

RCW00

An Archaeological Evaluation at Whithorn, Dumfries
and Galloway

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Summary

Headland Archaeology were commissioned by the Research Committee of The Whithorn Trust to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the area to the west and north of the scheduled area which surrounds Whithorn Priory. The evaluation consisted of the machine excavation of a total of seventeen trenches down to natural subsoil. A number of features of archaeological significance were present. The area directly to the north of the modern cemetery, east of the Manse, contained the densest concentration of features including evidence of rig and furrow cultivation, a rough stone surface associated with industrial activity and a fenced or palisaded enclosure. The evaluation forms part of a larger programme of research looking at the boundaries of the ecclesiastical settlement. No evidence of these postulated boundaries was recovered. There was also no evidence of the millpond to the north of the Ket or any mill buildings along the banks of the Ket.

1 INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The following report contains the results of an archaeological evaluation, which was carried out as part of a wider programme of research commissioned by the Research Committee of The Whithorn Trust.
- 1.2 Work to date in and around the early ecclesiastical site at Whithorn has been largely concentrated in its 'core' areas, focused on the remains of the medieval priory and the adjacent Northumbrian site (Hill 1997; Clarke 1997). The purpose of the evaluation was to determine whether and how far the site extends into its immediate hinterland, and what the nature might be of any related settlement there. It was also designed to provide management information on the nature of the archaeological resource in the area outwith but adjacent to the scheduled area around the site. Excavations at the comparable Early Historic Monastic site at Hoddum, for example, have demonstrated that a developed and highly regulated suite of service sector buildings was established around the perimeter of the settlement and maintained there for some considerable time (Lowe 1991; forthcoming). These ancillary buildings comprised a series of corn-drying kilns, barns, a stable and other structures. They lay up to 250m from the ecclesiastical centre of the site. The area of the evaluation lies within a 150-300m radius to the north and west of the core ecclesiastical area at Whithorn.
- 1.3 Prior to the commencement of the evaluation a desk-based assessment was carried out (Lowe 2001). This involved the study of aerial photographs, maps, estate plans and a walkover survey. This research tentatively identified the line of a possible enclosure, previously unrecorded. It is roughly oval in shape and enclosed an area of 7.5ha. The possibility of this boundary representing an enclosure relating to the priory was taken into account and examined through the positioning of evaluation trenches.
- 1.4 The evaluation was undertaken in the week commencing 10th September 2001.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The evaluation trenches were located in fields to the north and west of the scheduled area around Whithorn Priory, which is situated off George Street on the north side of the town of Whithorn. The fields investigated are all presently semi-improved pasture. The area is characterised by outcrops of bedrock, in the form of ridges and rocky knolls.
- 2.2 Electric overhead cables run across the western half of the site. There is also a buried water main. Both of these services had an impact on the location of the trenches.

3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- 3.1 To establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits within the area to the north and west of the medieval priory.

- 3.2 To verify the existence of the possible enclosure (Figure 2) identified in the desk-based assessment (Lowe 2001).
- 3.3 To establish whether any evidence remains, of the mill pond to the north of the Ket, or mill buildings along its banks.
- 3.4 To establish the extent, in three dimensions, of any archaeological deposits identified and their vulnerability to the current management regime.
- 3.5 To determine the archaeological significance of any deposits.
- 3.6 To provide management information for the longer-term protection of any archaeological deposits or features identified.

4 METHODS

4.1 FIELDWORK

- 4.2.1 The number of trenches excavated and their location was amended due to local concerns and the location of over-head cables and buried services (Figure 2).
- 4.2.2 Seventeen evaluation trenches were excavated using a back-actor JCB with a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket. The turf was stripped off and stored separately, the topsoil was then removed until the natural subsoil or archaeological deposits were revealed. Fourteen of the trenches were 25m long; the others were between 34m and 50m long.
- 4.2.3 Trenches that contained archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand and features were sample excavated. Recording was undertaken according to Headland Archaeology's standard recording procedure. Trenches containing archaeological features were drawn by hand, sections through features were also drawn. The trenches were located and levels were taken using an EDM and related to the Ordnance Survey national grid and Ordnance Datum.
- 4.2.4 Soil samples were taken from excavated features for further assessment.

4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES ASSESSMENT

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- 4.3.1 The samples were subjected to a system of flotation in a Siraf style flotation tank. The floating debris (flot) was collected in a 250 μ m sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted by eye and material of archaeological significance removed.

- 4.3.2 A sub-sample of 0.5 litres was also removed from one peat sample (Context 112) and wet-sieved through a 500 μ m and 250 μ m sieve, then scanned using a binocular microscope to analyse the potential for waterlogged remains.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1.1 The fields that were evaluated can be conveniently divided into three areas; Area 1 to the east of the Manse contained Trenches 1-4; Area 2 to the west of the Manse, contained Trenches 5-10, and Area 3 to the south of the Ket contained Trenches 11-17. A detailed description of the contexts excavated, and also general trench descriptions are presented within the appendices.
- 5.1.2 Area 1 contained the highest concentration of archaeological features and also the most complex underlying geology. The geology is dominated by bands of bedrock, some of which can be seen as outcrops on the surface, but largely they were covered by topsoil. These bands were characterised by having a steep dip and the upper parts were fractured producing a weathered surface.
- 5.1.3 Trench 1 did not contain any archaeological features. Limited excavation was carried out of the build-up of soil between the bands of bedrock to confirm that these were natural troughs in the bedrock. A similar natural feature formed by fractures in the bedrock was also excavated in Trench 4.
- 5.1.4 Several broad shallow linear features ([126],[118] & [104]) were present in Trenches 2 and 3. These features were all aligned northeast southwest, and are thought to represent the base of plough furrows from rig and furrow cultivation.
- 5.1.5 Two narrow rubble-filled field drains were recorded in Trenches 2 and 3. Both are modern and were therefore not excavated.
- 5.1.6 A curvilinear feature was present towards the north end of Trench 3. Three sections were excavated across the ditch [120], [122] and [124]. One section only caught the edge of the ditch at the edge of the trench. Therefore it appeared very shallow in section. However the other two sections showed the ditch to be substantial with steep sides. The deepest section through the ditch [122] was 0.65m deep (Plate 1 & 2). No finds were recovered from any of the excavated ditch sections.
- 5.1.7 When the topsoil was removed from Trench 4 an area of small to medium sub-rounded stones was revealed towards the north end (Plate 4). A sondage was excavated through this material, which included degraded animal bone, pottery and small pieces of slag. Beneath this deposit there was a burnt patch within the natural sub-soil, and an apparent cut edge [134]. To the north of this area the topsoil was significantly deeper and contained large angular stones. The natural sub-soil was not uncovered in this area.
- 5.1.8 Area 2 contained Trenches 5 to 10, located to the west of the manse and north of the Ket. No features of archaeological significance were present in any of these trenches.

