the monastery at Durham who established a cell or priory there (*ibid*). Documentary evidence from the late twelfth century, the foundation documents of this monastic cell, indicates the presence of cultivated lands, pastures, mills and fisheries in the area, but also large areas of unreclaimed marsh land (Middleton *et al* 1995, 100).

3.2.9 ***Post-Medieval:*** it is in this period that we see extensive drainage of the mosses. It is clear that some reclamation was already being undertaken in the 17th century, and by the time Yate's map was surveyed in 1786 the southern section of Lytham Moss was no longer marked as a moss (Middleton *et al*

1995, 102-106). The Clifton family of Lytham Hall acquired land in the area between 1812 and 1885, the parts of Lytham Moss not already included in their estate being purchased by 1822. They actively drained and enclosed areas, not so much to improve the value of the land as to acquire social prestige and political importance (*ibid*).

3.2.10 Lytham, St Anne's-on-Sea and Blackpool became known for their summer visitors, with promenades and piers, the company at the former town described as "[if] *less fashionable than at Blackpool it is generally more numerous and usually very respectable*" (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 214-215).

3.3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

3.3.1 OA North undertook fieldwalking in the area of the proposed development, adjacent to the known areas of flint scatters, in February 2004 (OA North 2004) which produced a small number of flints, difficult to date, but possibly Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic. It was also noted that these flints occurred in an area 3m to 4m higher than the remainder of the field, where a greater degree of boulder clay is included within the soil matrix, as opposed to the peaty soils visible across the rest of the field. It seems clear that the area of the flint scatters is defined by an area of potentially drier ground during the late Neolithic and early Bronze Age, which would have been surrounded by alder carr wetlands.

4. RESULTS

4.1 EVALUATION

4.1.1 Six trenches were all aligned approximately north/south and all were bucket width 1.85m wide (Fig 3). They varied in length from 17.1m to 45.00m, totalling 181.6m, and they were between 0.42m and 0.7m in depth.

4.1.2 The topsoil in the trenches was generally a mid-dark brown slightly-sandy-clay with occasional inclusions of small sub-angular stones. The topsoil varied in depth from 0.3m to 0.52m.

4.1.3 The natural subsoil was quite variable, changing from a bright pink to a whiteish-grey clay. Patches of sand were evident within the clay, and Trench 6 was noticeably different from the others, as its natural subsoil was a greyish-white slightly clayey-sand.

4.1.4 Field drains were evident in all of the trenches, the majority of which were in an approximate east/west alignment, although field drains aligned north-west/south-east were observed in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 and a field drain aligned north-east/south-west was observed in Trench 1. A modern plough mark, aligned north-west/south-east was observed in Trench 6, truncating an east/west aligned field drain.

4.1.5 ***Trench 1:*** this trench measured approximately 20m long and a pit, ***101***, was identified and excavated 3.5m from the northern end of this trench (Fig 4). This feature was truncated at its east end by a land drain, and extended beyond the western limit of excavation (Fig 4 and Fig 9). Its dimensions were 1.2m x 1.05m x 0.82m in depth. It was filled with a clean grey clay, ***102***.

4.1.6 ***Trench 2:*** measured approximately 20m long, and two pit features were identified and excavated at the southern end of this trench against the western section. Pit ***203*** was a small feature truncated on its north side by an east-west aligned field drain (Fig 4 and Fig 9). Its dimensions as seen were 0.7m x 0.25m x 0.28m in depth. The fill of this feature, ***204***, comprised both black and bright orange sandy-clay that appeared to be burnt, and this was sampled for potential charred plant remains. Feature ***205***, , extended beyond the western baulk of the trench. Its dimensions were 1.05m x 1m x 0.57m in depth. The base of this feature appeared to have been disturbed by root or animal action.

4.1.7 ***Trench 3:*** measured approximately 42m long, and six features were identified and excavated in this trench. Four of these were narrow linear gully-type features aligned approximately east/west which appear to have acted as field drains (Fig 5 and Fig 9). Linear ***301*** (fill ***302***) was recorded crossing the far northern end of the trench on an approximate east/west alignment 0.4m in width and 0.3m in depth. Linear ***307*** (fill ***308***) was 0.3m in width and 0.1m in depth, and traversed the trench on an approximate east/west alignment 15m from the northern end (Fig 5). Linear ***311*** (fill ***312***) was 0.35m in width and 0.1m in depth, situated on a parallel alignment to ***307*** some 6m to the south

(Fig 5). What appeared to be the terminus of a linear feature, ***303*** (fill ***304***), extending 0.55m from the western baulk of the trench, and measuring 0.35m in width and 0.12m in depth was also excavated some 3m to the north of ***307*** (Fig 5).

4.1.8 Two larger linear features were also recorded in this trench, both extending beyond the east and west baulks of the trench. Feature ***315*** (fill ***316***) was aligned east-north-east/west-south-west at the northern end of the trench (Fig 5) and this measured 2.35m in length, 2.1m in width and 0.5m in depth (Fig 9). It was truncated by an east/west aligned field drain. The profile of ***315*** was fairly irregular, and it may represent the line of a former hedgerow, possibly denoting a field boundary. Feature ***318*** (fill ***317***) was located 19m to the south of ***315***, and also looked to be the line of a former hedgerow. This feature was aligned east/west (Fig 5) and measured 1.85m in length, 4.38m in width and 0.76m in depth (Fig 10). A north-west/south-east aligned field drain truncated this feature at a depth of 0.4m from the top of the feature.

4.1.9 Three pit-like features, ***305***, ***309*** and ***313***, were excavated and recorded within this trench. On further investigation these features appeared to represent tree-boles.

4.1.10 ***Trench 4:*** measured 45m long, and four, probably archaeological, features were recorded in this trench. Feature ***400*** was a linear gully aligned approximately east/west, extending beyond the baulks of the trench and measuring 0.9m in width, and 0.21m in depth. It was fairly irregular in plan (Fig 6) on its south side but when excavated had a fairly regular concave profile (Fig 10). It was filled with a peaty-clay, ***401***, which was sampled for potential recovery of charred plant remains. To the north of ***400*** was a charcoal-rich deposit, ***402***, 1.1m x 0.9m x 0.06m in thickness, which seems to have represented the remains of a heavily truncated shallow pit (Fig 10). This context was sampled for potential recovery of charred plant remains.

4.1.11 A fairly regular pit feature, ***403***, extending beyond the western baulk of the trench, was excavated approximately in the central area of the trench (Fig 6). This feature measured 0.96m in width and 0.12m in depth (Fig 10). It was filled with a clean grey clay, ***404***, sampled for potential recovery of charred plant remains.

4.1.12 Towards the south end of the trench a linear feature, ***405*** (fill ***406***), was observed, aligned approximately east/west (Fig 6), and measuring 2.2m in width and 0.42m in depth to the limit of excavation. Whilst the central part of the feature was excavated down on to a fairly flat base, both the north and the south sides of the feature extended beneath the base in narrow shafts on the same alignment as the feature. These were interpreted as cuts for land drains and, therefore, were not excavated. Their shared alignment with the larger feature, and the apparent lack of stratigraphic relationship between them indicates that the larger ditch feature may have been dug purely for the insertion of two land drains. This feature was on the same alignment as ***318*** approximately 80m to the west (*Section 4.1.9*).

4.1.13 ***Trench 5:*** measured 22m long, and a single archaeological feature was recorded in this trench, a possible posthole, ***500***. This was situated approximately in the centre of the trench (Fig 7), and measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.18m in depth (Fig 8) . It was filled with ***501***, a dark grey clay flecked with charcoal, which was sampled for potential recovery of charred plant remains.

4.1.14 ***Trench 6:*** measured 35m long, and one feature was recorded towards the north end of this trench. Ditch feature ***600*** was aligned east/west (Fig 8) and measured 1.65m in width and 0.4m in depth (Fig 11). It retained a regular linear appearance with fairly steep sides and a flattish base. It had a peat-rich fill ***601***, which had pink (natural) clay inclusions towards its base.

4.1.15 Two pit-like features were recorded at the northern end of the trench, ***604*** and ***605***. It appeared as though these features were the result of animal burrowing rather than any human activity.

