Yatesfield, Otterburn Training Camp Northumberland

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership to undertake an archaeological evaluation within the Otterburn Training Area, Northumberland (centred on NGR 386930 596660) as part of their volunteer outreach programme. The archaeological evaluation targeted a previously unrecorded possible Iron Age/Romano-British settlement near Yatesfield, a remote upland farm on the Otterburn Military Training Area. Earthworks visible on LiDAR imagery appear to represent a previously unrecognized enclosed settlement, potentially consisting of several roundhouses, circular hut platforms and terraces extending over an area *c.*150 x 80 m.

Six trenches were opened by hand across the site to test the archaeological potential of the area and to recover dating evidence where possible, while an earthwork survey was completed to tie in the wider settlement features.

The earthwork survey has recorded the larger features present within the area of investigation, demonstrating that the features include an enclosed settlement containing at least two circular hut platforms surrounded by agricultural terraces and roundhouses, with other as yet undated field systems nearby. The excavations uncovered evidence for the construction of circular platforms within the enclosure, potentially with tamped clay floors over a build-up of stone and earth. The enclosure itself was made up of a large stone wall along the southern side which became an earth and stone bank around other sections. At least one stone-floored roundhouse was present outside the enclosure around the edge of the agricultural terraces which were cut/built up to the east of the enclosure running up the hillslope. A further possible roundhouse and enclosure was present to the west. A deposit of organic-rich material covering the stone flagged floor of the partially excavated roundhouse contained charred plant remains, the radiocarbon dating of which returned a Late Iron Age to Romano-British date of 40 cal BC–cal AD 130 (UBA-46394, 1965±26 BP), backed up by the charred plant remains assemblage.

This structure, while only partially uncovered, appears similar in construction and date to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure and roundhouses excavated at Rattenraw Farm approx. 1.5 miles to the south-west, although the trenches did not contain the relatively rich artefactual evidence recovered from the Rattenraw excavations. The earthwork survey demonstrated that the overall layout of the enclosure is similar to other Late Iron Age enclosures within the Cheviots, forming part of the likely dispersal of settlement found during this period.

It is currently unclear what phasing, if any, is present within the investigation area, beyond the understanding that there is a prehistoric (late Iron Age/early Romano-British) settlement and field system that is overlain by a post-medieval sheep fold (known as a stell in upland Northumberland). Whether there is phasing in the prehistoric occupation is currently unknown. The exact internal layout of the settlement is also unclear as the bracken that covered the area made identifying some smaller earthworks difficult.

Given the conclusions above, the evaluation has succeeding in providing a probable date for the settlement, and also has contributed some understanding to the layout and function of some aspects of it, as well as providing a further example of enclosed settlement dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period within the area. Further work is clearly needed to better understand the overall layout and any phasing that may be present across the site.

The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Edinburgh. The Great North Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **NEWMA:2021.1**. An OASIS form, wessexar1-426198 has been provisionally completed and will be finalised at the time of deposition.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Karen Collins. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Northumberland National Park Authority Archaeologist and the Defence Infrastructure Organisation Archaeologists, who gave advice on the project, and to the volunteers and staff from Breaking Ground Heritage, Operation Nightingale, Revitalising Redesdale and Tynedale North of the Wall Archaeology Group for their cooperation and help on site.

Yatesfield, Otterburn Training Camp Northumberland

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership (RRLP), to undertake an archaeological evaluation within the Otterburn Training Area, Northumberland, centred on NGR 386930 596660 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The archaeological works form part of a body of archaeological works initiated and funded by (RRLP). This is a £2.8m Landscape Partnership Scheme funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund that aims to celebrate, conserve and enhance Redesdale's rich cultural heritage, landscape and wildlife.

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation targeted a previously unrecorded possible Iron Age/Romano-British settlement at Yatesfield, a remote upland farm on the Otterburn Military Training Area. Earthworks visible on LiDAR imagery appear to be of a previously unrecognized Iron Age/Romano-British settlement, potentially consisting of several roundhouses and paddocks extending over an area *c.* 150 x 80 m (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2021a). The Principal Archaeologist for the National Park Authority approved the WSI prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.5 The evaluation comprising six trial trenches was undertaken between 14–18 June 2021 by a combined team of RRLP volunteers, military veterans, Breaking Ground Heritage staff and Defence Infrastructure Organisation Archaeologists, supervised by Wessex Archaeology staff.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource present within the site and facilitate an informed decision with regard to ongoing land management in the immediate area of the site.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The site is located within Otterburn Training area (OTA) and is 10 km to the north-west of Otterburn. OTA itself is a 23,000 ha upland estate and a major UK training area predominantly used for artillery firing and field firing by infantry. The majority of the OTA is contained within Northumberland National Park.

1.3.2 The site itself is located on rough land around 1.6 km to the north-east of the A68 and is around 250 m south-east of Durtrees Burn, on a hillside which sloped gently from east to west, becoming steeper towards the western limit of the survey as it ran down to the burn.

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Tyne Limestone Formation limestone, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone. Superficial deposits are mapped as peat (British Geological Survey online viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background has been adapted from the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021a).

2.1.2 The name of Otterburn means otter stream, a stream frequented by otters (Old English 'otor' + 'brunna'). Otterburn lies in west Northumberland in the Northumberland National Park. The area has often been associated with defence from prehistoric times to the present day. The remote and inaccessible nature of much of the parish, together with the presence of the army's Otterburn Training Area, has led to exceptional preservation of some prehistoric and later settlements and field systems. A selection of records of the archaeology and historic environment of Otterburn is available online at the Keys to the Past website (http://www.keystothepast.info/). A summary of the archaeological and historical background is provided below.