Two modern features were investigated; a hand dug drainage ditch in Trench 7, which carried water into the Ket, and a large pit at the south east end of Trench 9 filled with rubble containing modern material.

5.1.9 Trenches 13 and 17 in Area 3, to the south of the Ket and west of the scheduled area, contained archaeological deposits. Trench 12, which sloped down to the Ket, had a pure clay natural subsoil above which an area of peat had formed. The lense of peat was 11.5m long and had a maximum depth of 0.4m. A sample of this peat was taken for environmental assessment (sample no.2).

5.1.10 In Trench 13 a linear feature ran parallel to and was partially obscured by the south east end of the trench. The ditch [107] is visible for a total length of 12m. The excavated slot was 0.24m deep. It appeared that the ditch terminated within the trench. However after cleaning, the terminus was so shallow it was not possible to excavate it. It is possible that the ditch had been truncated by plough action producing the effect of a terminal. The location and form shown in Figure.3 is approximate.

5.1.11 Two linear features were present in Trench 17. Only the terminus of [113] was present which had a maximum depth of 0.12m. The second linear [110] was a broad shallow feature, only 0.15m deep and 2m wide. Again this was characteristic of a plough furrow.

5.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES ASSESSMENT

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5.2.1 RESULTS

Samples were taken from seven different trenches across the site. For the purpose of this assessment the samples have been ordered by trench number. Results are presented in Tables 1 to 3.

5.2.2 Retents

Pottery – Two small fragments of medieval and one larger fragment of early post-medieval pottery were recovered from two samples Context 105 and 136.

Slag – Occasional small fragments of non-ferrous slag were recovered from Contexts 129, 136 and 111.

Animal Bone – A small number of samples contained low concentrations of fragmentary burnt animal bone.

Charcoal – Most samples contained small quantities of charcoal. Three contexts, 105, 132 and 136, contained sufficient charcoal for an AMS date (indicated by an asterisk in Table 2).

Coal and Cinders – Occasional fragments of coal and cinders (clinker) were recovered from a number of the samples. The presence of such material suggests that coal was being used as an additional source of fuel to wood.

5.2.3 Flots

Preservation of most organic remains on site was by charring but one peat sample did contain a small quantity of waterlogged material. Occasional fragments of modern un-charred wood and weed seeds were also recovered.

Cereal Grain, Charred Weed Seeds and Other Plant Remains - Most samples contained small quantities of cereal grain. Generally the quantity of grain present was very small with only one or two grains per sample. Context 133 (primary fill of plough furrow) did, however, stand out with respect to high concentration of cereal grain. Greater than 1500 cereal grain were recovered from ten litres of soil. The cereals were dominated by *Triticum aestivo-compactum* (bread/club wheat) and *Avena* sp. (oat), with lesser quantities of *Hordeum vulgare* (barley). Occasional seeds of wild/weedy taxa were also present including *Polygonum* sp. (knotgrass), *Rumex* sp. (dock), *Chrysanthemum segetum* (corn marigold), and *Raphanus raphanistrum* (charlock). Oat florets, wheat chaff fragments, peat fragments, straw culm nodes and heather charcoal were also present.

5.2.4 Waterlogged Sample

A peat horizon was identified within Trench 12 and one sample was removed for analysis of waterlogged material. The sample was dominated by well-humified peat, degraded modern root debris and occasional fragments of degraded wood. The more delicate material had disintegrated beyond recognition. The fine fraction (<500 μ m) of the sample contained occasional fragments of insect eggs and one *Betula* sp. (birch) achene was recovered from the larger fraction (>500 μ m). These are most likely modern contamination.

Table 1: Composition of Retents

Context No	Sample No	Context Descriptions	Trench No	Pot	Slag	Animal Teeth	Bone	Charcoal		Coal	Cinders	Cereal Grains	Hazelnut Shell	Comments
								Qty	AMS					
128	4	Deposit	1					+		+				
129	5	Compact Deposit	1		+		+	+				+		
105	1	Fill of ditch [104]	2	+			+	+	*		+			
132	6	Lower fill of Linear [122]	3					+	*		+			
133	7	Primary fill of Linear [118]	3				+	++						Heather Charcoal
136	8	Secondary fill of Feature [134]	4	+	+	+	+		*	+				
106	9	Fill of ditch [104]	13					+		+	+			
111	3	Fill of linear [110]	17		+						+			

Table 2: Composition of Flots

Context No	Sample No	Context Descriptions	Trench No	Total Flot Vol (ml)	Ceral Grain	Weed Seeds	Charcoal Qty	Comments
128	4	Deposit	1	200	+		+	Oat x 1 Cereal indet. x 1
129	5	Compact Deposit	1	10	+			Oat x 1
105	1	Fill of ditch [104]	2	100	+			Oat x 2
132	6	Lower fill of Linear [122]	3	50			+	
133	7	Primary fill of Linear [118]	3	200	++++	++	+	Wheat +++++, Oat +++++, Barley ++, Legume sp. ++ Oat Florets +++, Wheat Rachis Fragments + Culm Fragments ++ Peat Fragments ++ Chrysanthemum segetum ++ Polygonum sp. + Rumex sp. +, Raphanus raphanistrum +
136	8	Secondary fill of Feature [134]	4	20	+		+	Wheat +, Oat +
106	9	Fill of ditch [107]	13	100	+			Oat x 1
111	3	Fill of linear [110]	17	10	+	+		Oat x 1

Table 3: Composition of Waterlogged Remains

Context No	Sample No	Context Description	Trench No	Sample Composition
112	2	Peat Deposit	12	Humified Peat +++ Degraded wood + Root debris +++ Insect eggs + Betula cf. pendula x 1

