

High Dovecote Farm Cumbria



Archaeological Evaluation



Oxford Archaeology North

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was approached by Neil Rimmington, then Project Officer for Proactive Earthwork Management of English Heritage, and commissioned to conduct an evaluation at the northern end of the green lane to the north of High Dovecote Farm, near Walton, in Cumbria (NY 5309 6436). The project was instigated by Mr Vaughan, of High Dovecote Farm, expressing his wish to English Heritage to improve his drainage on this part of his land, which would necessitate the insertion of a new drain across the line of Hadrian's Wall and its ditch. The land here lies within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and forms part of the Scheduled Monument of *Hadrian's Wall between the road to Garthside and The Centurion Inn, Walton, in Wall miles 54 and 55* (SM 26077).

Following a site meeting with English Heritage and the submission of a Project Design, OA North was commissioned by English Heritage to excavate a single trench across the projected line of the Wall and the southern edge of the ditch to assess their condition. The work was undertaken in August 2003.

No remains of the Wall or its foundations were identified within the trench, and the natural glacial till proved to be at an extremely shallow depth at this location. It was evident that the Wall had been entirely removed by the green lane, which had eroded the natural slope to the east.

Similarly, the Wall ditch, at the northern end of the trench, was also absent, although a thick layer of colluvial material, containing one small fragment of Roman pottery, was found in its estimated position. It is suggested that, rather than excavating a defensive ditch in this section of the frontier, a bank was created to the north of the Wall, making use of the natural contours of the land, thus forming a ditch-like feature. Remains of what may be such an earthwork are visible in the same field to the east of the site.

No further archaeological excavation was considered necessary prior to Mr Vaughan undertaking his drainage works. However, an archaeological watching brief during the works was recommended.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Neil Rimmington and Mike Collins of English Heritage for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Mr Vaughan of High Dovecote Farm for his co-operation and understanding during the course of the evaluation.

The work was undertaken by Andy Bates, Chris Ridings and Jason Mole. The pottery was assessed by Sean McPhillips. The report was compiled by Andy Bates and the CAD drawings completed by Emma Carter. The project was managed by Rachel Newman, who also edited this report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Hadrian's Wall is a monument of international importance, and has been designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This is sub-divided into a number of Scheduled Monuments, the section at High Dovecote Farm forming part of *Hadrian's Wall between the road to Garthside and The Centurion Inn, Walton, in Wall miles 54 and 55* (SM26077). Mr Vaughan of High Dovecote Farm had expressed a wish to improve the drainage of his land to the north of the green lane leading northwards from High Dovecote Farm, which would necessitate crossing the line of Hadrian's Wall and its ditch (NY 5309 6436; Fig 1). Following discussions with Neil Rimmington, then Project Officer for Proactive Earthwork Management for English Heritage (EH), and Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for EH, and a site meeting with Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), it was agreed that an archaeological evaluation of the site should be undertaken to inform an application for Scheduled Monument Consent for the works. This involved the excavation of a single 11m long trench, in a position to evaluate the condition of the Wall, if surviving in this location, and that of the southern edge of its ditch.
- 1.1.2 Consent was given for this evaluation following acceptance of a Project Design (*Appendix 1*). OA North undertook the work in August 2003.

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the north of High Dovecote Farm, near Walton in north-east Cumbria, in Wall mile 55, and a short distance to the west of Turret 55a (Fig 2). It lies at the western end of the Tyne Gap, a narrow declivity running through the Pennine chain, and forming the watershed between the westward flowing Irthing and its tributaries, and the river Tyne. The King Water flows a short distance to the west, and the high hills of the Pennines are visible to the north and south (Countryside Commission 1998, 50). The landscape is gentler in character when compared with the rough upland grazing of much of the Tyne Gap to the east, and laced with rivers and streams (Burton 2003, 67). This is due to a change in geology, the hard igneous rocks of the Whin Sill giving way to softer, more easily eroded, sandstone (*ibid*). The area is one of largely pastoral agriculture; hedgerows, drystone walls, and blocks of woodland enclosing large regular fields and pastures (Countryside Commission 1998, 50). Isolated farms are a notable feature in the area, with small settlements located on drier land along the sides of the valley floor (*ibid*).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is a layer of St Bees Sandstone formed during the Triassic period (225-195 million years ago). It is described as a brick-red, water-lain sandstone with ripple marks and desiccation cracks throughout (Taylor *et al* 1978, 79). This bedrock has then been covered by a layer of till during the last glacial period (10-70,000 years ago) (Countryside Commission 1998).