2.2 Previous investigations

2.2.1 The first comprehensive archaeological survey of the OTA was carried out by the Conservation Group of Otterburn Estate and the Field Research Group of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne between 1975 and 1977. Directed by Beryl Charlton, this survey resulted in the production of a gazetteer and review of archaeological remains known from the estate (Charlton and Day 1977; Charlton 1996). There is an abundance of archaeological sites from most periods in the OTA, including Neolithic burial monuments, Roman forts, medieval farmsteads and post-medieval industrial sites, all of which suggest that the area has been considerably more densely populated than in recent times.

2.2.2 Following MoD proposals for the 'Options for Change' project, archaeological surveys and evaluations were undertaken at a number of locations in the OTA in 1995 to 1997, in order to assess the potential archaeological significance of specific areas affected by the road-widening proposals. These investigations were undertaken jointly by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit and The Archaeological Practice, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. The evaluations identified a number of areas where the survival of significant archaeological remains would be threatened by the proposed developments (LUAU/NUAP 1996; 1997).

2.2.3 In 1996, an excavation was carried out on the Dour Long Cairn The purported long cairn was revealed to be a chambered cairn altered by modifications continuing into the Early Bronze Age (Waddington 1998).

2.2.4 Subsequently, in 2002, Archaeological Services Durham University undertook excavation on a number of sites threatened by development for the AS90/MLRS Project, as well as further topographic survey and historic building recording (Archaeological Services Durham University 2004; 2005a).

2.2.5 Additional archaeological works, consisting of watching brief, evaluation and excavation, were carried out by Archaeological Services Durham University during the construction works for the AS90/MLRS Project at the Otterburn Training Area between 2003 and 2005 (Archaeological Services Durham University 2005b).

2.2.6 In 2017, Wessex Archaeology carried out an excavation relating to Burdhopecraig Roman marching camp (Scheduled Monument 1011392) that revealed a Roman rampart and ditch as well as a post-medieval rough cobbled surface and ditch (Wessex Archaeology 2017).

2.2.7 In 2019, Wessex Archaeology carried out an evaluation comprising three trenches targeted on three features identified through walkover surveys and LiDAR assessments (Wessex Archaeology 2020). A circular embanked feature that could have potentially been a Bronze Age ring cairn was revealed to comprise a turf bank, the turf of which had been cut from the area immediately outside the bank. This feature was identified as a probable post-medieval stack stand- a raised area for storing hay and other fodder material. A potential prehistoric clearance cairn or burial monument was revealed to be two stone and earth clearance cairns of indeterminate date. The more northerly was more robustly built with a clear kerb and an inner rubble fill, both constructed on a previous land surface. Radiocarbon dating of wood charcoal fragments from the old land surface returned two Late Iron Age to Romano-British dates. The cairn must therefore post-date this. A linear earthwork was revealed to comprise upcast material from a shallow ditch on a similar alignment.

2.2.8 In 2020, Wessex Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on two monuments located through LiDAR assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2021b). The possible monuments were located to the east of the main military camp, south of the Scheduled Monument of Todlaw Pike, a suspected Bronze Age settlement with associated field systems and burial cairns. The excavation demonstrated that a circular embanked feature contained a well-built stone and earth bank in the south and east of the monument, which became very ephemeral to the north and west. In the centre of the monument a rough kerbstone wall containing a rubble deposit may be the covering for a central burial however this was not fully investigated. Other internal features included a bank of redeposited natural material. Two flint artefacts potentially dating to the Early Neolithic were recovered, although neither were from secure contexts. Evidence for military training during the 20th century was demonstrated through the presence of two .303 rifle cartridges. Another circular embanked feature was revealed to comprise a rough drystone bank with a probable internal kerb of larger flat stones, which may have originally stood upright. An entrance was present in the north-east of the monument, with the stone bank ending in rounded terminals also faced with kerbstones. The bank and the kerb were constructed directly on the natural substrate, suggesting that the area had been scrapped back prior to the construction of the monument.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric to Romano-British

2.3.1 There are rich prehistoric sites in the vicinity and the earliest remains in the parish are Neolithic. Findspots include a piece of pottery and stone tools, such as worked flint, a polished stone axe and an axehead. Cup marked stones are recorded as well as Bellshiel Law Cairns (HER N340), which comprise over 15 cairns in varying states of preservation and Bellshiel Law long cairn (HER N331).

2.3.2 Bronze Age ritual monuments and cairns were often in locations that were reused in the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods, such as on Barracker Rigg. Here, a round cairn lies among remains of a Roman period settlement and field system. At Todlaw Pike, a round

cairn and enclosed cremation cemetery have been discovered, and another round cairn cemetery stands on Levey Bog. Many more round cairns have been identified across the parish, suggesting that there was a great deal of activity here in the Bronze Age. Few bronze objects have been discovered, but those that have include a spearhead and axehead.

2.3.3 The oldest identified settlement remains in the parish are Iron Age. Two different types of settlement have been found at Otterburn: defended settlements on Colwell Hill and Fawdon Hill, and an unenclosed hut circle settlement on Todlaw Pike. The first settlement is encircled by three ramparts and ditches, while the Todlaw Pike settlement sits unprotected amidst its field system of cairnfields and small rectangular plots. None of these settlements seems to have been reused in the Roman period and a series of small farmsteads appear to have been established instead, for example at Woodhill East, Wood Hill, Greenchesters, Little Crag and Barracker Rigg. On Fairney Cleugh, there are at least four Roman farmsteads and one of the most extensive cord rig field systems in the county. The Roman army built two roads through this area: the High Rochester to Bridge of Aln road and Dere Street.

Medieval

2.3.4 Otterburn also lay on medieval route ways, such as the Elsdon to Gamelspath road. One of the most notable medieval events in the parish was the Battle of Otterburn, fought in 1388 between the Scots and the English. The dangers of living so close to the Scottish border led to the construction of tower houses, such as at Otterburn Tower Hotel and Greenchesters. There appear to have been few villages in the area at this time although Roman farmsteads on Barracker Rigg and near Shittleheugh were reoccupied, and there may have been villages at Heatherwick, Davyshiel and Branshaw.