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The objectives of the evaluation were all achieved by the fieldwork. It was shown that archaeological deposits are present within the area to the north and west of the medieval priory. There were also a number of useful negative results produced.
- 6.1.1 Trenches 9 & 10 were excavated in the area thought to contain the mill pond. The ground through which the trenches were excavated was dry and the deposits did not show any signs of past waterlogging. There was no depression or natural hollow to suggest the presence of a pond, or even a marshy area.
- 6.1.2 Trenches 1 & 11 were located as close to the Ket as possible in accordance with health and safety considerations. The trenches were located in the vicinity of two possible mill sites (Andy Nicholson pers. com.). Neither trench uncovered any structural remains that may have formed part of a mill building.
- 6.1.3 The postulated boundary of the monastic settlement (Figure.2) as discussed in the desk-based assessment (Lowe 2001) was investigated through the positioning of Trenches 8, 9 & 10. These trenches were located to cross the only part of the boundary no longer fossilised in an existing wall or property boundary. However none of these trenches produced evidence of a boundary in the form of a ditch. If the boundary had been a turf or earthen bank it is unlikely that any remains would have survived.
- 6.1.4 The geology of the area to the north of the priory is important both in allowing us to understand what activities might have been carried out in this area, and also in evaluating what archaeological techniques would be useful in future investigation. The bedrock, consisted of a steeply dipping sedimentary sequence eroded to form ridges aligned northeast southwest. The surface of the rock when exposed in the trenches had a fractured weathered appearance. Due to the soft nature of this type of rock and the lack of depth of the topsoil, the weathered upper surface is probably the result of natural processes within the soil rather than the surface of the rock having been exposed. The nature of the bedrock would mean that geophysical survey would produce linear features, which would relate to the geology hence making it difficult to identify archaeological features.
- 6.1.5. The linear features identified in Area 3 are difficult to interpret due to the limited area of each ditch visible within the trenches. The only artefact recovered was a piece of modern bottle glass from the terminus of linear [113]. The linear features in Areas 1 and 3, are aligned on a similar orientation, have been interpreted as the base of plough furrows. Combined with the broad shallow nature of this feature this would suggest it is also the result of rig and furrow cultivation.
- 6.1.6. Area 1 contained the highest concentration of archaeological features, Trench 3 and 4 are of particular interest. Two linear features were also present in Trench 2. [104] has been interpreted as the base of a plough furrow. It contained some sherds of pottery including a local red earthen ware that may be medieval in date. The function of the second narrow linear [108] is unknown. It did not contain any finds.

- 6.1.7. Within Trench 3 there were two linear features, which appear to be the base of plough furrows. One of these linears [118] included a dark charcoal rich deposit at the base [133] (Figure 4). A sample taken for environmental processing produced a large quantity of charred grain including wheat, oat and barley. The presence of wheat grains is particularly significant, as wheat was not grown in large quantities on the west coast, due to the wetter climate. It may be the result of grain drying being carried out in the vicinity or material being dumped on the fields as manure. The results from the environmental processing have been discussed in more detail elsewhere in this report.
- 6.1.8. The curvilinear feature within Trench 3 was the most substantial feature on the site (Plate 1 & 2). It curved round to the southwest of a low rise. The sides sloped steeply to a U shaped base. The ditch is not substantial enough to form a barrier in itself. This together with the shape of the ditch, suggests that it may have held a timber fence or palisade. Excavated examples of similar enclosures are largely found to be prehistoric in date. However Early Historic examples are also known. Charcoal recovered from environmental processing of the basal fill of the ditch [132] is large enough to be sent for radiocarbon dating. There were no other finds recovered from any of the interventions during excavation. The ditch is cut by the plough scar [126].
- 6.1.9. The north end of Trench 4 contained some significant archaeological deposits. A sondage was excavated through a layer of sub-rounded stones, which appeared to form a crude surface (Plate 4). Within this surface [135] pieces of slag and degraded animal bone were recovered. Beneath the surface a patch of burning was uncovered. A second lower deposit [136] had a clear interface with the stony surface above. It contained charcoal, slag and occasional fired clay. Pottery was recovered from both deposits and has been dated to the medieval period. Locally produced wares such as those recovered can be difficult to date accurately. However, a sherd from the upper stony layer has been dated to the earlier medieval period. Environmental processing of a sample of the lower deposit produced cereal grain, slag, charcoal, pottery and animal bone. The natural yellow clay beneath the deposits sloped moderately to the north. The deposits including the stone surface may have been used to level up the ground surface to form a working area or yard associated with industrial activity. Alternatively, the hollow may have been dug deliberately to house a particular activity with the basal fill representing a build up of waste products, which was later covered over with the stones to produce a stable surface. It would be possible to date the lower deposit using radiocarbon analysis of the charred grain, whilst the nature of the industry could be determined from further analysis of the slag retrieved from the stone surface.
- 6.1.10. The majority of samples contained both a slight domestic and industrial signal including low concentrations of cereal grain, pottery, animal bone and slag. None of the artifacts or environmental remains were *in situ* and it is clear that the assemblages represent re-worked and re-deposited debris. They are not likely to be associated with the features from which they were recovered and are, therefore, very difficult to interpret.

- 6.1.11. *Context 133* One sample recovered from a linear feature, identified as the base of a plough furrow, did contain a high concentration of charred plant remains. The assemblage included cereal grain (wheat, oat and barley), weed seeds, oat florets, wheat rachis fragments, straw culm nodes, heather charcoal and peat. The large numbers of cereal grain present (>1500 grains) suggests that the assemblage represents the remnants of crop processing activities. It could for example represent something like the ploughed out remains of a drying kiln.
- 6.1.12. The data available suggests that this assemblage was probably formed by a single event, yet there is no evidence to suggest *in situ* burning. It is feasible that this evidence has been destroyed through plough activity. Otherwise the plant remains were probably dumped into the plough furrow.
- 6.1.13. **Importance of Wheat.** Significantly, the sample contained a large number of wheat grains. The presence of wheat within this area of Scotland is unusual. The Statistical Account from the Whithorn area (Davidson, 1791-99) indicates that only oat and bere (barley) were grown in the region during the 18th century. The high rainfall experienced by western counties of Scotland can result in the premature germination of wheat (Watson & Moore, 1962).
- 6.1.14. Similar assemblages were recovered from the monastic settlement at Hoddum dating to the 7th – 10th century. The environmental evidence from this site suggests that the bread wheat was probably imported into the region from elsewhere (Holden, 1998).
- 6.1.15. The archaeological excavation lay within a 150 – 300 m radius to the north and west of the monastic centre at Whithorn. The presence of a high concentration of bread/club wheat within this area could suggest that the plant remains may relate to the monastic settlement, potentially indicating the presence of processing areas away from the main monastic building.