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 Hadrian's Wall is well documented and, whilst a full historical account would be inappropriate in the context of this report, a summary of the salient points may be of relevance.
- 1.3.2 The beginning of the second century saw much unrest in the north of England, and the Roman Army struggled to consolidate their territorial gains of the late first century. About AD 105, the unrest culminated in the destruction of many of the forts north of the Tyne-Solway line, probably at the hands of hostile tribesmen (Daniels 1978, 5). During a visit to Britain by the Emperor Hadrian in AD 122, the decision was made to create a continuous and permanent frontier barrier from Tyne to Solway. Aulus Platorius Nepos, legate of Britain from AD 122, began construction of the Wall, which was largely completed in its initial format during the AD 120s.
- 1.3.3 As originally designed, the Wall was to be 10 Roman feet wide, based on a foundation of stone and puddled clay, or else large flagstones. The foundations were laid in advance of the main body of the Wall, and this continued from Newcastle to the North Tyne and thereafter intermittently as far as Willowford. West of the crossing of the river Irthing, the Wall was constructed of turf, in a manner far more traditional to the Roman army than the Stone Wall to the east. Subsequently, a decision to complete the work to the east of the Irthing to a narrower gauge was taken. Hence, between the North Tyne and Willowford, the Wall is Narrow Gauge but in places it stands on foundations prepared for the Broad Gauge (*op cit*, 18). The Turf Wall was 20 Roman feet wide at the base, and constructed of regularly cut blocks of turf laid in courses. Again, some time later in the second century, a decision was taken to rebuild the Wall in stone, the eastern part, near Birdoswald, being of standard Narrow Gauge, while that from a little distance to the east of Dovecote to Bowness was nine Roman feet wide (*op cit*, 19).
- 1.3.4 The Vallum lies to the south of Hadrian's Wall and, although not considered part of the original design of the Wall, it appears to have been conceived not long after work began on the frontier. The two structures, the Wall and the Vallum, would seem to have formed a military zone within which a civilian presence may have required explanation (Frere 1974, 134). Within this zone, military stores, buildings, and camps had some protection (Salway 1981, 180), the completed frontier separating possibly rebellious British to the south from like-minded tribes to the north (Frere 1974, 134). Another purpose for the Vallum may have been a concealed route of communication (Shotter 1997, 48).
- 1.3.5 In AD 139 the Roman Army made a new advance into Scotland, which seemingly resulted in the virtual abandonment of Hadrian's Wall. Gains in Scotland could not be consolidated however, and Hadrian's Wall was re-occupied during the later AD 150s. At some point between the late second century and the early third century, the Wall was breached by the northern tribes, who inflicted much damage and destruction to the fortifications. This uprising was rapidly suppressed, but the Wall required some restoration. The late second and early third centuries saw a period of continued rebuilding and modification along the Wall and, nearly a century later, a further programme of Wall restoration and modification occurred under Constantius (Frere 1974).