4.2 FINDS

4.2.1 One piece of flint recovered from the surface of the field in which the trenches were placed. This primary flake was certainly struck, although only on one side, with cortex evident on all other sides. It was of very poor quality, if indeed it was a man-made flake as opposed to a tractor strike (F Brown pers comm). The two heavily oxidised iron objects retrieved from context, ***316***, in one of the east/west ditches, ***315***, in Trench 3 were found to be part of a large nail and an unidentified sub-spherical object, both probably nineteenth century in date.

4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

4.3.1 Eight environmental samples were taken from eight of the excavated contexts. On examination by environmental specialist E. Huckerby only four of these (the samples taken from contexts ***102***, ***203***, ***404*** and ***406***) were found to be worth further assessment for scientific dating. The environmental dataset relating to charred or waterlogged plant remains appeared to be very limited, and there was no potential for further analysis. The samples suitable for scientific dating will be retained until such time that it is decided that examination is to be carried out.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 CONCLUSION

5.1.1 Six trenches were excavated in order to determine the presence of hitherto unknown sub-surface archaeological features relating to the flint scatters in the area. All of these trenches revealed archaeological features, although none of significant interest. The complete absence of artefactual dating evidence recovered from any features hinders their usefulness. The surface finds proved to be natural unworked material with the exception of the iron nail and the other unidentified iron object, both probably nineteenth century, from the fill of ditch ***315***. The environmental sample data collected offered limited potential for scientific dating but no further potential for paleo-environmental analysis. The archaeological features recorded seemed to be characterised by a long-standing need to drain the area to make it more suitable for agriculture, and the use of substantial field boundaries on roughly east/west alignments for the same purpose. Both of these most probably relate to activity of the post-medieval period, one of the ditches, ***315***, certainly being relatively very modern. The four pit features and the single posthole are probably of a similar date, and similarly agricultural in nature.

5.2 IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 The character of the thirteen archaeological features discovered over the six trenches suggests that the development site is devoid of significant archaeological features and that the proposed development will not have a significant impact on the archaeological record. It is thus recommended that the four samples suitable for scientific dating do not require examination to ascertain the antiquity of their respective features.

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ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