6.2 *RECOMMENDATIONS*

- :Radiocarbon dating of Context 133 (cereal grain) in order to confirm the presence of crop processing activities relating to the Monastic settlement.
- :Radiocarbon dating of Context 132 to confirm its correlation with the Monastic settlement. Identification of wood species present would have to be carried out first.
- :The pottery and slag should be incorporated into the analyses of similar material types collected by hand.
- :Further analysis of the animal bone recovered would give very little additional information to that gained above.
- :A summary of methodology and results from this assessment should be added to any final report.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Although no evidence was found of a physical boundary marking the limit of the settlement, the results from Area 1 show a definite concentration of what appears to be light industrial and agricultural activity within this area. The rig and furrow remains shows that the area was later converted to arable fields. The enclosure within Trench 3 may indicate activity on the site prior to the development of the monastic settlement at Whithorn. Alternatively it may have been used as a stock pen related to the production of food to supply the needs of the settlement during the early medieval period. Further analysis of the environmental data, in particular radiocarbon dating, could provide a more accurate chronology for these changes of use and help us understand how this area related to activity within the core of the ecclesiastical settlement at Whithorn.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The fieldwork was carried out by Jenni Morrison, Liz Jones, Ross Murray, and Dan Atkinson, the project was managed by Chris Lowe. The illustrations were prepared by Mike Middleton. Assessment of the carbonised plant remains was undertaken by Mhairi Hastie. The Project was co-ordinated on behalf of The Whithorn Trust by Janet Butterworth.

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APPENDIX 1:

CONTEXT REGISTERS

Context No.	Trench	Description	Depth
100	1	Spread. Mottled yellow, grey and brown compacted friable clay with charcoal flecks. Roughly rectangular, as exposed, with clear interfaces.	-
101	6	Natural subsoil. Mixed bluish grey yellow and orange clay with large fragments of stone. Flecked with possible charcoal due to bioturbation.	>0.15 m
102	7	Fill of drainage ditch [103]. Mottled brown, light red and blue grey compact silty clay with abundant fragments of bedrock <0.30 m.	>0.70 m
103	7	Cut of drainage ditch. Linear, orientated north – south, with steep sides. Base unknown.	>0.70 m
104	2	Cut of linear feature, orientated north – south, broader at north. Gently sloping sides and concave base.	0.45 m
105	2	Fill of linear [104]. Light red to brown firm clay with small to large angular to sub-angular stone inclusions and sparse charcoal flecks. Stonier to west.	0.45 m
106	13	Fill of ditch [107]. Light greyish brown very compact fine sandy silt with very rare sub-rounded stone inclusions <0.05 m	0.24 m
107	13	Cut of north – south ditch. Linear with moderate sloping sides and flat base.	0.24 m
108	2	Cut of north - south gully/ditch. Linear with steep sides (less steep on eastern side) and concave base.	0.14 m
109	2	Fill of linear [108]. Mid greyish brown fairly compact clayey loam with small to medium sub-angular stones.	0.14 m
110	17	Cut of linear feature. Gently sloping sides and shallow concave base.	0.15 m
111	17	Fill of linear [110]. Grey compact clay with small to large sub-angular stones.	0.15 m
112	12	Peat deposit. Dark blackish brown slightly greasy peat.	0.40 m
113	17	Cut of possible linear terminal. Shallow sides and concave base.	0.12 m
114	17	Fill of possible linear [113]. Mid brownish grey loose loam with small to medium sub-angular stone inclusions.	0.12 m
115	3	Topsoil. Dark brown loose to friable clayey silt with stone inclusions.	0.30 m
116	3	Cut of northeast – southwest drainage ditch. Unexcavated.	-
117	3	Fill of drain [116]. Loose mid brown clayey silt with very frequent broken stones <0.20 m. Unexcavated.	-
118	3	Cut of north – south linear feature. Gentle breaks of slope with shallow sides, irregular on east, breaking to gently to slightly concave base.	0.16 m
119	3	Fill of shallow ditch [118]. Dark brownish grey firm clayey silt with moderate small fractured stone <0.10 m. Clear interfaces.	0.09 m
120	3	Cut of curvilinear ditch, orientated north-east – south-west. Sharp break of slope to moderately sides with gradual break of slope to slightly concave base.	0.25 m
121	3	Fill of ditch [120]. Dark greyish brown firm silty clay with moderate stone fragments <0.05 m	0.25 m
122	3	Cut of northwest – southeast curvilinear ditch. Gentle break of slope to slightly convex sides breaking sharply to flat base.	0.60 m

123	3	Upper fill of ditch [122]. Mid brown firm clayey silt with moderate stone fragments <0.05 m. Clear interfaces in plan.	0.35 m
124	3	Cut of east – west curvilinear ditch. Gently sloping northern side. Southern side and base not exposed.	<0.10 m
125	3	Fill of ditch [124]. Mid greyish brown firm clayey silt with occasional small slatey fragments <0.03 m.	0.70 m
126	3	Cut of north – south furrow. Very shallow sides and slightly uneven flat base.	0.08 m
127	3	Fill of furrow [126]. Mid brownish grey compact silty clay with occasional small broken stones <0.02 m.	0.08 m
128	1	Deposit in hollow in bedrock. Light brown compact fine sandy silt with abundant angular stone and rare rounded stone inclusions. Possible levelling deposit.	0.30 m
129	1	Deposit in hollow in bedrock. Grey brown compact fine sandy silt with abundant angular stone and rare rounded stone inclusions <0.20 m.	0.21 m
130	1	Natural subsoil.	-
131	1	Deposit in hollow in bedrock. Mid brown loose loam with very common small to large angular to sub-angular stones. Possible levelling deposit.	-----
132	3	Mid to light greyish brown firm clayey silt with very frequent sandstone fragments <0.07 m and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.25 m
133	3	Black charcoal rich slightly humic silt with very occasional slatey stone inclusions <0.05 m.	0.07 m
134	4	Cut of feature. Southern side slopes moderately, levels out before breaking again to gentle slope. Northern side and base not exposed.	>0.40 m
135	4	Upper fill of feature [134]. Mid to dark brownish grey firm slightly silty clay with frequent sharp broken stone fragments <0.15 m.	0.40 m
136	4	Fill of feature [134]. Firm dark grey clay with moderate medium to large stone fragments and occasional charcoal and rare burnt clay	>0.22 m
137	9	Fill of pit [138]. Dark brown silty loam with occasional stones and modern debris (china etc).	0.40 m
138	9	Cut of pit. Extends under western edge of trench, but probably ovoid. Steep concave sides breaking gently to concave base.	0.40 m

APPENDIX 2:

TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Top soil depth	Description of natural subsoil	Length
1	0.2-0.3m	Bands of bedrock orientated southwest northeast, between which are bands of reddish yellow clay and dark brown silty clay. Trench slopes down to southeast.	25m
2	0.3m	Yellowish red silty clay stony patch at north end	25m
3	0.3m	Yellowish red to mid brown silty clay with patches of fractured stone.	25m
4	0.4-0.5m	Bands of bedrock orientated southwest/ northeast, between which are bands of reddish yellow clay and dark brown silty clay. Topsoil deeper at north end.	25m