- 1.3.6 The year AD 367 is recorded by Ammianus Marcellinus (Syme 1968), as the date when Roman rule was overrun in Britain, and although the invaders were subsequently quelled by Count Theodosius, and the Wall was again restored, the end of Roman occupation had been signalled. Occupation of the Wall continued after this date, as evidenced by the various discoveries of late fourth century pottery and coins, but little is known of its history through the early medieval period. There is, however, increasing evidence that elements, particularly some forts and even milecastles, remained in occupation beyond the formal end of Roman administration (Wilmott 1997).
- 1.3.7 The section of Wall examined by this project is immediately to the west of Turret 55a, which was briefly excavated in 1933. It stood on the top of the bluff above the King Water, which has in part been eroded by the green lane, and proved to be a Turf Wall structure, though turrets associated with this element of the frontier were built of stone from the beginning. Its north wall had suffered some instability, leaning to the north, but was otherwise in good condition, unlike the others, which had been extensively robbed (Simpson *et al* 1934, 131), presumably for stone to build the nearby farms and field walls. It had clearly projected to the north of the Stone Wall, which had been constructed at the back of the line of the Turf Wall to create a berm to offset the potential for structural instability given the different thrust of a stone structure. Whilst the line of the Wall is visible on the bluff to the east of the site, it disappears in the floodplain of the King Water, with only a slight depression indicating the course of the ditch.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North, in accordance with discussions at a site meeting with English Heritage, for an archaeological evaluation of the site prior to the consideration of an application for Scheduled Monument Consent to improve the drainage of land to the north of High Dovecote Farm. The project design provided for the hand excavation of a single trench across the line of Hadrian's Wall and the southern edge of its ditch. 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 The programme of work consisted of the excavation by hand of a single trench, measuring 11m by 1m (Fig 2), to the uppermost archaeological deposits or the natural geology. Any horizons exposed were examined, and all archaeological features, other horizons, and any artefacts found during the work were recorded in detail.

2.2.2 The recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of features revealed, on OA North *pro-forma* sheets, and their accurate location in plan. A plan of the trench was produced, located accurately with respect to adjacent field boundaries and the Ordnance Survey National Grid. A photographic record in colour slide and monochrome formats was also compiled.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*) and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The archive will be deposited in the Cumbria Record Office with a copy of the report submitted to the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record.

3. RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 Only a single phase of activity was recorded at the site, of which a summary account is given below. The trench was excavated, by hand, on a north/south orientation and measured 11m in length and 1m wide. Detailed descriptions of all contexts may be found in *Appendix 2*.

3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 A maximum of 0.10m of topsoil, layer **1**, was removed before a layer of natural till, **3**, was identified across most of the trench (Fig 3). This contained a relatively large quantity of large, glacially-derived stones, below which was a finer clay, **4**, with a greyer hue than the material above. No trace of any material that could have been connected with either the turf or stone phases of Hadrian's Wall was revealed, nor any bedding plane for the latter.

3.2.2 The natural till, **3**, seemed to slope downwards to the north, towards the floodplain of the King Water. This appeared to be a natural slope, and there was no evidence that it had been artificially cut or affected in any way, to suggest that the Wall ditch had been created in this area. Above this slope, and sealed below the topsoil, at the northern end of the trench only, was a layer of colluvial material, deposit **2** (Fig 3), presumably the result of the erosion of unstable topsoil to the south (Limbrey 1975, 205-7). This contained rare charcoal inclusions, and had an homogeneous consistency.

3.2.3 Cutting across the southern half of the trench, on a north-west/ south-east alignment, was a damaged cylindrical field drain (Fig 3). Ceramic tile drains of this type became popular after 1845 (Harvey 1980, 72), and as such this feature is not considered of any archaeological significance.

3.3 THE FINDS

3.3.1 One small sherd of Black Burnished ware 1 was recovered from layer **2**. The sherd is too small for further identification, but could not have been made earlier than the reign of Hadrian (second quarter of the second century onwards).