Post-medieval

2.3.5 In the 16th and 17th century, Otterburn lay in Border reiver country. Those who could afford it built defensive farmhouses, now called bastles. Some of these buildings have survived, albeit in ruins, at Shittleheugh, Branshaw and Girsonfield. A circular stone feature located close to the site is thought to be a stack stand (a raised area surrounded by a drainage ditch used to keep hay dry) west of Silloans (HER N355) but has similarities to the prehistoric ring feature being investigated in this project and so interpretation is not secure.

2.3.6 The 18th century brought a more peaceful way of life to the area and people began to build less defensive homes, such as Monkridge Hall, The Vicarage, Old Town Farmhouse and Overacres, although only the gate piers survive at Overacres. Later, Otterburn Hall was built as a county retreat for Lord James Douglas. The parish registers record many farmsteads in the parish, including Potts Durtrees, Hopehead East, Hopeshield West and Hopefoot. the Agricultural Revolution brought new ideas in farming including a new, planned farm at Otterburn Hall Farm.

2.3.7 Boundaries of landownership seem to have been formalised at this time and a series of boundary stones were erected from Rigg Moss to White Crag, Black Hill to Todlaw Pike, Cowey's Cairn to Cooper Stones and elsewhere. Transport links were improved in the late 18th century when the Jedburgh to Newcastle turnpike opened. Some early-19th-century milestones still stand alongside the road (A696) at Shittleheugh Bridge and north of Otterburn. Alongside farming, other economic activities were established, including a woollen mill at Otterburn, coal mining near Hopefoot, a tile kiln at Garretshields, corn mills at Davyshiel and Troughend, and lime burning at Greenchesters. The spiritual side of life was also provided for with a Presbyterian chapel, the Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist and a Quaker burial ground.

Modern

2.3.8 The modern village of Otterburn grew up around a coaching inn and Otterburn Tower. It was enlarged in the 1950s and 1970s with the addition of the council estate at Brierley Gardens. The village further expanded in the 1990s and 2000s with the new housing development on former farmland at Willow Green.

2.3.9 During the 20th century Otterburn was adopted by the Ministry of Defence as a training area and military remains from this period are becoming important monuments in their own right, such as the target operator bunkers north of Hopehead.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021a) and in compliance with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), were:

- to provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and,
- to inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- to establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- to place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and,
- to make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 The RRLP produced a brief for these works which states the site-specific objectives of the evaluation were:

- to provide volunteers from the local community and wounded, injured and sick (WIS) veterans from the military community with a high-quality experience of archaeological fieldwork by the implementation of ‘on-the job’ training in archaeological fieldwork techniques;
- to determine the character, chronology, state of preservation and significance of the remains visible from LiDAR imagery and from the topographical survey;

- to identify any dateable artefactual and/or environmental evidence from the site to help identify key phases in the chronology of the site's construction, occupation and abandonment;

- to determine the relationship of the site to other nearby enclosed settlements, including patterns of construction, occupation and abandonment; and,

- to determine if there is any evidence for a relationship with the nearby Roman fort of Bremenium and other contemporary native enclosed settlements in the vicinity, such as the recently excavated site at Rattenraw, to give an indication of the Roman military relationship with local populations and an insight into life and society in the frontier zone.

3.3.2 The project will address priorities identified in research frameworks, including the North East Regional Research Framework II (http://www.nerrf.net/project-documents.html) and the Northumberland National Park Archaeological Research Framework (Young *et al* 2010), specifically:

- enhancing our knowledge of later prehistoric or Romano British/Roman Iron Age sites in Northumberland;

- obtaining a suite of accurate C14 dates towards establishing a secure chronological framework for Roman period activity in the area;

- evaluating the potential for plant macrofossils; and,

- communicating knowledge, raising awareness and improving public understanding.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021a) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out following onsite discussions with RRLP staff, DIO Archaeologists and Wessex Archaeology staff and targeted different aspects of the identified earthworks across the site (**Fig. 1**).

4.2.2 Six trial trenches were hand excavated by staff and volunteers, with the turf cut with hand tools. Turf was stacked green side to green side, brown side to brown side. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately on either side of the excavation area. All spoil was stored neatly at a minimum distance of 1 m from the edge of the excavation area.

4.2.3 The opened trenches and the upper surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.4 Spoil from turf stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All

artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client, the DIO Archaeologist and the Principal Archaeologist for the National Park Authority were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. Due to time constraints, the majority of detailed planning was completed using photogrammetric recording, however the trench locations and layout of all layers and cuts was surveyed as described below.

4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data was recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes to ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021a). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Principal Archaeologist for the National Park Authority and DIO Archaeologists monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Principal Archaeologist for the National Park Authority.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by period. The descriptions of the archaeological features are made starting in the south-east corner of the site and working north and west.

5.1.2 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Fig. 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, together with the topographic survey results completed during the excavations. **Figs 2–6** depict the features present within the trenches. All of the six excavated trial trenches

contained archaeological features and deposits, indicating that the targeted earthworks were archaeological in origin (**Fig. 1**).