PLATES

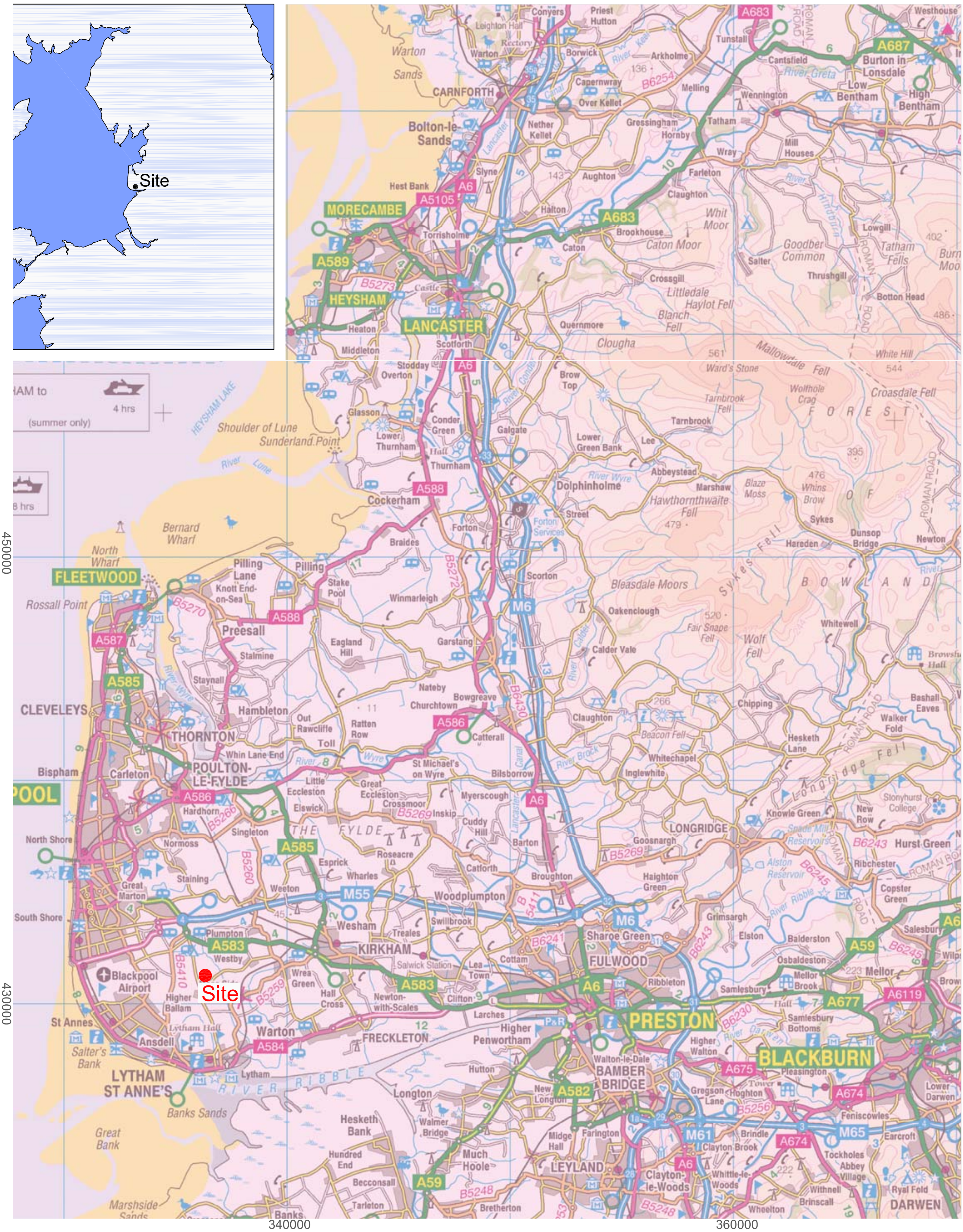

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Figure 1: Location Map

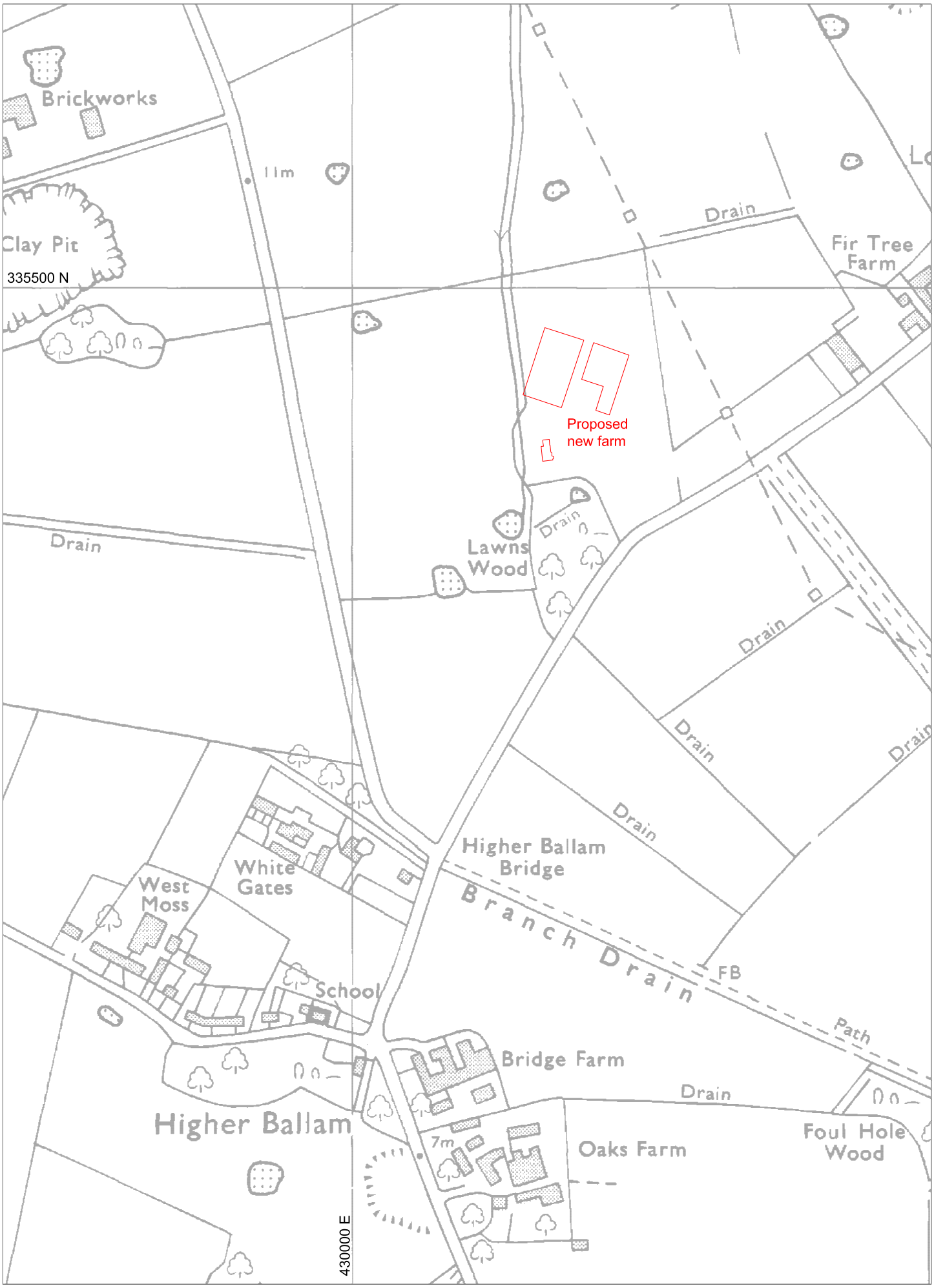


Figure 2: Site Location Plan

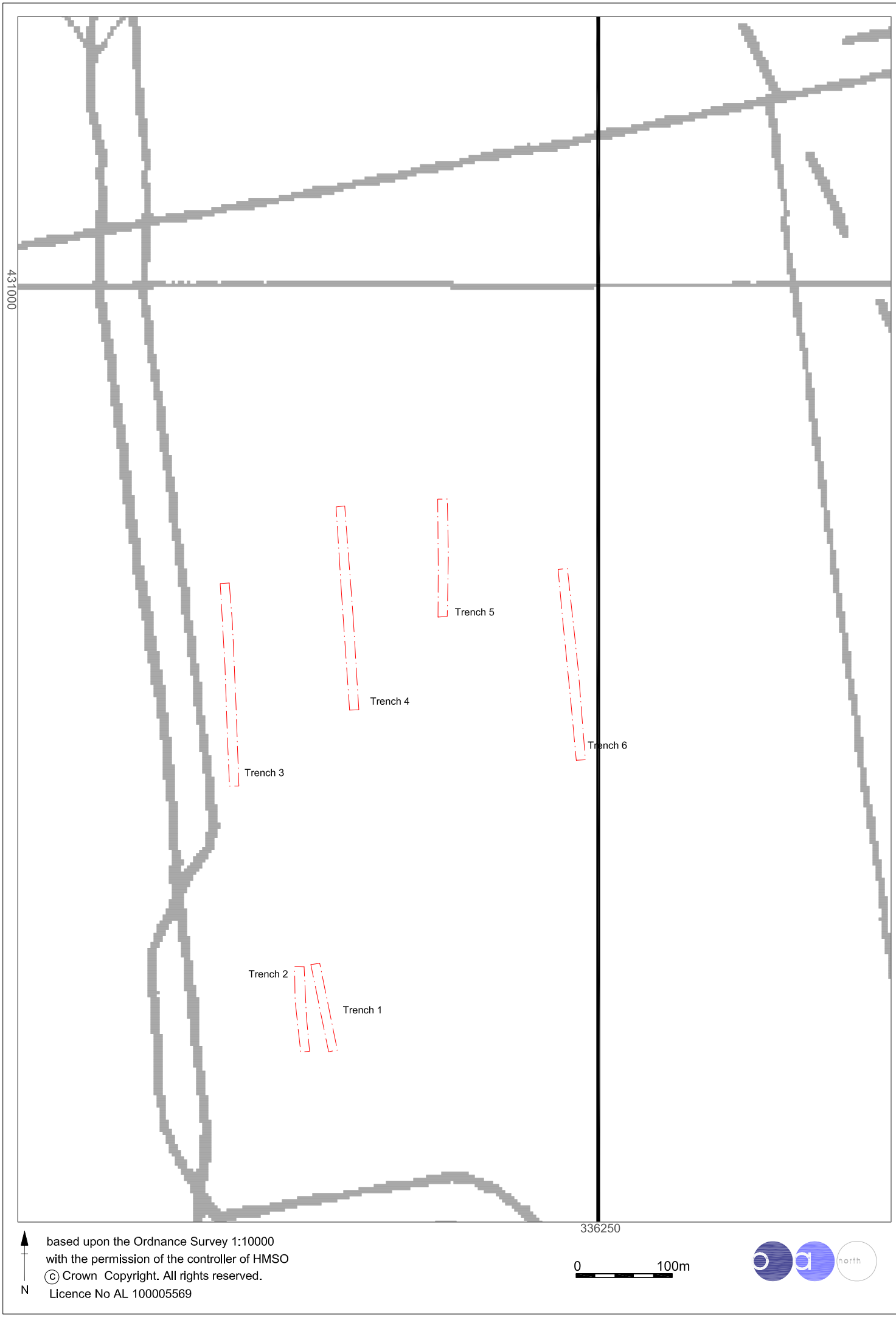


Figure 3: Trench Locations