5	0.3-0.5m	Patches of yellowish brown silty clay with areas of shattered grey bedrock, topsoil deeper at south end.	25m
6	0.3m	Light grey and reddish brown silty clay	25m
7	0.2-0.4m	Mid grey brown silty clay with bands of shattered bed rock	50m
8	0.35m-0.5m	Light grey silty clay with shattered stone. Topsoil deeper at the west end.	25m
9	0.2-0.3m	Pale grey silty clay with shattered stone,	50m
10	0.4m	Shattered bedrock and yellowish red and grey silty clay.	25m
11	0.40-0.5m	Bands of grey and reddish brown silty clay	25m
12	0.50-0.6m	Bands of bedrock and grey clay, sloping down to the Ket at the north west, where there was more clay. Peat had formed between the topsoil and the clay. Sample no. 033	34m
13	0.20-0.3m	Reddish brown and grey silty clay with shattered stone	25m
14	0.47m	Reddish brown silty clay with patches of shattered stone	25m
15	0.25m	Reddish brown and grey silty clay with shattered stone	25m
16	0.40m	Fractured bed rock with areas of mid brown silty clay	25m
17	0.40m	Fractured bed rock with areas of mid brown silty clay	25m

APPENDIX 3:

DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing number.	Scale	Description
1	1:50	Plan of Trench 1
2	1:10	North facing section of ditch [103]
3	1:50	Plan of Trench 6
4	1:10	South facing section of ditch [104]
5	1:50	Plan of Trench 2
6	1:10	South facing section of linear [108]
7	1:10	South west facing section of linear feature [110]
8	1:50	West facing section of Trench 12
9	1:50	Plan of Trench 12
10	1:10	South east facing section of [113]
11	1:50	Plan of Trench 17
12	1:10	South facing section of linear [107]
13	1:50	Plan of Trench 13
14	1:50	Plan of Trench 7
15	1:10	North facing section of (128), (129), (130)
16	1:50	Plan of Trench 3
17	1:10	West facing section of ditch [120]
18	1:10	South facing section of ditch [118]
19	1:10	East facing section of ditch [122]
20	1:10	East facing section of ditch [124]
21	1:10	South facing section of ditch [126]
22	1:10	South facing section of natural feature, Trench 1
23	1:50	Plan of Trench 4
24	1:10	North east facing section of [124]

APPENDIX 4:

FINDS REGISTER

Vitreous

Context Number	Trench Number	Description
114	17	Green bottle glass
119	3	Clear glass tubing

Industrial

Context Number	Trench Number	Description
Topsoil	4	Piece of orange fired clay bonded to grey vesicular slag possibly from glass working
Natural feature	4	Cinder
Natural feature	4	Large lump of coal
111	17	Small fragments of non-ferrous slag
119	3	Piece of slag
129	1	1 lump of orange fired clay bonded to grey vesicular slag possibly from glass working & 3 lumps of slag
131	1	Iron nodule, possibly heavily degraded object
135	3	3 pieces of slag
136	4	Small fragments of non-ferrous slag

Environmental

Context Number	Trench Number	Description
Natural feature	4	Teeth from large mammals
105	2	Fragments of burnt animal bone
119	3	2 pieces of burnt bone
129	1	Piece of burnt bone from large mammal
133	3	Fragments of burnt animal bone
135	4	Many fragments of degraded bone and teeth from large mammal(s)
136	4	Fragments of burnt animal bone

Stone

Context Number	Trench Number	Description
Topsoil	6	Sandstone – possible fragment of priory (Peter Hill, pers. comm.)
128	1	7 pieces of roof slate, 6 of which show parts of holes, 1 showing a right-angle at the corner, with tool marks from tool with small rounded end
131	1	BM stone. Sandstone – possible fragment of priory (Peter Hill, pers. comm.)

Ceramic

Context Number	Trench Number	Description
Topsoil	1	Rim sherd of white glazed white earthenware, 18 th – 20 th century
Topsoil	1	Hollow-ware body sherd of flecked beige glaze earthenware, 19 th – 20 th century
Topsoil	1	3 black outer surface glazed red earthenware hollow-ware body sherds
Topsoil	1	Black glazed red earthenware hollow-ware body sherd
Topsoil	1	Stoneware top sherd
Topsoil	1	Abraded glazed reduced hollow-ware body sherd late medieval to early post-medieval
Topsoil	6	Glazed local red earthenware base sherd, medieval
Topsoil	6	2 adjoining green glazed local red earthenware body sherds, medieval
Natural feature	4	Abraded glazed local red earthenware body sherd, medieval
105	2	Local red earthenware hollow-ware body sherd, medieval?
105	2	2 adjoining hollow-ware body sherds of white fabric
119	3	White glazed white earthenware body sherd 18 th – 20 th century
119	3	Brown glaze with yellow slip-trailing red earthenware body sherd, post-medieval
135	4	Patchy green glazed white fabric hollow-ware body sherd
135	4	Glazed and rouletted/stamped red earthenware hollow-ware body sherd, early medieval
136	4	Small fragment of early post-medieval pottery

APPENDIX 5

PHOTO REGISTER

Film number 1; Black and white print

Picture Number	Direction Facing	Description
1	NW	Trench 1
2	SE	Trench 1
3	N	Trench 2
4	SE	Trench 2
5	S	Trench 3
6	NE	Trench 5
7	NE	Trench 6
8	NW	Trench 7
9	NW	Trench 7
10	NW	Pre- exc shot of ditch [103]
11	NW	Pre-exc shot pf ditch [103]
12	W	Trench 10
13	W	Trench 10
14	NW	Trench 9
15	SE	Trench 9
16	W	Trench 8
17	SW	Modern ditch [103]

18	SW	Modern ditch [103]
19	NE	Section of ditch [104]
20	NE	Section of ditch [104]
21	NE	Section of ditch [104]
22	E	Plan view of ditch [107]
23	E	Plan view of ditch [107]
24	N	Section of ditch [107]
25	N	Section of ditch [107]

Film number 2; Colour slide

Picture Number	Direction Facing	Description
1	NW	Trench 1
2	SE	Trench 1
3	NE	Trench 6
4	NW	Trench 7
5	NW	Trench 7
6	NW	Pre- exc shot of ditch [103]
7	NW	Pre-exc shot pf ditch [103]
8	W	Trench 10
9	W	Trench 10
10	NW	Trench 9
11	W	Trench 8
12	SW	Modern ditch [103]
13	SW	Modern ditch [103]
14	N	Section of ditch [104]
15	N	Section of ditch [104]
16	E	Plan view of ditch [107]
17	E	Plan view of ditch [107]
18	N	Section of ditch [107]
19	N	Section of ditch [107]
20	N	Section of ditch [107]
21	S	Trench 14
22	S	Trench 14
23	S	Trench 14
24	SW	Trench 15
25	SW	Trench 15
26	SW	Trench 15
27	SW	Trench 16
28	SW	Trench 16
29	SW	Trench 16
30	N	Trench 17
31	N	Trench 17
32	N	Trench 17