5.1.3 The uncovered features comprise stone walls, earth and stone banks/ramparts, possible circular hut platforms and agricultural terraces. The remains make up an enclosed settlement surrounded by field terraces. There were two circular features associated with the field terraces. One of these was excavated and proved to be the stone sleeper wall foundation and stone floor of a roundhouse. Artefactual evidence was scant but the environmental material recovered was consistent with a Late Iron Age/Romano-British occupation. The structural similarities between the hut circle partially excavated in trench 5 and those uncovered at the Late Iron Age/early Romano-British settlement at Rattenraw (The Archaeological Practice 2019) suggest that the overall settlement and associated features are of this date. This interpretation was confirmed by a radiocarbon date from a charred grain within a floor deposit within the roundhouse in trench 5 which gave a date range of 40 cal BC–cal AD 130 (UBA-46394, 1965±26 BP) (see **Section 7.5**). It is probable that all of the settlement and field system remains are from this period. Due to the limited nature of the excavation it has not been possible to phase the remains in detail.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The natural substrate across the site is a mid-yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional fragmentary sandstone pieces. This was generally reached between 0.1 and 0.3 m below the current ground surface.

5.2.2 The topsoil across the site was a very friable mid- to dark greyish brown sandy silt with varying degrees of rooting. The layer was up to 0.2 m thick, although away from the archaeological features it was only 0.1 m thick. In areas where bracken rooting was present the rooting disturbance extended down to around 0.3 m, particularly in areas of stony deposits.

5.3 Iron Age (800 BC–AD 43) and Romano-British (AD 43–AD 410)

5.3.1 The circular features with no clear remains suggesting occupation within this next section have been described as hut platforms, while the feature with clear upstanding features relating to occupation has been described as a roundhouse.

Earthwork survey

5.3.2 The survey of the earthworks traced the earth and stone banks identified in trenches 4 and 6 (which became the stone wall 203 in trench 2). These banks formed a rough figure-of-eight shaped enclosure that contained at least two roughly circular hut platforms along its south side (one of which was excavated in trench 2). The enclosure had entrances in the south-west and north-east that were each around 3 m wide. The terminus of the earth and stone bank that formed one side of this entrance was investigated in trench 4. The south and south-eastern side of the southern part of the enclosure had been cut into the natural substrate of the sloping hillside.

5.3.3 To the south-east and east of the main settlement enclosure going up the hillslope were a series of small flat agricultural terraces (the revetment of one being investigated in trench 1) with possible roundhouses present on their southern sides (one of which was investigated in trench 5).

Trench 1

5.3.4 Trench 1 (measuring 8.2 x 2.5 m; **Fig. 2**) targeted a possible revetment wall/bank which ran roughly north to south in a curvilinear shape from the edge of a roundhouse investigated in

trench 5. The terrace revetment was partially cut into the natural substrate as the hillslope rises from west to east, with the terrace field soil 106 (up to 0.2 m thick) backed up against the west side of the stone revetment wall (105) running roughly north to south. This wall, measuring 0.5 m wide and 0.4 m deep, was made up of sub-rounded stones built partially on areas of exposed bedrock (**Pl. 1**). It was overlain by earth and stone bank material 103 that had accumulated up to 0.45 m deep and 1.8 m wide along the western edge of the revetment. A low possible internal bank or possibly a stone and earth path (104) was present in the north-west of the trench, measuring 1.3 m wide and 0.15 m thick (**Pl. 2**).

5.3.5 No artefactual evidence was recovered from this trench. Two luminescence dating samples were taken from the terrace soil 106 and from the earth and stone bank 104. One of these failed to recover any material, while the other has not been processed at this point.

Trench 5

5.3.6 Trench 5 (measuring 3.5 x 3 m; **Fig. 3**) contained part of a possible roundhouse. The trench targeted part of a revetment stone and earth bank (505) that raised the western edge of the roundhouse foundation level with the eastern edge upslope. This bank was up to 1.1 m wide and at least 0.35 m thick, made up of dark greyish brown silty sand and sub-rounded sandstone cobbles (**Pl. 3**). It had an internal kerb of larger, roughly squared sandstone blocks which enclosed a stone flagged floor surface (507). In places, a possible occupation deposit of dark clayey silt 506 (**Pl. 4**) had survived up to 0.05 m thick over the stone floor, which was sampled for environmental evidence. A charred grain from this deposit was radiocarbon dated to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period (see **Section 7.5**).

5.3.7 During the evaluation it was thought that the roundhouse might be a ring cairn with a series of cist burials placed into the circular bank, as a rough oval of larger stones (504) was found within the trench. This proved to be incorrect and upon further excavation the stones appeared to have been part of unsorted rubble within the lower part of a soil and rubble accumulation deposit (503). The rubble material is likely to have originated as part of the roundhouse walling. One of the stones was found to have a probable peck mark of rock art (**Pl. 5**). Whether this was deliberately reused within the structure of the roundhouse or was just randomly used is unclear. Deposit (503) covered the whole of the internal area of the roundhouse and was made up of mid greyish brown sandy silt with sub-rounded sandstone fragments throughout. The deposit was interpreted as an accumulation deposit built up during the years after the roundhouse had gone out of use and its structure decayed. Within it two pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem and a rolled river pebble were found.

5.3.8 The external diameter of the roundhouse was 11 m, and the internal diameter 8.5 m. This is a similar size to an unexcavated example to the south-east on the next terrace up the hillside, and to two possible hut platforms in the southern part of a figure-of-eight enclosure to the west. The structure was similar to those uncovered at the late Iron Age/early Romano-British settlement at Rattenraw further south within Redesdale (The Archaeological Practice 2019).

Trench 2

5.3.9 Trench 2 (measuring 11 x 2.3 m; **Fig. 4**) targeted one of two possible circular hut platforms in the south of the main enclosure. The south and south-eastern edge of the platform had been levelled with a cut into the natural substrate. A large stone wall (203) was made up of two rows of large facing stones and an inner core of smaller stone rubble (**Pl. 6**). This was 1.25 m wide and its single remaining course was up to 0.4 m deep. To the south of the large wall, outside the settlement enclosure, the topsoil was lying directly onto the natural substrate with no subsoil present.