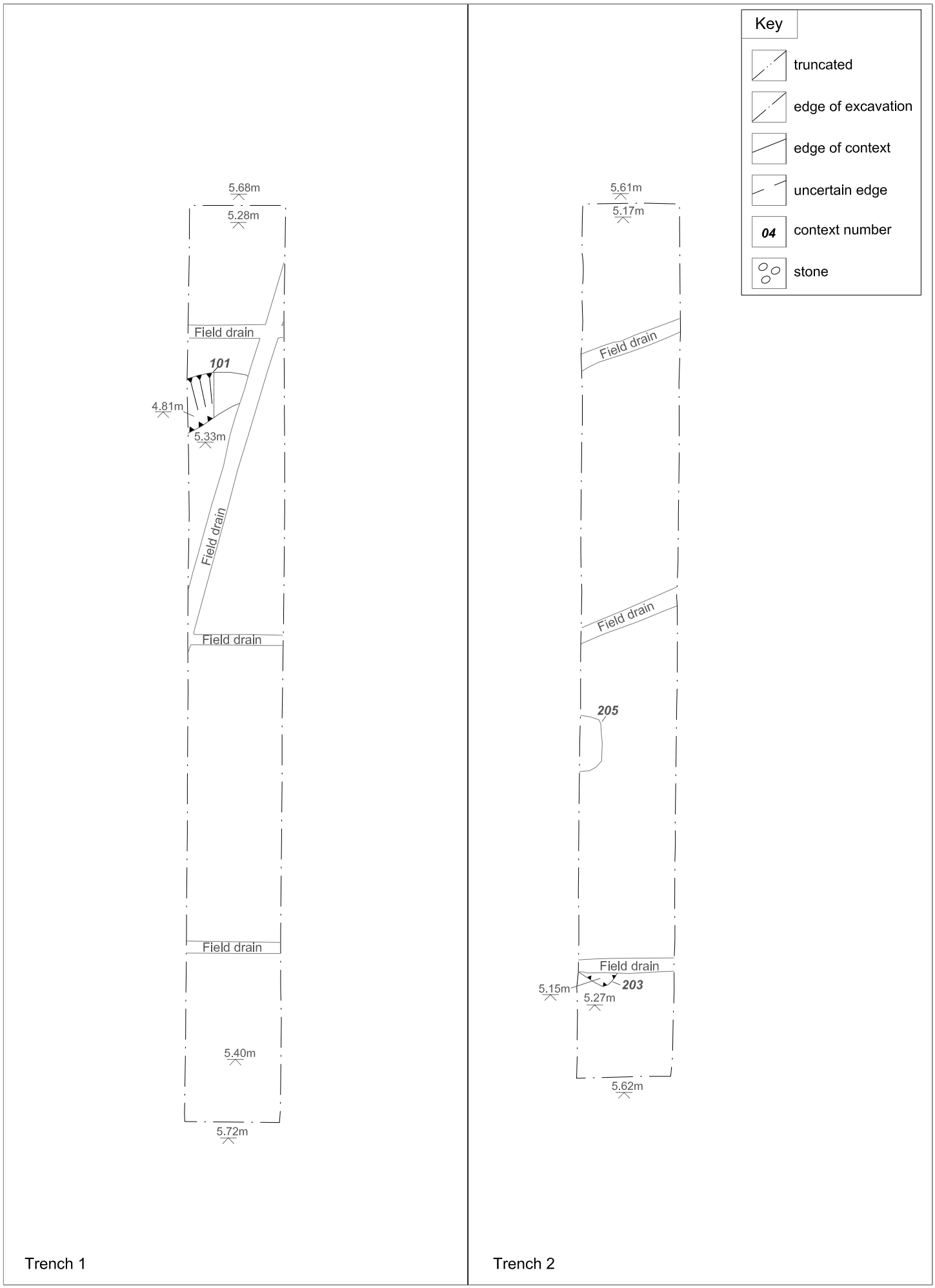


Figure 4: Plans of Trenches 1 and 2

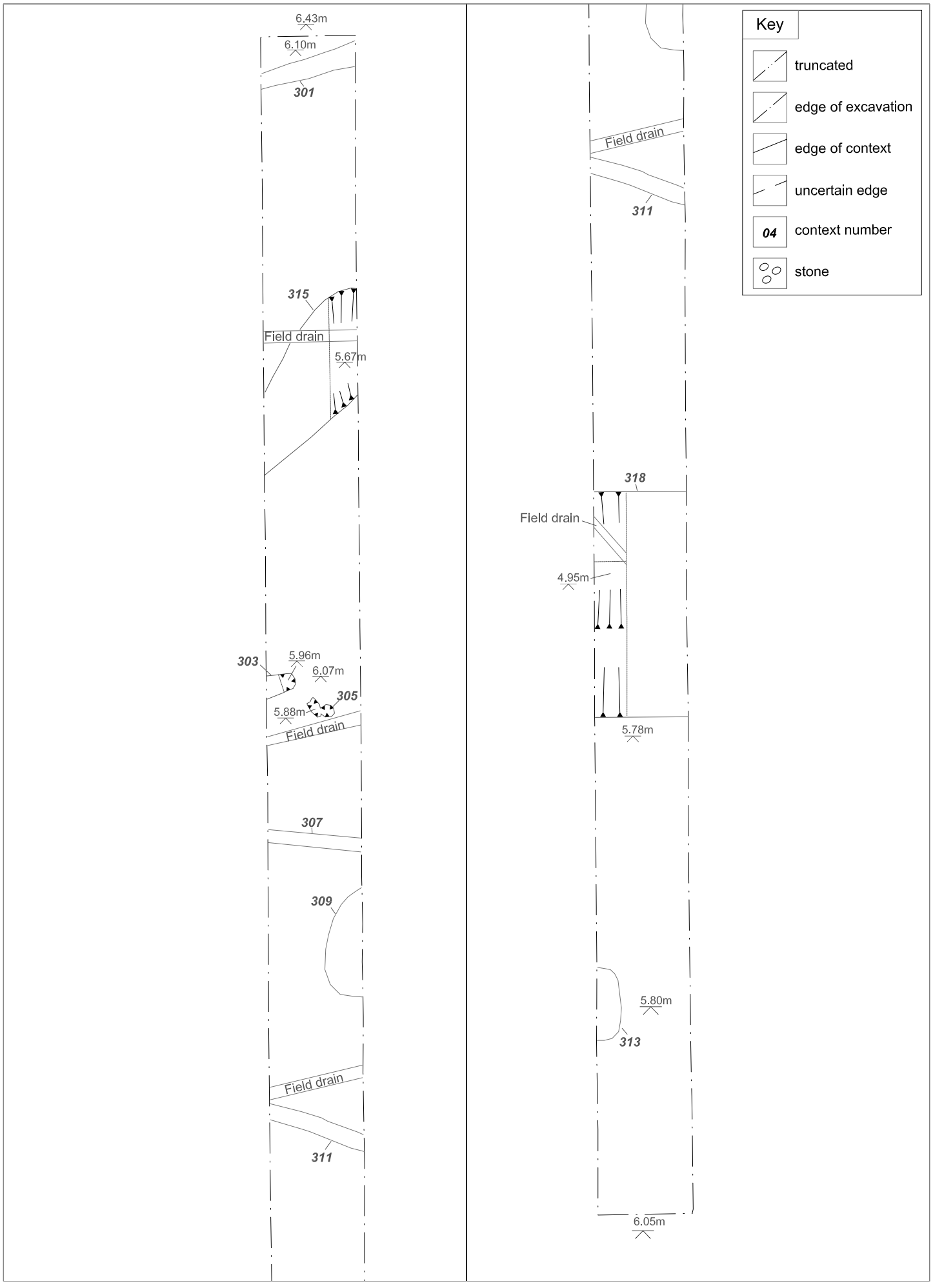


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 3

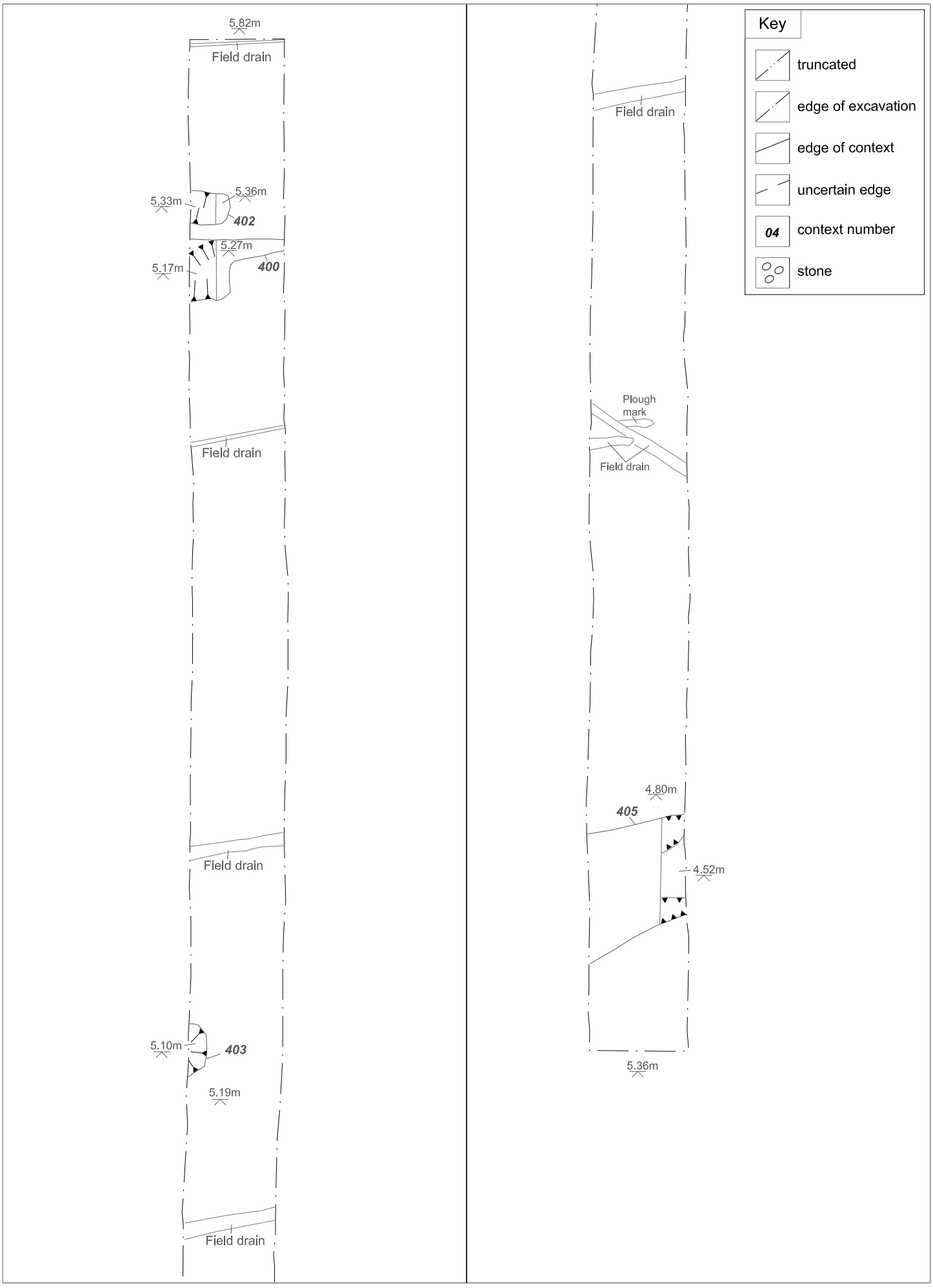


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 4