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 It seems clear from the results of the evaluation that Hadrian's Wall, in both its turf and stone phases and including its foundations, has been destroyed at this location. This is perhaps unsurprising considering the level of erosion visible along the eastern side of the green lane. Today this creates a substantial bench into the slope, which was presumably not so distinct when Hadrian's Wall was built. The destruction of Hadrian's Wall through this erosion had been considered to be a possibility from the very outset of the project.
- 4.1.2 It is, however, surprising that the Wall ditch was not located in the trench. In its estimated position, a thick layer of colluvial material was found, presumably deriving from the erosion of unstable topsoil further up the slope to the south; included within this colluvium was a single fragment of Roman pottery. It is suggested that, rather than digging a ditch at this location, a defence was created by casting up a bank to the north of the Wall, thereby forming the semblance of a ditch. When the section immediately to the east is examined, it certainly seems as though the Wall was placed on the lip of a natural slope, and the northern side was created by a large counterscarp bank, although without excavation the presence or absence of a cut feature between the two cannot be established; whilst some of the structure may have been created by a natural land formation, it certainly has the appearance of being largely artificial. This is reminiscent of the situation to the west of Blackcarts, in Wall mile 29, where a very shallow ditch was revealed, its defensive qualities being considerably enhanced by the counterscarp to the north (Wilmott and Bennett forthcoming). It is thus possible that the colluvial layer, 2, was the result of hillwash from the side of the natural slope directly below the Wall washing down this slope, hence the presence of a sherd of Roman pottery.
- 4.1.3 **Impact:** from the results of this evaluation it appears that the proposed new drainage will not affect the Wall itself, as it appears already to have been destroyed in this location. Similarly, the Wall ditch appears to be absent at this point, although this is not considered to be a result of erosion, but because it had never been constructed as a cut feature in this section of the monument.

4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.2.1 It is evident that there are still questions to be asked concerning the nature of the Wall frontier at High Dovecote Farm. However, the limited nature of the drainage works means that any further archaeological excavation on the line of the proposed drain is unlikely to tackle any of these. Further archaeological excavation, therefore, is not considered necessary prior to consideration of the application for Scheduled Monument Consent. There is, however, always the possibility that some element of the monument might survive elsewhere on the line of the drain, and thus a watching brief during the excavation of the drain would be prudent.

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APPENDIX 1
PROJECT DESIGN

July 2003

Oxford
Archaeology
North

HIGH DOVECOTE

WALTON

CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request received from Dr N Rimmington of English Heritage, for an archaeological evaluation across the line of Hadrian's Wall and its ditch at High Dovecote, Cumbria, to inform the design of improvements to the drainage in this locality.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The drainage in a green lane running northwards from High Dovecote Farm, Walton, Cumbria (NY 5309 6436) has failed, causing waterlogging within the lane and to the north. The gathering of stock at the northern end is leading to poaching on the line of Hadrian's Wall, and the infilled ditch to the north, and thus it has been recommended that a new drain should be inserted, to lead water away from this area of sensitive archaeology. In order to establish the survival and condition of the archaeological features in this area, Dr Neil Rimmington of English Heritage has advised that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken on the proposed line of the drain across the Wall and ditch.
- 1.2 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has provided advice to the Countryside Agency since 1996 on archaeological matters relating to the development and implementation of the Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail and through this has developed a detailed knowledge of the archaeology of Hadrian's Wall and its associated features. It has also undertaken work for English Heritage on elements of the monument linked to improved management. OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. The organisation operates subject to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and is a **Registered Archaeological Organisation, number 17**.

1.3 Site Location

- 1.3.1 The element of the monument with which this project design is concerned lies to the north of High Dovecote, at NY 5309 6436. This lies within the Scheduled Monument of *Hadrian's Wall between the road to Garthside and The Centurion Inn, Walton, in Wall miles 54 and 55*, designated as SM 26077.
- 1.3.2 It is proposed that a single trench be excavated in a north/south alignment, at the point at which the drain is to be inserted, to evaluate the presence or absence of significant archaeology, and, if present, its condition and depth, in order to inform the type of structure that can be inserted at this location and, if necessary, to develop a mitigation strategy to prevent any adverse impact on the monument.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The purpose of the evaluation will be to establish the presence or absence of significant archaeological stratigraphy at the proposed location of the drain, and, if present, to validate its purpose, and to establish the condition and extent, character and integrity of the archaeological remains. The objective will be to quantify and qualify the archaeological potential of this limited area, with a view to informing the insertion of the drain without adversely impacting on the monument, and, if necessary, to develop a strategy for the preservation and management of the archaeological remains, so that the proposed structure will not compromise significant deposits, nor the integrity of the monument. The results will be placed in the public domain in a manner appropriate to their significance.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Evaluation Trench