5.3.10 The rest of the platform to the north and west was built up with sub-rounded sandstone cobbles (205) to make it level. The cobbles formed a very rough surface (**Pl. 7**). A small patch of hard flat clay (208; **Pl. 8**; 0.3 x 0.3 m) present in the south may be a survival of a compacted clay floor that covered cobbles 208. The remainder of the area had been heavily damaged by extensive bracken rooting, which would have broken up a clay floor.

5.3.11 Between the north side of enclosure wall 203 and the south edge of the stone build-up deposit (205) was a shallow narrow curving feature which may have been part of a ring gully 207 (measuring 2.4 x 0.4 x 0.15 m deep) that roughly followed the shape of the enclosure wall, before curving north to potentially delineate the western edge of the platform (**Pl. 9; Fig. 4**). Gully 207 was filled with a very dark blackish brown sandy silt (206) that may have been an occupation deposit that infilled the gully during the use of the platform. This feature may have been a drain to remove surface water and prevent the floor of the platform from becoming waterlogged.

5.3.12 The northern edge of the stone build-up deposit (205) was roughly defined by an upright stone and a roughly curving edge suggesting that other kerb stones had been removed (**Pl. 10**). This rough wall 204 curved round from the north-east to the south-west and was probably a continuation of the alignment of gully 207, although the potential convergence was outside the western limit of excavation. Immediately south-west of the upright stone were a series of flat slabs forming steps down into the middle of the enclosure to the north-west of the stone platform, which may have formed the entrance up to the platform.

5.3.13 The overall circular hut platform measured roughly 8.5 m as an internal diameter, a similar size to an unexcavated example immediately to the west and to the roundhouses to the east.

5.3.14 The only artefact recovered from trench 2 was a piece of worked flint from the topsoil (201). This has been dated to the late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. An environmental sample was recovered from a dark fill (206) of the possible drain 207.

Trench 6

5.3.15 Trench 6 (measuring 3.2 x 2.8 m; **Fig. 4**) was opened to investigate whether the large wall (203) in trench 2 continued along the curving alignment of a surveyed earthwork. It found that the earthwork in the location of trench 6 was made up of an earth and stone bank (603; **Pl. 11**), measuring up to 1.2 m thick (the full width was not uncovered in the trench), bounded by a build-up of earth and stone tumble (604) to the west (inside the enclosure). A rough stone face was found on the western side of the bank, where the soil also became more compacted and contained evidence for some redeposited natural within its make-up. The make-up earth and stone bank was similar to that excavated in trench 4 at the north-eastern entrance to the enclosure.

5.3.16 No artefactual or environmental evidence was recovered from this trench.

Trench 4

5.3.17 Trench 4 (measuring 3.3 x 2.7 m; **Fig. 5**) was placed to investigate the north-west side of a potential north-east entrance into the enclosure. The entrance was revealed to be defined by the sub-rounded terminus of an earth and stone bank (404) with a rough kerb/face of stone along its edge (**Pl. 12**). The stone bank (404) was up to 3 m wide and 0.3 m deep and made up of sub-rounded sandstone cobbles with a mid-grey silty sand matrix. It was accompanied by a tumble of stone and earth (403). The material within the earth and stone bank was more compacted than the tumble material. In the south, tumble 403 overlay a

probable old ground surface (405) made up of a more soily mid-reddish brown silty sand and clay and stones up to 1.2 m wide and 0.3 m thick (**Fig. 5**).

5.3.18 No artefactual evidence was recovered from trench 4. An environmental sample was taken from the old land surface deposit (405).

Trench 3

5.3.19 Trench 3, measuring 10 x 2 m with a 3 x 1 m extension on the south-eastern side (**Fig. 6**), contained a curvilinear earth and stone bank (304/306) running roughly east to west through the northern end of the trench, with a possible return (303/307) in the southern end of the trench to form a rough circular hut platform. The banks surrounded a slight hollow, which contained a large flat stone (305, measuring 0.95 x 0.72 m) in the centre (**Pl. 14**). The southern curving bank was made up of a series of flat slabs (303) on top of the natural substrate (302) that developed into a low earth and stone bank (307) within a small extension to the east side of the trench, measuring a maximum of 1.9 x 1.06 x 0.08 m deep (**Pl. 15**). It is possible that the flat stones (303) may have been a threshold leading down into the slight hollow of the hut platform.

5.3.20 The northern earth and stone bank (304/306) was up to 1.65 m wide and 0.35 m thick and was made up of an upper deposit (304) of dark blackish grey compacted silty sand and stones above a lower deposit (306) of possible redeposited natural with stones that sat on top of the undisturbed natural substrate (**Fig. 6; Pl. 16**).

5.3.21 A small quantity of iron slag was found in topsoil 301 within the area of the possible hut platform but no further dating material was recovered.

5.4 Post-medieval

5.4.1 The north-eastern half of the main settlement enclosure had been repurposed as a sheepfold (known as a sheep stell in upland Northumberland) during the 19th century, with a drystone wall forming a sub-circular enclosure cutting over the earth and stone bank (**Pl. 13**).

5.4.2 The clay tobacco pipe stem fragments within the upper layers of trench 5 may have been related to the removal of stone material from the area around the sheep stell to build it.

5.5 Uncertain date

Earthwork survey

5.5.1 The earthwork survey identified two roughly perpendicular straight low banks with exposed boulders roughly every 1–1.5 m along their length. These banks, which ran NNE–SSW and north-west to south-east were located to the north-west and north-east of the main settlement enclosure. They may have formed part of a roughly rectangular field system, the date of which is unclear.

5.5.2 The earthwork survey identified that the western area beyond the long NNE–SSW earth and stone bank contained more curvilinear features that may have been part of the same settlement as those to the east. A possible circular hut platform was investigated in trench 3, although preservation was poor, due either to erosion or removal of material by later activity.