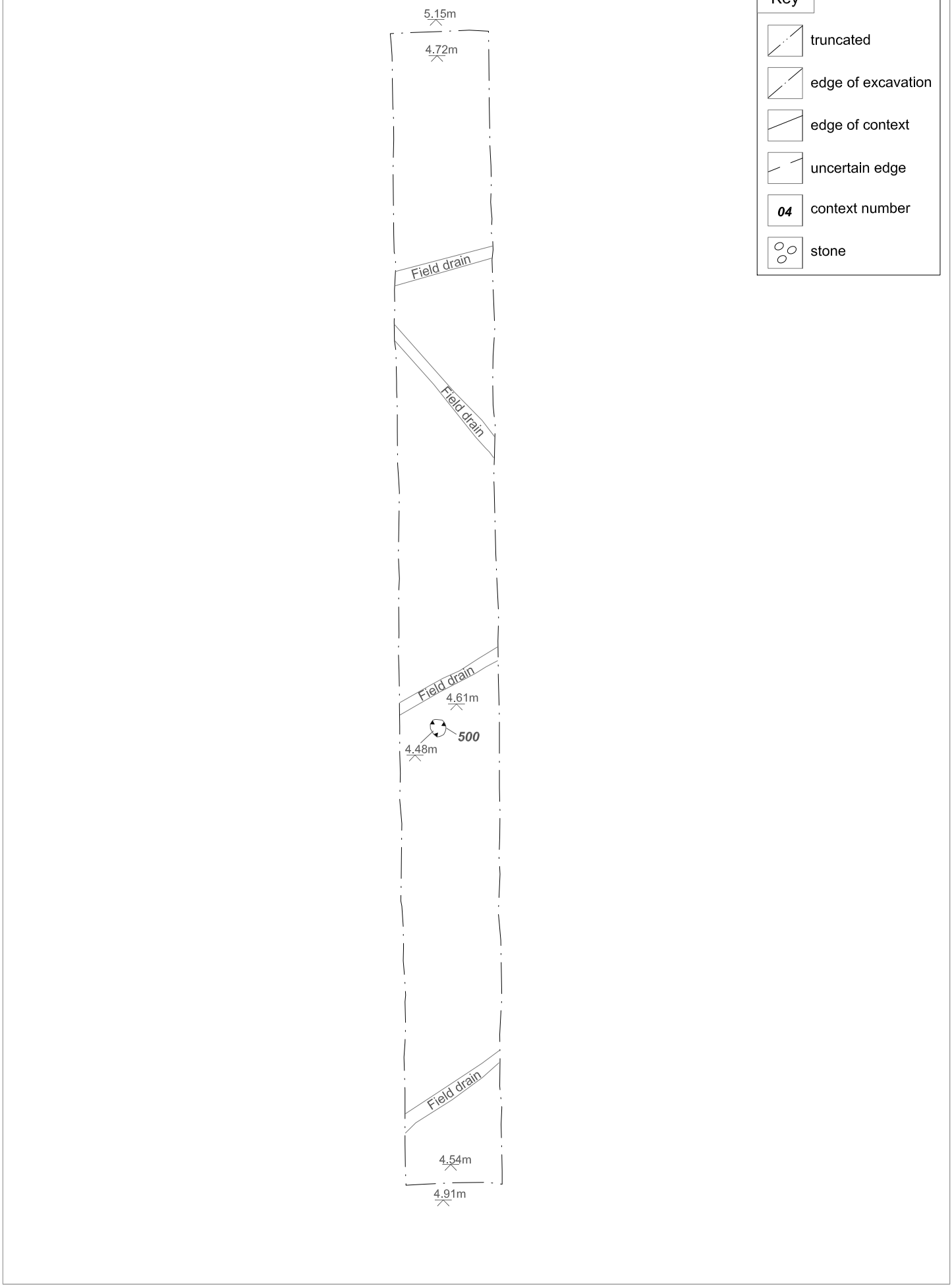


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 5

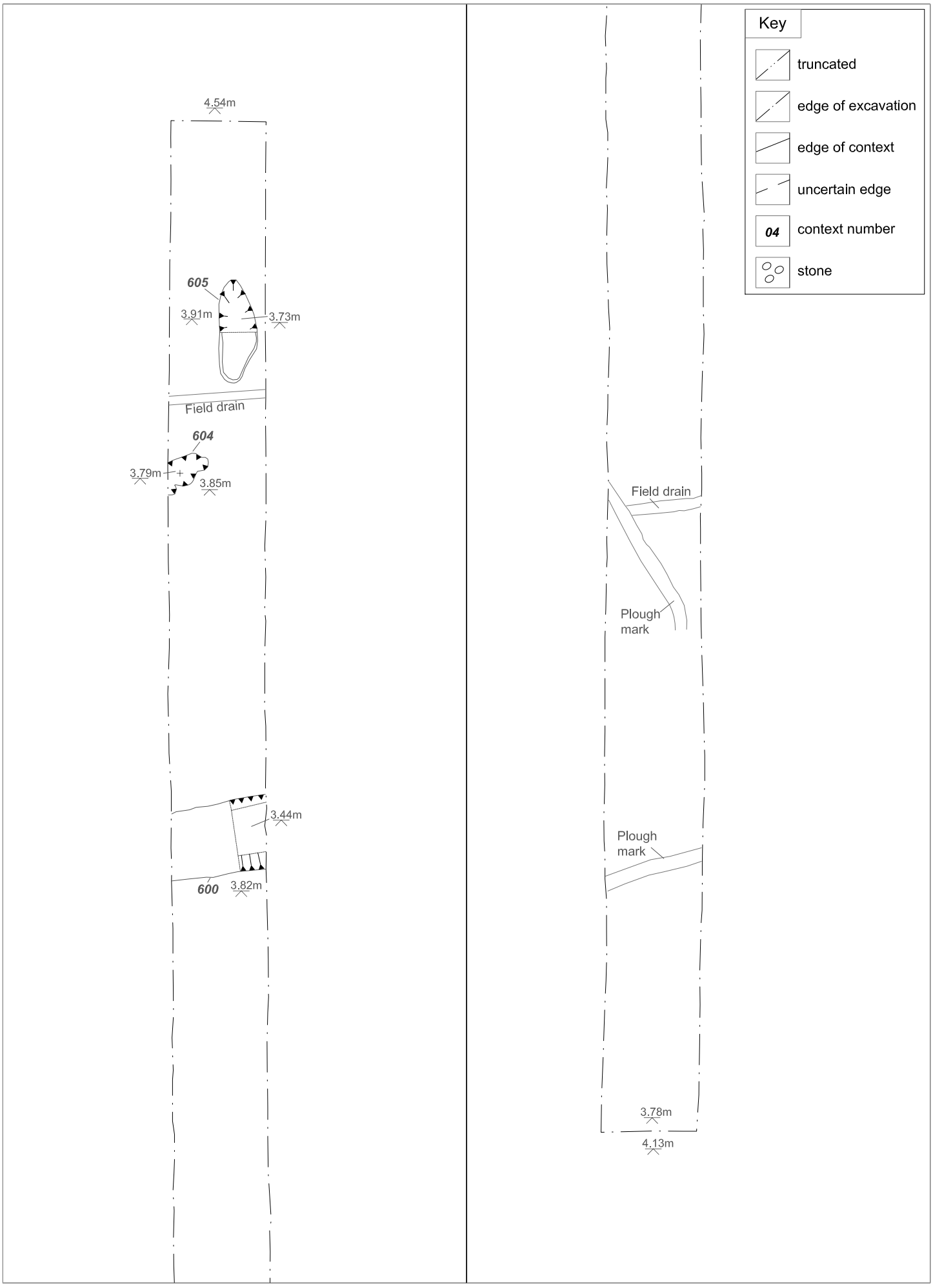
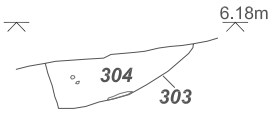
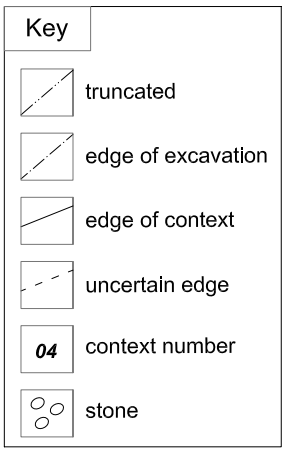
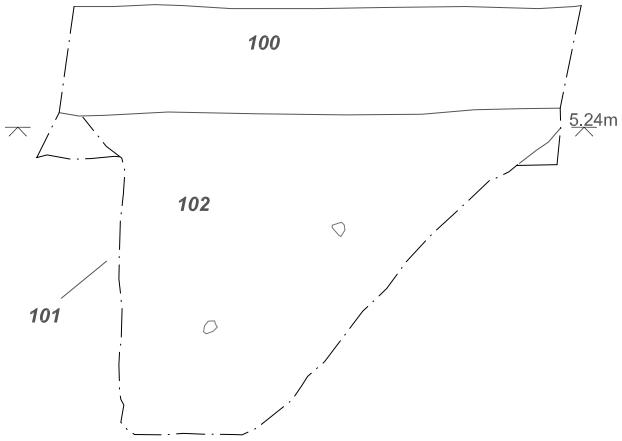