- 3.1.1 A single trench will be excavated in the approximate position of the proposed drain, as agreed in a site meeting with the farmer and English Heritage (Fig 1). This will be excavated manually on a north/south alignment. It will measure 11m north/south by 1m east/west and will not exceed 1.2m in depth, being expected to be only approximately 0.5m deep. The work undertaken will be carried out in compliance with the Code of Practice and the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations of the IFA.
- 3.1.2 All excavation will be exclusively manual and will proceed in a stratigraphical manner. Excavation will be restricted to the topsoil and any build-up of soil below this, as the aim of the work is to clarify the structure of the monument, which will not be disturbed. The upper surface of any archaeological layers will be identified, cleaned and recorded, both in plan and, if feasible, in section. Any deposits of antiquity, and thus of archaeological significance, will be examined by hand, but excavation will be limited to an assessment of the nature, date and survival of the deposits, rather than full excavation. Any finds recovered will be retained for assessment and spot dating.
- 3.1.3 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 prints and colour transparency photographs) to identify and illustrate individual elements of the monument. The trench will be located with respect to surrounding landscape features and the National Grid, by electronic means, and all deposits, including the basal deposits in the trench, will be three-dimensionally recorded.
- 3.1.4 Results of all field investigations will be recorded using a system, adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage, based on *pro forma* contexts, object records (for both individual finds and bulk groups from individual contexts as appropriate), and survey sheets and, if stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled. The archive will include both a photographic record, with a clearly visible, graduated metric scale, and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Indices of both photographs, by type, and plans and sections, will be compiled. 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), and to an appropriate timetable, to minimise deterioration. All finds where appropriate will be washed and marked with indelible ink, and then appropriately bagged and boxed, with box lists compiled. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.1.5 If necessary, access to conservation and specialist finds advice and facilities can be made available immediately. OA North maintains close relationships with English Heritage staff at the University of Durham and also 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. All appropriate legislation, such as the 1996 Treasure Act and the 1857 Burial Act, will be adhered to in full.

- 3.1.6 The deposition of finds will be agreed with the legal owner and with the appropriate museum prior to the work taking place. The legal owner will be encouraged to deposit such finds, but should he decide to retain material, this will be recorded and analysed to an appropriate level prior to its being submitted to him. Any discard policy will be agreed with the recipient museum during the course of the work.
- 3.1.7 Samples where appropriate will be collected for technological, pedological, palaeoenvironmental and chronological analysis. If feasible, samples for deposit characterisation, potential radiocarbon dating, and macrofossil analysis will be 30 litres in volume, whilst samples to assess the potential for buried soils will be collected as monoliths, where appropriate, using plastic drainpipe, as recommended by OA North's in-house palaeoenvironmentalist, following discussion with Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage's Scientific Advisor for the North East. These will be packaged appropriately and stored for possible future analysis.
- 3.1.8 Following the completion of excavation, the site will be backfilled to ensure the safety of livestock, but will not be fully reinstated as the intention is that drainage works should follow rapidly.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1 OA North considers health and safety to be of paramount importance on all its projects. OA North has considerable experience in applying modern health and safety practices in large and small-scale archaeological projects.
- 4.2 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 (1996 rev.). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.
- 4.3 If necessary, the trench will be fenced temporarily to prevent access, in a manner that will not adversely affect the monument.
- 4.4 OA North will undertake a Cat scan as a matter of course in advance of the commencement of excavation.

5. ATTENDANCES

- 5.1 English Heritage is requested to arrange all access and any provisions for temporary fencing.

6. ARCHIVE

- 6.1 The results of the evaluation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*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 any features and finds recovered during fieldwork, in accordance with UKIC guidelines. 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.

- 6.2 The paper archive will be deposited with the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle and any material archive with the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, with the land owner's permission, unless English Heritage deems otherwise.
- 6.3 All finds will be treated in accordance with OA North's standard practice which follows current IFA guidelines.