5.5.3 A spring was identified to the south of the earthwork survey area. It is unclear at what points in history/prehistory this spring would have been accessible.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A very few finds were recovered, and these are listed in Table 1. The only datable finds comprise the two small fragments of clay pipe stem from context 503, and the piece of worked flint from context 201.

6.1.2 The piece of worked flint is a plano-convex knife. This implement was made on a blade, which now measures 45 mm long, 16 mm wide and is 7 mm thick. Cortical remnants on the dorsal surface suggest that the blank was probably a primary removal from the outside of the nodule. This blank was retouched by pressure flaking on the dorsal surface to create an elongated implement with a plano-convex cross section. Most of the dorsal surface was treated in this way, although parts remain unmodified, due to the steepness of the edge angle. The ventral surface is unmodified. This description replicates entirely that given by Clark (1932) and subsequently summarised by Butler (2005) for plano-convex knives as small knives, frequently less than 150 mm long, made on 'blades or long flakes of plano-convex cross section that had unifacial pressure flaking over the dorsal surface, while the ventral surface was left unflaked' (ibid, 172). Butler associates this type of knife across Britain with Food Vessels and Beakers of the Early Bronze Age; however, Wainwright and Longworth (1971) noted the presence of plano-convex knives with Late Neolithic assemblages in Britain, an association confirmed by Manby (1974), in a study of Grooved Ware sites in northern England. In the absence of associated material it is impossible to refine the date more precisely, beyond placing it within the general period spanning the mid- to late 3rd millennium BC.

Table 1 All finds by context

Context	Obj No	Material	Count	Wt. (g)	Description
201	101	FLINT	1	7	plano-convex knife
301	102	SLAG	1	551	large dense lump, possibly from hearth bottom
301	103	STONE	1	10	probably just ferruginous concretion - not iron
503	-	CLAY PIPE	2	2	plain stem frags
503	-	STONE	1	97	rounded pebble; no obvious sign of working or utilisation

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Three bulk samples of potentially Late Iron Age/Romano-British date were taken from a drain, buried soil and a floor surface. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence.

7.1.2 Two samples were taken for Optically-Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating; one is being stored for potential analysis at a later stage, whilst the other had a failed tube and will be discarded.

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the nature, significance and potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (English Heritage. 2011) and the site-specific sampling strategy set out in the written scheme of investigation (WSI; Wessex Archaeology 2021a).

7.2.2 The size of the bulk samples varied between 7 and 31 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse residue fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye. The fine residue fractions and the flots were examined using a Brunel BMSZ stereomicroscope at up to x40 magnification. Environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots.

7.2.3 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al*. 2006). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).

7.2.4 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were noted, including the percentage of modern roots and abundance of modern seeds, alongside the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (eg, *Cenococcum geophilum*), burrowing snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), earthworm eggs and modern insects.

7.2.5 Remains within flots and residues were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 (‘Trace’), B = 5-10 (‘Rare’), A = 10-30 (‘Occasional’), A* = 30-100 (‘Common’), A** = 100-500 (‘Abundant’), A*** = >500 (‘Very abundant/Exceptional’).

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 2, Table 4. The samples are broadly similar in composition and contain varying quantities of charred plant remains and charcoal, including frequent heather-type stems (*Calluna vulgaris* tp.). Probable fragments of burnt turf are recorded in buried soil 405 and floor surface 506. Fragmented coal occurs in the sample residues and flots in small quantities, although this may be natural in origin. Modern roots are abundant within the flots. There are low numbers of uncharred (modern) seeds.

7.3.2 Floor surface 506 contains the highest density of charred plant remains, with a moderate quantity of well-preserved six-row hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains and rachises. A few cereal-sized culm nodes may also derive from hulled barley. These cereal remains occur alongside occasional wild taxa, including hemp-nettles (*Galeopsis* sp.), black-bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), and a small-seeded (<2 mm) grass species (Poaceae).

7.3.3 Samples from buried soil 405 and drain 207 (fill 206) contain comparatively few charred plant remains. Buried soil 405 produced occasional hulled barley grains, alongside indeterminate wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.), vetches (Vicieae), grasses (Poaceae) and fragments of hazel nutshell (*Corylus avellana*). A few hulled barley grains were also recovered from drain 207.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 The evidence recovered is typical of an agricultural settlement, with the samples containing a mixture of hearth rake-out and crop-processing debris. The predominance of six-row

hulled barley would be consistent with a broadly Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement in this area of Northumberland (*cf.* Hall and Huntley 2007). Hulled barley may have been favoured as a crop in this upland area due to its tolerance of poor growing conditions.

7.4.2 The samples contain evidence for the exploitation of heather moorland surrounding the site, with previous work in the Otterburn Training Area indicating that heather was abundant in the local environment during the Iron Age and Romano-British periods (Wessex Archaeology 2017; 2021b). Charred plant debris reflecting heathland vegetation is widely recorded in sites of this date across northern England, with these habitats providing sources of construction material (eg, roofing), animal fodder and fuel (Hall and Huntley 2007).

7.4.3 There are relatively few well-preserved and securely dated archaeobotanical assemblages from Iron Age and Romano-British settlements in this area of Northumberland, underlining the importance of the evidence from the site (*cf.* Hall and Huntley 2007).

Recommendations for future sampling

7.4.1 This assessment indicates that other features on the site have very high potential for the preservation of charred plant remains and charcoal. If further fieldwork is undertaken, sampling should continue to follow the site-specific sampling strategy set out in the written scheme of investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2021a).

7.4.2 The residues were discarded following examination.

7.5 Scientific dating

7.5.1 A single charred hulled barley (straight) grain (*Hordeum vulgare*) was submitted for radiocarbon dating from floor surface 506. The sample was submitted to the 14CHRONO Centre, Queen's University, Belfast. The radiocarbon date was calibrated using OxCal (v4.4.2; Bronk Ramsey 2020) with the IntCal20 curve (Reimer *et al.* 2020). The calibrated date is presented at 95% probability, with end points rounded out by 10 years (Table 2).