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 6

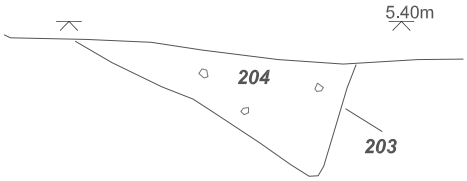


East-facing section through ***303***

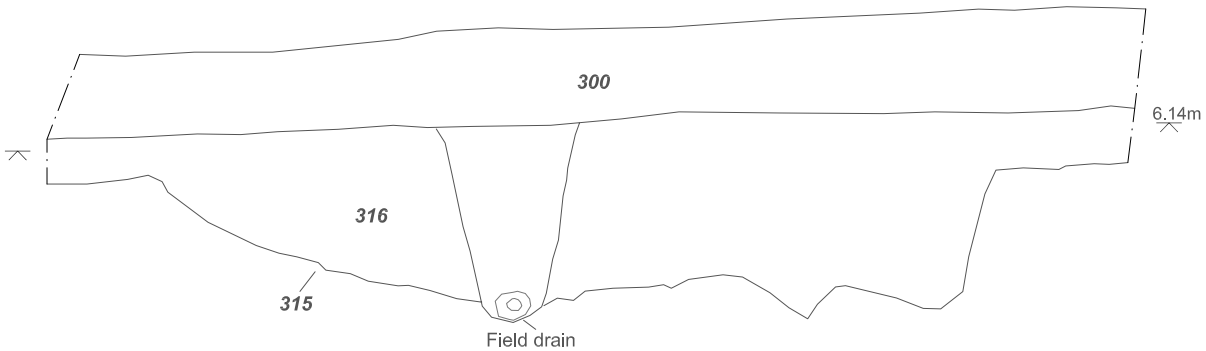




East-facing section through ***101***



South-facing section through ***203***



West-facing section through ***315***

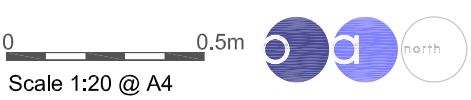


Figure 9: Sections through features ***101***, ***203***, ***303***, and ***315***

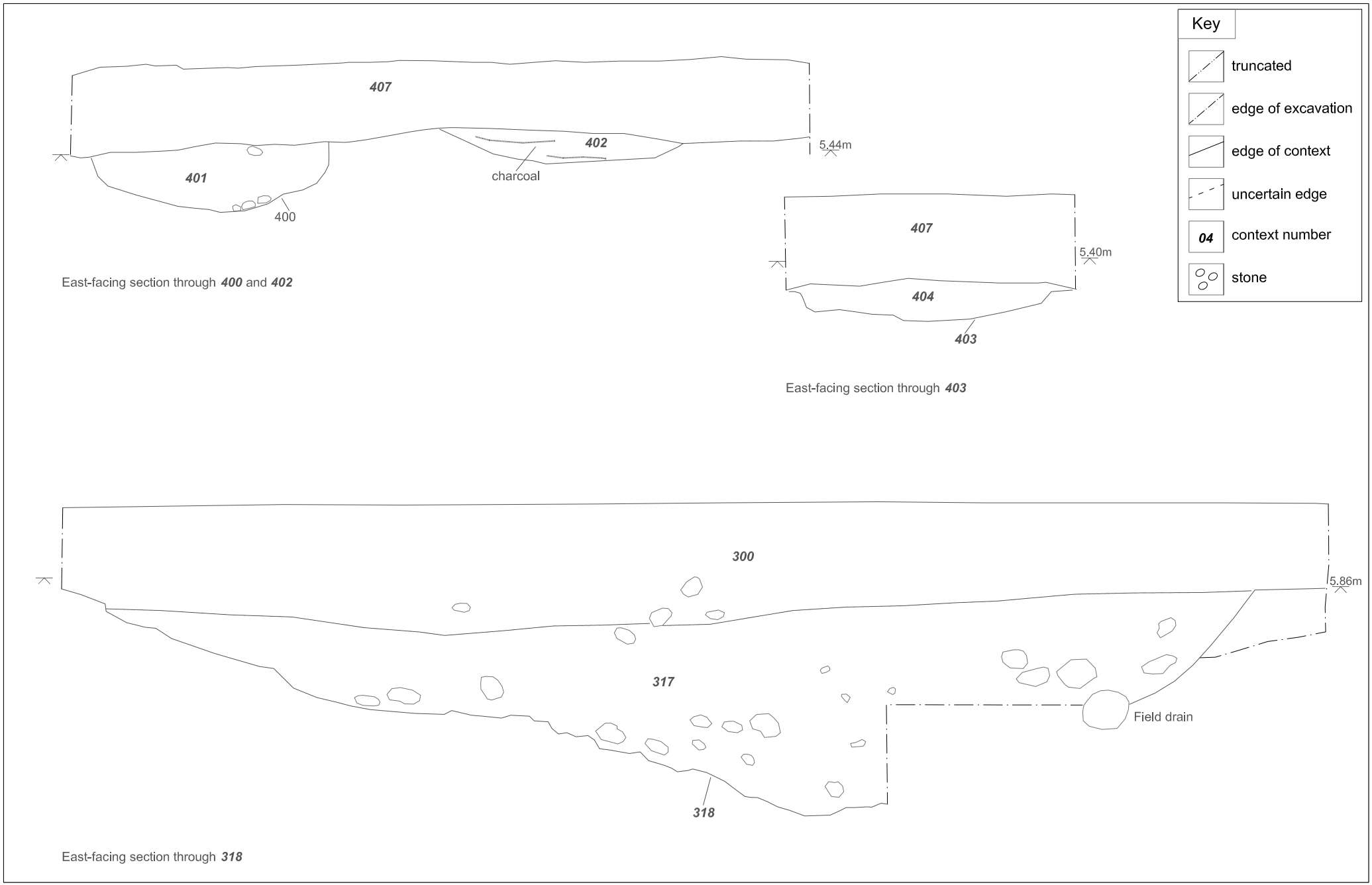


Figure 10: Sections through features ***318***, ***400***, ***402*** and ***403***