7. REPORT

- 7.1 A report of the findings will be compiled following completion of the fieldwork. This report will examine and describe the archaeology and, if appropriate, the palaeoenvironment of the site. The report will also seek to establish the significance of the results.
- 7.2 The report will consist of a typescript, containing non-technical summary, an account of the circumstances of the project, methods used, a description of the results, and an interpretation of these, together with a statement as to their significance, as well as a bibliography and a copy of this project design. This report will be illustrated with line drawings, including finds if necessary, and, if suitable, photographs.
- 7.3 Two copies of this report will be submitted to English Heritage, to inform the decision-making process as to the type of structure appropriate to this location. A copy of the report will be deposited for inclusion in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record and a further copy will be deposited with the RCHM(E) database for Hadrian's Wall.

7.4 Confidentiality

- 7.4.1 The report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in this project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication, save as a note, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

7.5 Publication

- 7.5.1 If the results of the evaluation justify such a course of action, the work should be published as a short article, submitted to the *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*.

8. PROJECT MONITORING

- 8.1 Any proposed variations to the project design will be agreed with English Heritage. OA North will arrange a preliminary meeting, if required, and English Heritage and Cumbria County Council's Archaeology Service will be informed of the commencement of the project in writing.

9. OTHER ISSUES

- 9.1 Insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with OA North 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 thereunder. 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 insurance cover of £3m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.
- 9.3 Excavation will be undertaken on the basis of a five day week, within daylight hours only.

10. WORK TIMETABLE

- 10.1 OA North is scheduled to undertake the work from 4th August 2003. It is estimated that the evaluation will take four days to complete on site. OA North would be able to submit the report on the evaluation to English Heritage within two months of the completion of the fieldwork.

11. PROJECT TEAM

- 11.1 All staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for this type of project. The work will be directed on site by a Project Supervisor who has previously undertaken evaluatory work on Hadrian's Wall. In addition, one Project Assistant would work on site.
- 11.2 The project will be managed by **Rachel Newman BA** (Director OA North) who has acted since 1996 as the archaeological consultant to the Countryside Agency in the development of the Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail.

APPENDIX 2

DETAILED CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number: 1

Category: Topsoil

Form: Layer

Description

A very dark grey fine sandy silty, clay. It had a maximum thickness of 0.10m, although it was only 0.04m thick in places. Stratigraphically it was above layer 2.

Interpretation

Topsoil.

Context Number: 2

Category: Colluvial/hillwash

Form: Layer

Description

A mid-grey orange fine sandy clay. Included within the layer was less than 1% charcoal flecks and 1-5% sub-angular unworked sandstone of a maximum size of 0.22m by 0.20m by 0.18m. It was stratigraphically above the natural till, 3, and below topsoil, 1, and was 0.72m thick.

Interpretation

A colluvial deposit formed from the deposition of material eroded from unstable soils further upslope.

Context Number: 3

Category: Natural till

Form: Layer

Description

A mid-orange, clayey, fine sand. Included within the deposit was 1-10% sub-angular sandstone, of a maximum size of 0.50m by 0.35m by 0.30m, increasing with depth to approximately 50% where visible. It was stratigraphically above layer 4 and below layer 2.

Interpretation

A glacial till.

Context Number: 4

Category: Natural till

Form: Layer

Description

A mid-orange grey clay with no inclusions visible at its surface except occasional iron and manganese fragments, almost certainly originating from the underlying St Bees sandstone.

Interpretation

A glacial till.