7.5.2 The grain returned a Late Iron Age to Romano-British date of 40 cal BC–cal AD 130 (UBA-46394, 1965±26 BP). The floor surface contains a relatively high density of charred plant remains and consequently the hulled barley grain is likely to provide a secure date for the deposits.

Table 2 Radiocarbon dating results

Site code	Context	Sample number	Lab. code	Material Dated	Radiocarbon age (BP)	Calendar age (95.4% probability)
247270	506	103	UBA-45633	Charred hulled barley (straight) grain (*Hordeum vulgare*)	1965 ± 26	40 cal BC – cal AD 130

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 The earthwork survey had recorded the overall layout of the area of investigation, and the interpretation of these features has been refined following evaluation trenching. An enclosed settlement contained at least two circular hut platforms, probably the locations of

roundhouses. To the east were agricultural terraces and further roundhouses, and to the west was another roundhouse. Field systems continue nearby. The evaluation revealed that one of the enclosed circular hut platforms probably had tamped clay floors laid down over a surface of cobblestones and earth. The enclosure itself was defined by a large stone wall along the south side that became an earth and stone bank in the east. The uneven topography of the site had been prepared with a series of cuts and areas of levelling making up terraces. A deposit of organic-rich material covering the stone flagged floor of one of the roundhouses contained charred plant remains which returned a Late Iron Age to Romano-British radiocarbon date of 40 cal BC–cal AD 130 (UBA-46394, 1965±26 BP). The charred plant remains assemblage was consistent with this date.

8.1.2 These structures, while only partially uncovered, appear similar in construction and date to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure and roundhouses excavated at Rattenraw Farm approx. 1.5 miles to the south-west (The Archaeological Practice 2019), although the trenches did not contain the relatively rich artefactual evidence recovered from the Rattenraw excavations.

8.1.3 The evaluation has produced insufficient stratigraphic and dating information to reveal the sequence of development on the site and the relative phasing of the structures is unclear.

8.1.4 The internal layout of the settlement enclosure may be more complex than is currently understood as the bracken that covered the area made identifying any smaller earthworks difficult.

8.1.5 The enclosure had been repurposed in part as a post-medieval sheep stell, and this may explain the presence of clay tobacco pipe.

8.2 Discussion

8.2.1 As noted by the Rattenraw Farm report (The Archaeological Practice 2019) the settlement pattern in the Late Iron Age in the region had shifted away from being centred around the defended hillforts such as Yeavering Bell to include a wider spread of less defensive enclosed settlements in the river valleys and lower hillsides. The examples of these around the North Tyne tend to have a square or rectangular layout, while those further north in the Cheviots had more of a circular or oval layout. Excavations prior to the creation of Kielder Water surveyed, excavated and recorded these settlements (Jobey 1973; 1977; 1978).

8.2.2 The Rattenraw Farm enclosed settlement is one of two in the immediate area of Rattenraw, with a further unexcavated example (Rattenraw II or Rattenraw West) having been surveyed by Charlton and Day (1978). These examples, along with the excavated settlement at Woolaw and the surveyed example at Blakehope (Charlton and Day 1978) all conform to the rectangular/square layout version of enclosed settlement, containing at least two circular structures usually identified as roundhouses or hut circles. In terms of phasing, the excavations at Woolaw identified three phases of construction in the enclosure, with an early earthen bank and ditch enclosure overlain by a second more substantial stone rampart. Both phases included stone foundations for roundhouses. The third phase saw the enclosure extended to include additional roundhouses.

8.2.3 Similarly at Rattenraw there were hints that the settlement had been extended to include additional space and an extra roundhouse. The roundhouses themselves proved to be at least partially stone flagged with evidence of a set stone hearth in the centre of the Rattenraws roundhouse A. The walls are of low roughly worked stone and have been interpreted as sleeper walls for timber/wattle and daub walls. At Yatesfield, the excavated roundhouse example outwith the enclosure in trench 5 is similar in structure to roundhouse

A at Rattenraw, while the possible circular hut platform located inside the enclosure in trench 2 and the external possible hut platform in trench 3 have more in common with the more ephemeral roundhouses B and C at Rattenraw.

8.2.4 In comparison, the enclosure at Yatesfield is closer to the more irregular oval/circular layouts of the Cheviots type, with its overall shape being a figure of eight with a clear entrance to the south-west. There may have been further entrances in the western and northern sides, however the imposition of a post-medieval steep stell and evidence of quarrying makes it unclear whether the breaks in the enclosure bank/wall are original or put in during this later period. The enclosure rampart wall exposed in trench 2 is similar to the first phase of rampart walling at Rattenraw, being made up of large stones set upright in place. The other section of the enclosure rampart found in trench 6 is more similar to the rubble rampart core material described as being a later phase of the Rattenraw rampart construction. It may be that the orthostat kerbs found edging this rubble at Rattenraw had been removed in the Yatesfield example, particularly given the evidence for later quarrying in the immediate area.

8.2.5 The dating of the floor deposit in the roundhouse in trench 5 has provided a further piece of dating evidence for these Late Iron Age enclosed settlements, with the potential that the settlement continued in use into the early Romano-British period. This backs up dating evidence (both artefactual and environmental) from Rattenraws, Woolaw and Blakehope. The constituent burnt grains found within that deposit provide evidence for the cultivation of barley in the harsh environment of this part of Northumberland during this period, as well as suggesting a domestic function for the structure.