Film number 3; Black and white print

Picture Number	Direction Facing	Description
1	SW	Trench 15
2	SW	Trench 15
3	SW	Trench 15
4	NE	Trench 16
5	NE	Trench 16
6	NE	Trench 16
7	S	Trench 14
8	S	Trench 14
9	S	Trench 14
10	NE	Section of ditch [110]
11	NE	Section of ditch [110]
12	NE	Section of ditch [110]
13	NW	Section of ditch [113]
14	NW	Section of ditch [113]
15	NW	Section of ditch [113]
16	E	Section through peat (112)
17	E	Small gully [108]
18	E	Small gully [108]

Film number 4; Colour slide

Picture Number	Direction Facing	Description
1	NE	Section through ditch [110]
2	NE	Section through ditch [110]
3	NE	Section through ditch [110]
4	NW	Section through ditch [113]
5	NW	Section through ditch [113]
6	NW	Section through ditch [113]
7	E	Peat layer (112) in trench 12
8	E	Section through small linear feature [108]
9	E	Section through small linear feature [108]
10	SE	Trench 11
11	SE	Trench 11
12	SE	Trench 11
13	W	Trench 12
14	W	Trench 12
15	W	Trench 12
16	S	Trench 13
17	S	Trench 13
18	S	Trench 13
19	N	Trench 3, hollow beneath stone slab
20	E	Trench 3, hollow beneath stone slab
21	S	Section through linear feature [118]
22	W	Plan of linear feature [118]

23	SW	Plan of feature [120]
24	SW	Section through feature [120]
25	W	Plan of linear feature [124]
26	W	Section through linear feature [124]
27	W	Plan of feature [126] & [124]
28	SE	Section of (128),(129),(130)
29	SE	Section of (128),(129),(130)
30	W	Plan of (128)
31	W	Plan of (128)
32	N	Section through (128)
33	N	Section through (128)
34	N	Section through (128)
35	W	Modern pit [138]
36	W	Modern pit [138]

Film number 5; Black and white print

Picture Number	Direction Facing	Description
1	SE	Trench 11
2	SE	Trench 11
3	SE	Trench 11
4	W	Trench 12
5	W	Trench 12
6	W	Trench 12
7	S	Trench 13
8	S	Trench 13
9	S	Trench 13
10	N	Trench 3, hollow beneath stone slab
11	E	Trench 3, hollow beneath stone slab
12	S	Section through linear feature [118]
13	W	Plan of linear feature [118]
14	SW	Plan of feature [120]
15	SW	Section through feature [120]
16	W	Plan of linear feature [124]
17	W	Section through linear feature [124]
18	W	Plan of feature [126] & [124]
19	SE	Section of (128),(129),(130)
20	SE	Section of (128),(129),(130)
21	W	Plan of (128)
22	W	Plan of (128)
23	N	Section through (128)
24	N	Section through (128)

Film number 6; Black and white print

Picture Number	Direction Facing	Description
1	W	Plan of ditch [122]
2	W	Plan of ditch [122]
3	W	Plan of ditch [122]
4	W	Trench 9
5	W	Trench 9
6	SW	Section of [135]
7	SW	Section of [135]

Film number 7; Colour slide

Picture Number	Direction Facing	Description
1	W	Section through ditch [122]
2	W	Section through ditch [122]
3	W	Trench 9
4	W	Trench 9
5	SW	Section through feature [134]
6	SW	Section through feature [134]

APPENDIX 6:

SAMPLE REGISTER

Sample Number	Context Number	Description
1	105	Fill of ditch
2	112	Peat deposit in trench 12
3	111	Fill of linear feature
4	128	Levelling deposit
5	129	Levelling deposit
6	132	Primary fill of ditch [122]
7	133	Primary fill of ditch [118]
8	136	Fill of feature [134]