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location map

Figure 2: Trench location

Figure 3: Plan and section of trench

PLATES

Plate 1: Evaluation trench, looking south

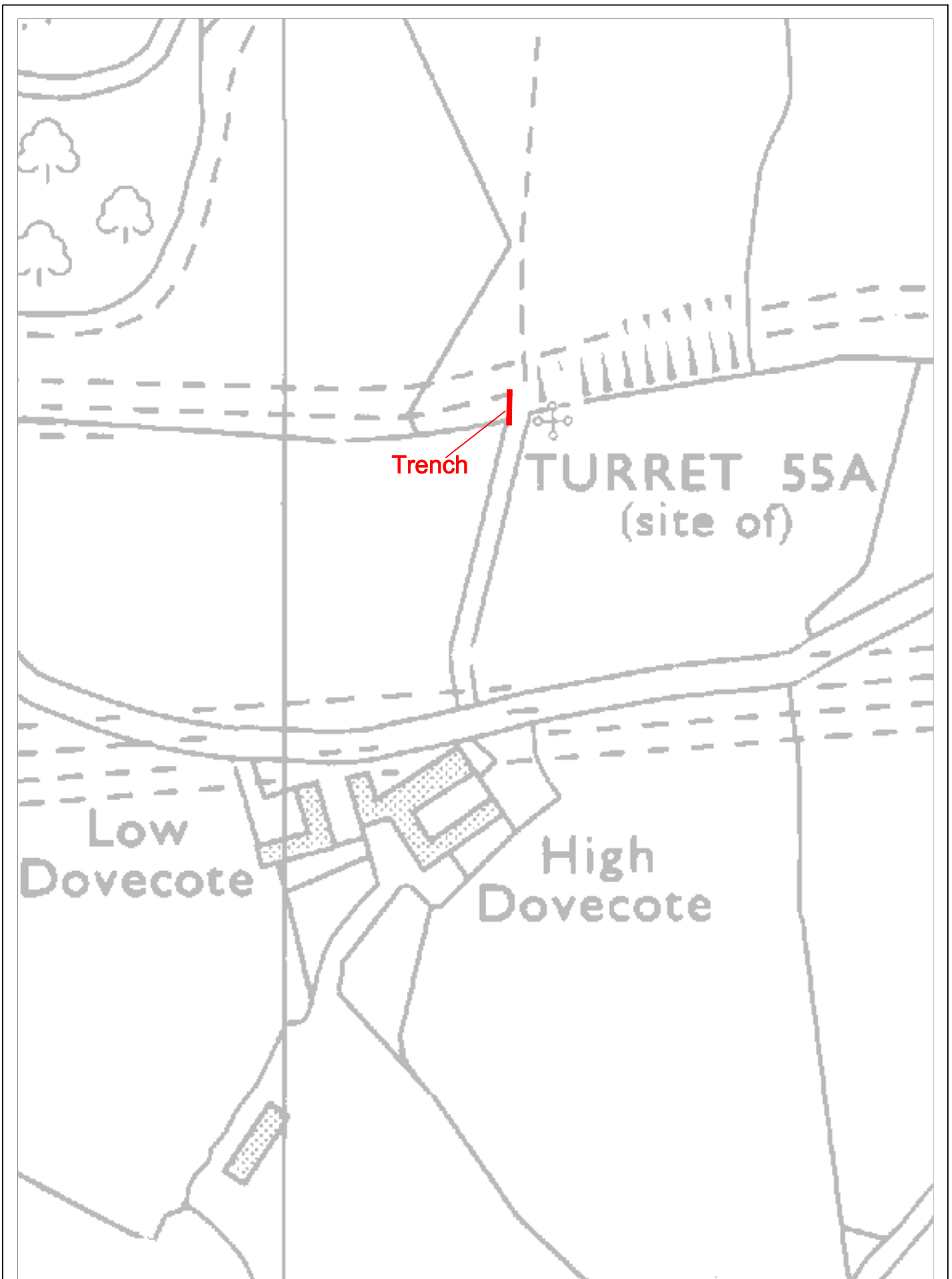
Plate 2: Section through deposit 2, looking west