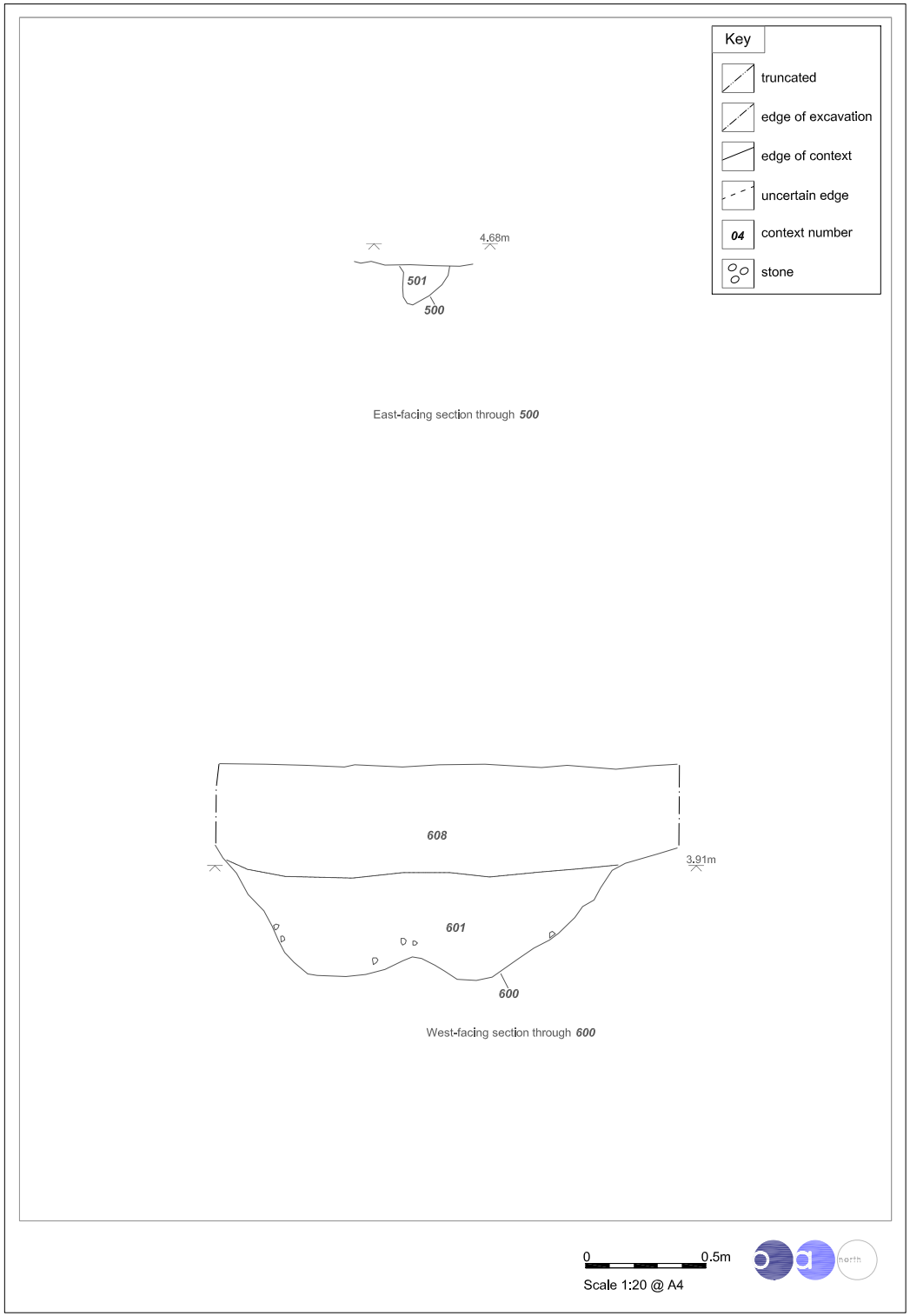


Figure 11: Sections through features ***500*** and ***600***

Plate 1: East-facing section through pit ***101***

Plate 2: Trench 2, looking west

Plate 3: South-facing section through pit ***203***

Plate 4: East-facing section through gully ***303***

Plate 5: West-facing section through small pit ***305***

Plate 6: West-facing section through ditch ***315***

Plate 7: East-facing section through ditch ***318***

Plate 8: North end of Trench 4, looking south

Plate 9: East-facing section through linear ***400*** and layer ***402***

Plate 10: East-facing section through pit ***403***

Plate 11: East-facing section through possible posthole ***500***

Plate 12: North end of Trench 6, looking south

Plate 13: West-facing section through ditch ***600***

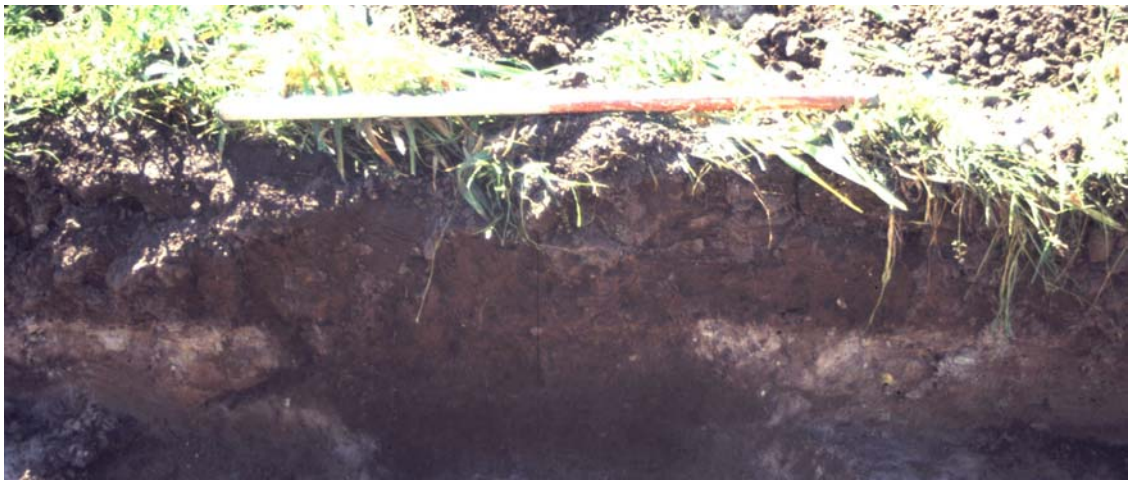


Plate 14: East-facing section through pit ***604***

Plate 15: North-facing section through pit ***605***

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Lancashire County Council's Archaeology Service (LCAS) has been consulted by Justin Paul of J10 Planning, acting on behalf of Messrs Laycock of Bridge Farm, Ballam, regarding a planning application for the construction of a new farmstead at Lawns Wood, Ballam Road, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire. LCAS has advised that a programme of archaeological work should be undertaken prior to the development taking place. LCAS also stipulated that, although it is preferable for the archaeological work to be undertaken in advance of planning permission, in this instance the work could be made a condition of planning consent (should this be granted).

1.2 The archaeological programme of work comprises two stages of fieldwork. This document sets out a methodology for both. It should be stressed that if the second stage of fieldwork reveals significant archaeological deposits it would be likely that a third stage of work would be specified by LCAS.

1.2 The proposed development lies upon an island of boulder clay, known as Peel Island, which is surrounded by drained mossland. The development site is adjacent to two find sites identified during the North West Wetlands Survey. The larger of these, Site LA40, lies to the west of the proposed development and comprises a large, relatively dense spread of Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age lithic material. This includes unretouched flakes, preparation flakes, trimming flakes, irregular waste, cores, utilised flakes, scrapers, edge-dressed flakes, arrowheads and unclassified implements. The second and smaller site (LA49) is directly within the area of the development and comprises a single unretouched lithic flake. The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains a further eight entries for find sites in the immediate area, all of which are lithic in nature and Late Neolithic/early Bronze in date.

1.3 Little is known of prehistoric settlement sites in Lancashire. The extensive presence of flint scatters within the area of Peel Island suggest it would have been utilised for settlement during the prehistoric period, therefore making this a site with the potential for both regional significance and great archaeological importance.

1.4 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in its former guise as the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) has considerable experience of excavation and evaluation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 20 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. 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.

1.5 OA North has extensive knowledge of the archaeology of the study area having undertaken the North West Wetlands Survey throughout 1989 to 1993. This comprised a landscape survey of the lowland wetlands of North West England. The Wetlands of North Lancashire was published in 1995.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed to evaluate the archaeological deposits affected by the proposed development of the site. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 ***Archaeological Field Walking***

To systematically field walk the entire area of the proposed development to determine the presence and extent of lithic scatters. The results of the field walking will aid in determining the position of the evaluation trenches.

2.3 ***Archaeological Evaluation***

To undertake evaluation trenching of *c* 5% of the proposal area (an area of *c* 5920m^2 based on the footprint of the buildings and access road) to determine the quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains on the site.

2.4 ***Post-Excavation and Report Production***

An interim report will be presented following the completion of the field walking. The evaluation report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion of the evaluation trenching. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3. METHODS STATEMENT

3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work summarised above.

3.2 **FIELD WALKING**

3.2.1 A programme of field walking will systematically inspect the entire area of the proposed development. This will be undertaken utilising 2m transects along the length of the development. These will be positioned using ranging rods and 30m measuring tapes. A grid with 6m squares will be marked out in order to locate any finds observed. Each square will be allocated a reference number, which will relate to a similarly numbered finds assemblage.