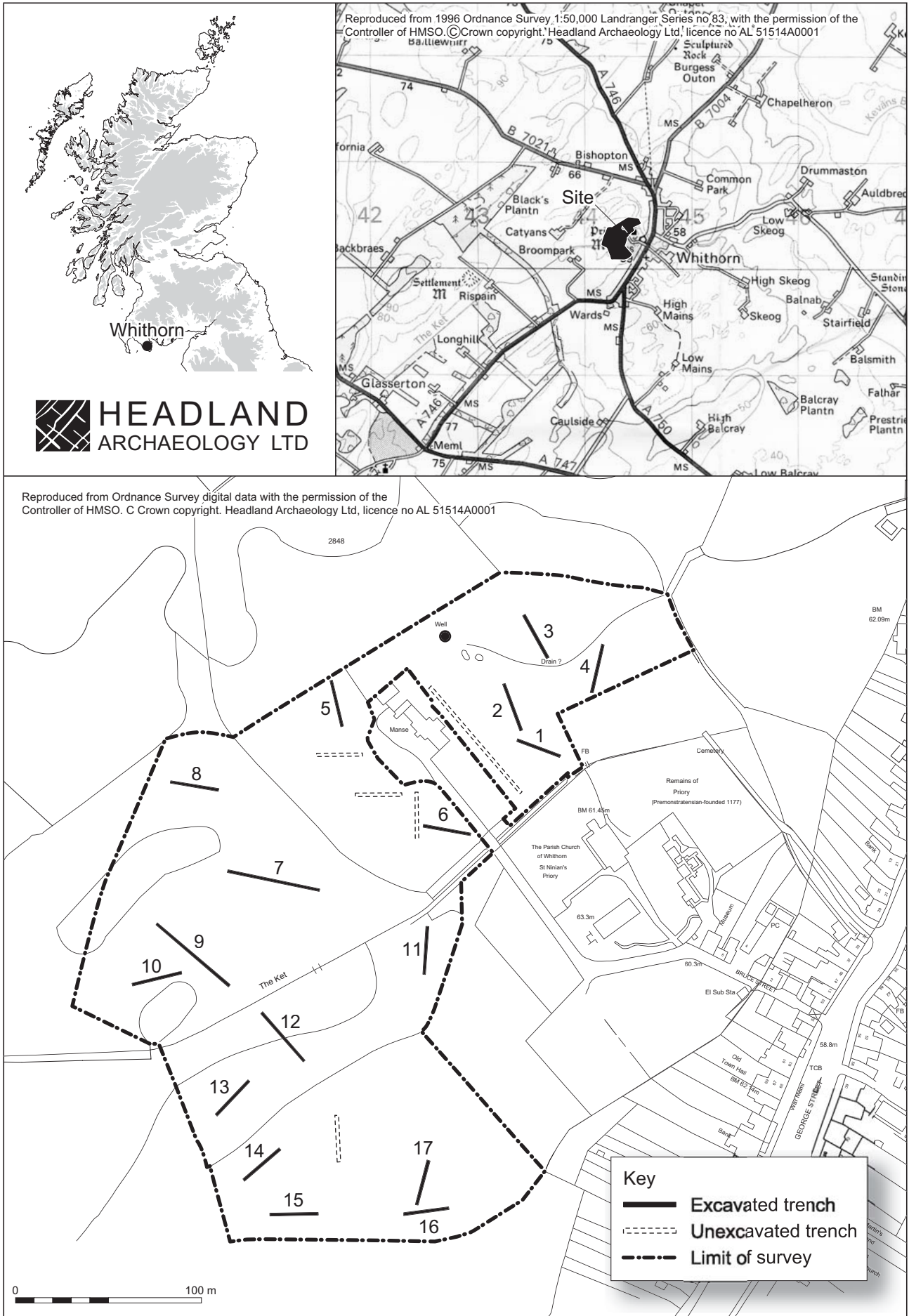









Figure 1 - Site location

CLIENT: Whithorn Trust	
PROJECT: Whithorn Boundaries	
PROJECT CODE: RCW 00	
TITLE: Evaluation Trench Layout	
DWG No: 1	VERSION: 2
DRAWN BY: JMMC	DATE: 8.08.01

KEY

	Evaluation trenches
	Proposed trenches
	Overhead power lines
	Possible ecclesiastical boundary
	Drain and well
	Scheduled area
	Telegraph poles

This product contains data surveyed at one or more of the following scales: 1/2500, 1/2000 & 1/1000.

The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way. Heights are given in metres above Datum.

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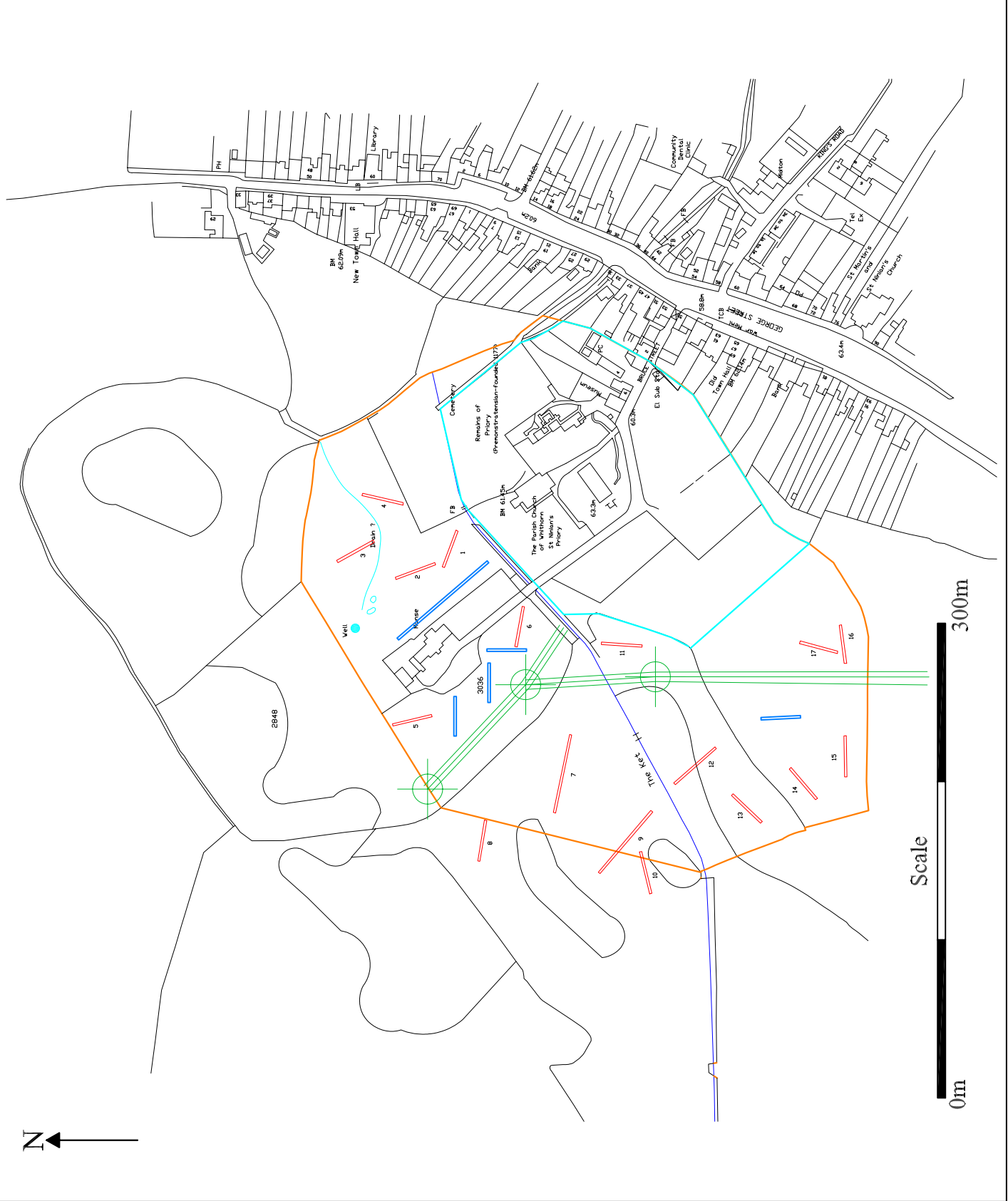
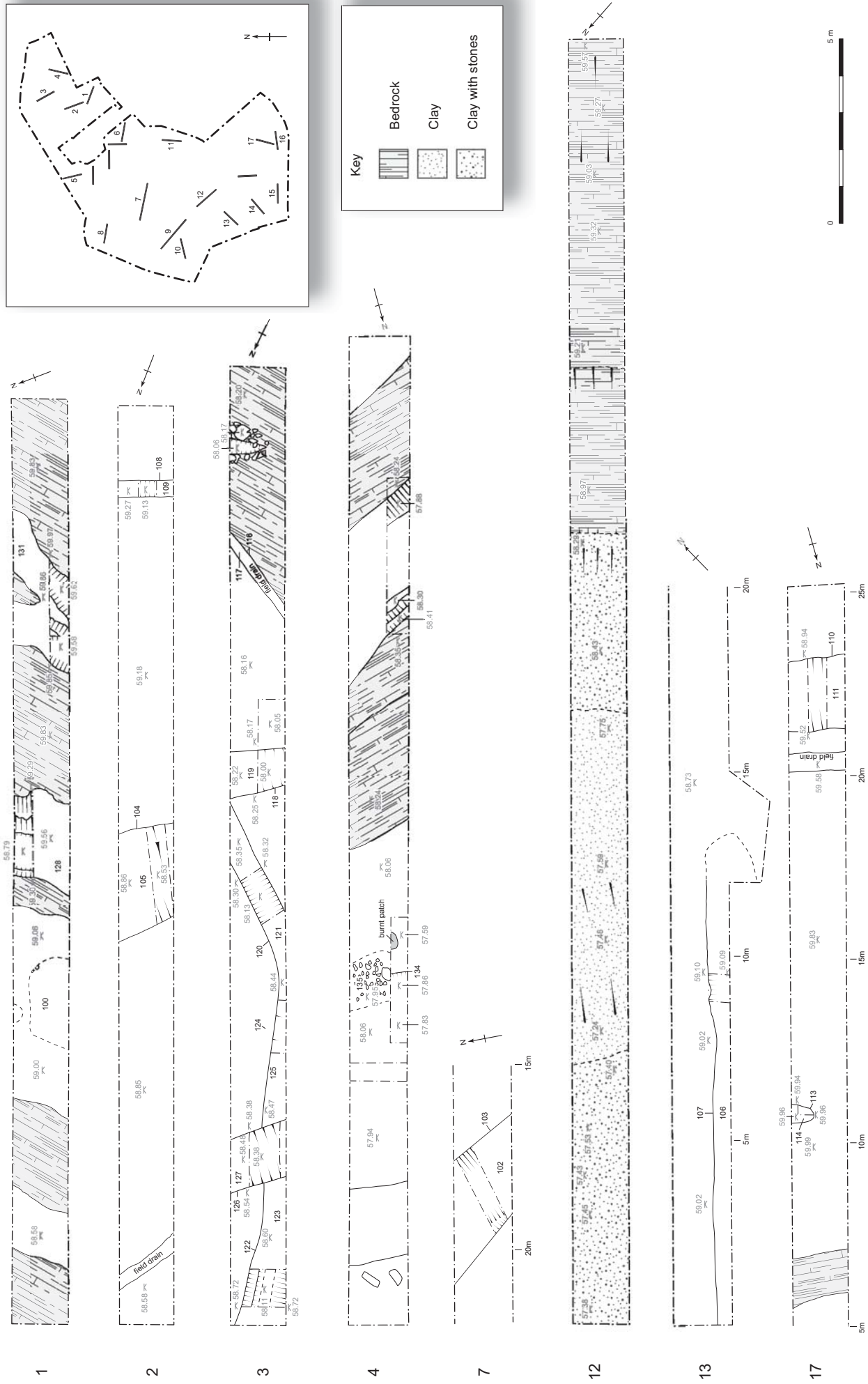