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Figure 1: Location Map



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Scale 1:2000

0 50m



Figure 2 : Trench location

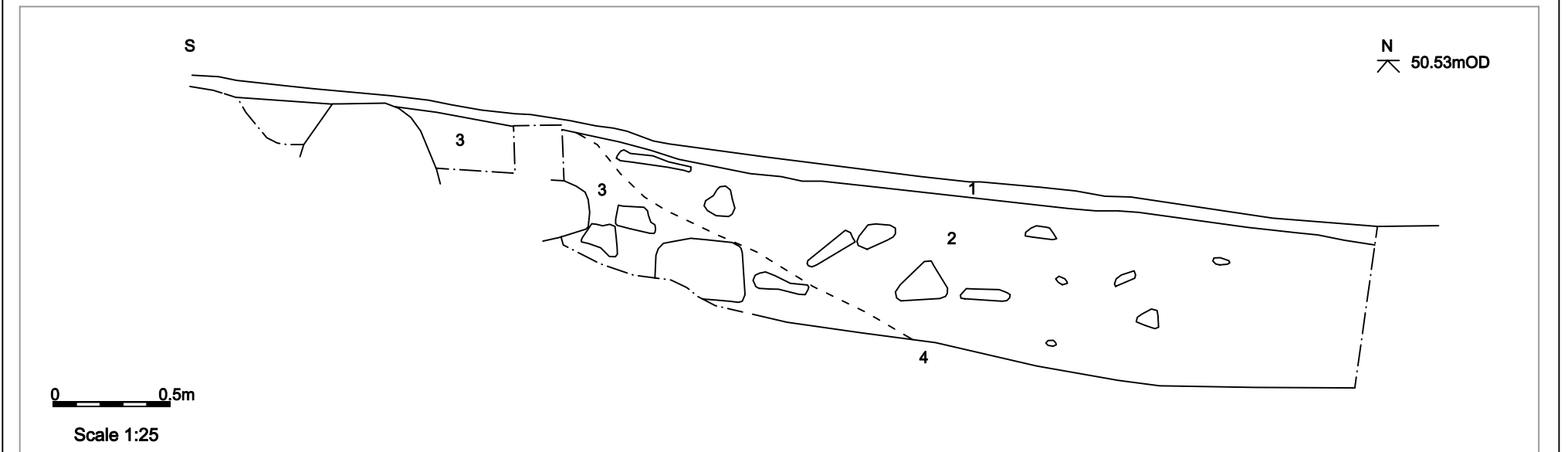
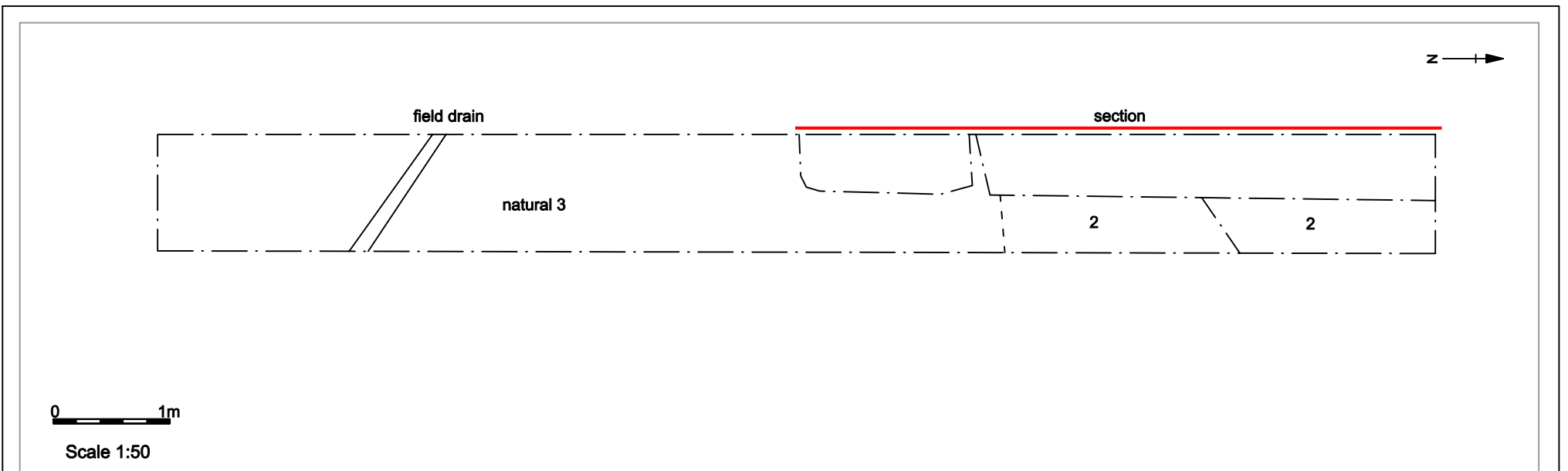


Figure 3 : Plan and section of trench



Plate 1: Evaluation trench, looking south



Plate 2: Section through deposit 2, looking west