3.2.2 The field walking must be undertaken on newly ploughed land free from vegetation. The development land is ploughed annually and full advantage should be taken of this during the appropriate season. If ploughing is to be undertaken for the sole purpose of the archaeological field walking, then this should be shallow ploughing and carried out at the clients expense.

3.2.3 The finds retrieved with undergo a programme of assessment and a schematic plan will be produced showing trends and where possible the extent of any lithic scatters observed. The results of the field walking will inform the position of the evaluation trenches.

3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

3.3.1 Following discussion with LCAS, a *c* 5% area of the development site based on the footprint of the proposed buildings and access road (5920m^2) will be subject to evaluation trenching. The equates to approximately eighteen 10m x 1.6m trenches. The uppermost modern surface will be removed by machine (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket) under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions.

3.3.2 Any investigation of intact archaeological deposits will be exclusively manual. Selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, 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, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features, which appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.

3.3.3 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 of English Heritage, 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.

3.3.4 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). 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.

3.3.5 The deposition and disposal of any artefacts recovered in the evaluation will be agreed with the legal owner prior to the work taking place. Except for items subject to the Treasure Act, all artefacts found during the course of the project will be donated to an appropriate receiving museum.

3.3.6 Environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from suitable deposits (i.e. the deposits are reasonably well dated and are from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence). Where such deposits are encountered, an appropriate sampling strategy will be agreed with LCAS and will be subject to a variation to the project costs.

3.3.7 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 palaeoecology specialists with considerable

expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.

3.3.8 ***Health and Safety***: 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.

3.3.9 The client is requested to provide information relating to services in the vicinity of the trenches, though OA North will undertake a CAT scan in advance of site commencement.

3.3.9 If necessary the trenches will be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Following completion of the evaluation, the trench will be backfilled with the material removed in its excavation. Any other form of land reinstatement will be the responsibility of the client.

3.3.10 OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £10,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

3.3.11 Normal OA North working hours are between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday, though adjustments to hours may be made to maximise daylight working time in winter and to meet travel requirements. It is not normal practice for OA North staff to be asked to work weekends or bank holidays and should the client require such time to be worked during the course of a project a contract variation to cover additional costs will be necessary.

3.4 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT PRODUCTION

3.4.1 ***Archive:*** the results of Stage 3.2 and 3.3will 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*) and the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.

3.4.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCii files (as appropriate). The paper archive will be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. The material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) will be deposited with an appropriate museum following agreement with the client.

3.4.3 ***Report***: an interim statement will be issued following the completion of the field walking**.** One copy of a bound and collated final report will be submitted to the Client and two copies to the County SMR within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. The final 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 in order to come to as full an understanding as possible of the archaeology of the development area. In addition, recommendations for any further mitigation works and details of the final deposition of the project archive will also be made.

3.4.4 ***Confidentiality:*** the final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, 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.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

4.1 *Archaeological Field Walking*

It is anticipated that a three day period will be required to walk the development area.

4.2 *Archaeological Evaluation*

A five day period is required to excavate evaluation trenching equivalent to a *c* 5% sample of the proposal area using a team of three people.

4.3 *Post-Excavation and Report Production*

An interim statement will be produced following the completion of the field walking. An evaluation report will be submitted within eight weeks of the completion of the evaluation trenching.

4.4 OA North can execute projects at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client. Two weeks notice would be sufficient to allow the necessary arrangements to be made to commence the task.

5. STAFFING PROPOSALS

5.1 A team of three archaeologists including a supervisor will undertake the field walking.

5.2 Excavation of the evaluation trenching is likely to be supervised by either an OA North project officer or a project supervisor. All OA North project officers and supervisors are highly experienced field archaeologists who have undertaken evaluation and excavation work throughout Cumbria and other parts of the North West.

5.3 Assessment of any flints that are recovered by the evaluation will be undertaken by OA North's in-house lithics specialist, **Daniel Elsworth BA** (OA North project supervisor); assessment of any other finds categories from the evaluation will be undertaken by OA North's in-house finds specialist **Sean McPhilips BA** (OA North project officer). Christine has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England. However, she has specialist knowledge regarding glass, metalwork, and leather, the recording and management of waterlogged wood, and most aspects of wetland and environmental archaeology.

5.4 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples which may be taken will be undertaken by **Elizabeth Huckerby MSc** (OA North project officer). Elizabeth has extensive knowledge of the palaeoecology of the North West through her work on the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey.

5.5 The project will be managed by **Alison Plummer BSc** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

6. MONITORING

6.1 Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by LCAS.

6.2 Access to the site for monitoring purposes will be afforded to LCAS at all times.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage, 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edn, London

Middleton, R; Wells, CE; and Huckerby, E, 1995 *The Wetlands of North Lancashire*, North West Wetlands Survey, **3**, Lancaster

Museums' and Galleries' Commission, 1992 *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections*

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of archives for long-term storage*

APPENDIX 2: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT LIST

Trench 1:

Context	**Dimensions:** 17.85m L x 1.85m W x 0.42m D
100	Topsoil. Dark greyish-brown sandy-clay. 0.4m deep.
101	Cut for possible pit (extended beyond west baulk of trench).
102	Pale grey clay fill of ***101***.
103	Natural. Mottled grey-orange-red sandy clay.

Trench 2:

Context	**Dimensions:** 17.1m L x 1.85m W x 0.4m D
200	NOT ISSUED
201	Natural. Mottled grey-orange-red sandy clay.
202	Topsoil. Dark greyish-brown sandy-clay. 0.38m deep.
203	Cut for small possible pit, truncated on its north side by a land drain.
204	Mottled orange-black fill of ***203*** (containing burnt deposits).
205	Cut for probable tree bole (extended beyond west baulk of trench).
206	Pale grey clay fill of ***205***

Trench 3:

Context	**Dimensions:** 41.5m L x 1.85m W x 0.7m D
300	Topsoil. Dark greyish-brown sandy-clay. 0.46m deep.
301	Linear cut (probable field drain).
302	Dark-brown stony sandy-silt fill of ***301***.
303	Cut for possible gully (extended beyond west baulk of trench).
304	Pale-mid grey clay-silt fill of ***303***.
305	Cut for possible posthole.
306	Pale-mid grey clay-silt fill of ***305***.
307	Linear cut (probable field drain).
308	Pale-mid brown sandy silt fill of ***307***.
309	Cut for probable tree bole.
310	Pale-mid grey silty-clay fill of ***309***.
311	Linear cut (probable field drain).
312	Pale-mid brown sandy silt fill of ***311***.
313	Cut for probable tree bole (extended beyond west baulk of trench).
314	Pale-mid grey silty-clay fill of ***313***.
315	Cut for ditch, truncated by land drain.
316	Mid-brown sandy/pebbly clay fill of ***315***.
317	Mid-brown sandy-clay fill of ***318***.
318	Cut for ditch/field boundary, truncated by land drain.
319	Natural. Varied between orange clay and yellow sand.

Trench 4:

Context	**Dimensions:** 41.75m L x 1.85m W x 0.52m D
400	Cut for possible linear feature.
401	Peaty-clay fill of ***400***.
402	Charcoal-rich layer to the north of ***400***.
403	Cut for possible pit (extended beyond west baulk of trench).
404	Pale grey clay fill of ***403***.
405	Cut for probable former field boundary.
406	Mid orangey-brown silty-clay fill of ***405***.
407	Topsoil. Dark brown silty-clay. 0.52m deep.
408	Natural. Mottled orange-pink clay with bands of whiteish grey clay, and patches of sand.

Trench 5:

Context	**Dimensions:** 24m L x 1.85m W x 0.5m D
500	Cut for possible posthole.
501	Mottled mid grey-brown clay fill of ***500***.
502	Topsoil. Mid-brown sandy-clay. 0.3m deep.
503	Natural. Mottled white-orange sandy clay with occasional small stone inclusions.

Trench 6:

Context	**Dimensions:** 39.4m L x 1.85m W x 0.68m D
600	Cut for ditch.
601	Dark blackish-brown peaty-clay fill of ***600***.
602	Peat-rich fill of ***604***.
603	Grey clay/sand primary fill of ***604***.
604	Cut for possible pit.
605	Cut for possible pit.
606	Peat-rich fill of ***605***.
607	Whiteish-grey clay/sand primary fill of ***604***.
608	Topsoil. Mid-dark brown sandy-clay. 0.5m deep.
609	Natural. Pale pinkish-white clay-sand.