Figure 2: Trench plan

Trench



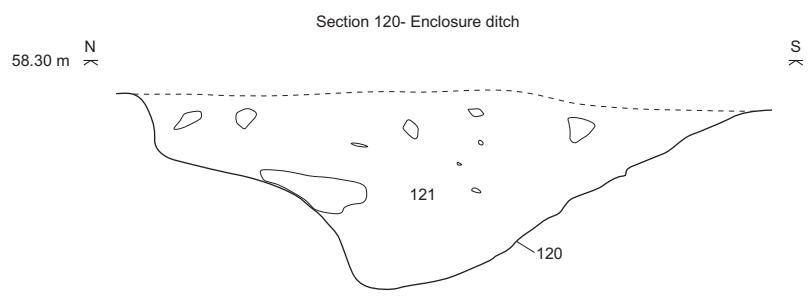
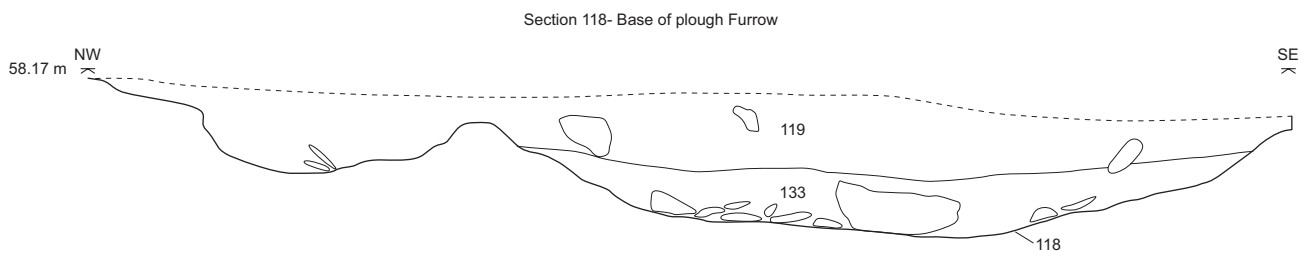


Figure 4 - Sections



Plate 1 - Plan of enclosure ditch - Trench 3

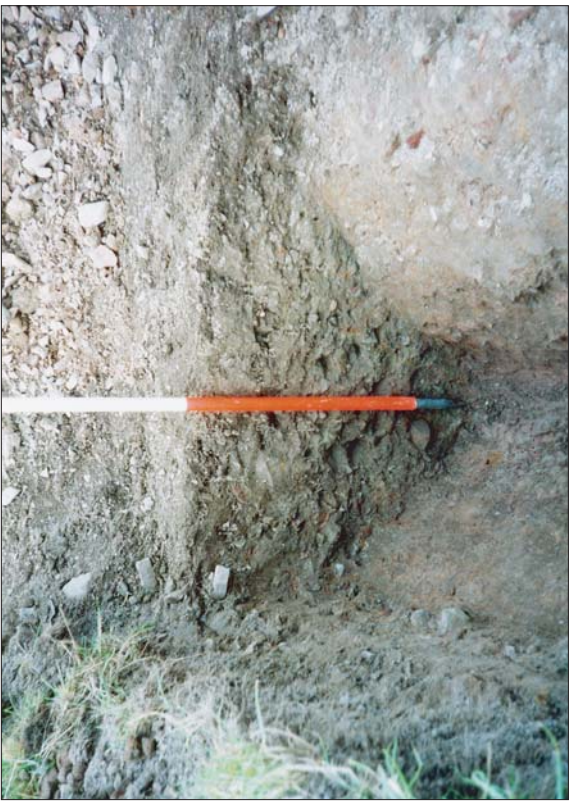


Plate 2 - Section through enclosure ditch - Trench 3



Plate 3 - Recording trench in area 3



Plate 4 - Stone surface 135 - Trench 4