8.2.6 Given the conclusions above, the evaluation has succeeding in providing a probable date for the settlement, and also has contributed some understanding to the layout and function of some aspects of it, as well as providing a further example of enclosed settlement dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period within the area. Further work is clearly needed to better understand the overall layout and any phasing that may be present across the site.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Edinburgh. The Great North Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **NEWMA:2021.1**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Great North Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the **site and accession code**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type

- 1 files/document cases of paper records

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

9.3 Selection strategy

9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows CIfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

9.3.5 The single piece of flint is recommended for retention and deposition with the Great North Museum, Newcastle. The remainder of the artefactual evidence (four pieces) is recommended for discard.

Palaeoenvironmental material

9.3.6 It is recommended that all the flots and charred plant remains are retained in the site archive. There is further potential for analysis of the charred plant remains from floor surface 506 and this should be included in any post-excavation project designs.

Documentary records

9.3.7 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

9.3.8 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

9.3.9 The table below summarises the recommended selection and deposition strategy.

Table 3 Archive selection and deposition strategy

Class	Element	Quantification	Depository	Format
Physical archive	Paper records	1 A4 file	Great North Museum	N/A
	Flint	1 piece	Great North Museum	N/A
	Other finds	4 pieces	Discard	N/A
	Flots, charred plant remains	1 box	Great North Museum	N/A
	OSL sample	1 tube	Great North Museum	N/A
Digital archive	Report	1 (14 MB)	ADS	.pdf
	Digital recording sheets	42 (c. 8.7 MB)	ADS	.pdf
	Images	c. 495 (3.3 GB)	ADS	.jpg
	Survey	1.5 MB	ADS	.dxf (vector graphics)

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Principal Archaeologist for the National Park Authority and the DIO Archaeologists. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

Trench No 1	Length 8.20 m	Width 2.50 m	Depth 0.50 m

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Topsoil	Topsoil and turf. Fine mid to dark greyish brown silty sand with turf and rooting. Occasional sub-rounded sandstone fragments	0.0–0.15
102		Natural	Natural. Mid brownish yellow sandy clay with occasional sub-angular sandstone fragments	0.2+
103		Earth and stone tumble at top of slope	Compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate sub rounded stone inclusions	0.15–0.4
104		Earth and stone bank material	Compacted mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate sub rounded stone inclusions	0.15–0.5
105		Retaining wall for terrace	Mid brown sandy silt with very frequent large sub-rounded stones forming a loose wall along a natural outcrop	0.2–0.6
106		Terrace soil	Mid brown sandy silt with very occasional sub-rounded pebble inclusions	0.2–0.6

Trench No 2	Length 11 m	Width 2.30 m	Depth 0.30 m

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Turf and topsoil. Fine mid to dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent bracken rooting and sub-rounded sandstone fragments.	0.0–0.2
202		Natural	Natural substrate. Mid brownish yellow sandy clay with occasional sub-angular sandstone fragments	0.2+
203		Stone retaining wall	Mid grey sub-rounded sandstone blocks with rubble core between outer faces inclusions	0.15–0.4
204		Wall	Mid grey flat sandstone blocks	0.15–0.3
205		Stone pad build up	Mid grey sub-rounded sandstone fragments	0.15+
206	207	Fill	Dark blackish greyish brown silty sand with occasional large sandstone fragments inclusions	0.2–0.3
207	206	Edging drain	Curvilinear edging drain with moderate, concave sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: 2.40 m. Width: 0.40 m. Depth: 0.15 m.	0.2–0.3

Trench No 2	Length 11 m	Width 2.30 m	Depth 0.30 m

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
208		Remains of tamped clay floor	Mid yellowish grey tamped clay.	0.2–0.25

Trench No 3	Length 10 m	Width 2 m	Depth 0.25 m

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Topsoil	Mid brown sandy silt with fairly frequent tumble stones >350mm concentrated around dip in middle of trench inclusions	0.0–0.2
302		Natural	Mottled light yellowish brown compacted sandy silt with rare sub-rounded stones embedded >300mm inclusions	0.2+
303		Stone floor/platform	with stone slabs 44-73cm, c. 8cm deep inclusions	0.15–0.25
304		Stone and earth bank	Dark blackish grey compacted sand with mixed sub-angular stones 15cm to 29cm inclusions	0.05–0.3
305		Slab within possible hut circle	Single flat stone slab located within the theoretical centre of a possible hut circle	0.25–0.35
306		Lower earth and stone bank	Orangish brown sandy silt with large sub-angular stones 35cm to 48cm inclusions	0.3–0.4
307		Possible wall base	Sandy silt with angular stones 50cm to 12 cm inclusions	0.15–0.3

Trench No 4	Length 3.30 m	Width 2.70 m	Depth 0.40 m

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
401		Topsoil	Turf and topsoil. Mid to dark greyish brown silty sand with rooting.	0.0–0.3
402		Natural	Natural substrate. Mid brownish yellow sandy clay with occasional sub-angular sandstone fragments.	0.2+
403		Collapse or tumble	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent sub rounded sandstone fragments up to 0.15 x 0.15 x 0.15 m inclusions	0.15–0.35
404		Stone and earth bank	Mid grey silty sand matrix for stone bank with very frequent sub rounded sandstone fragments forming stone bank with rough facing inclusions	0.15–0.3
405		Buried soil	Mid reddish brown silty sand and clay with occasional rounded stones inclusions	0.3–0.4

Trench No 5	Length 3.50 m	Width 3 m	Depth 0.30 m

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Topsoil	Topsoil and turf. Mid to dark greyish brown silty sand with turf and rooting. Occasional sub-rounded sandstone fragments	0.0–0.25
502		Natural	Natural substrate. Mid brownish yellow sandy clay	0.25+
503		Soil fill of possible oval feature	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional rooting and sub-rounded sandstone fragments	0.15–0.3
504		Walls and floor of possible cist	Mid grey sub-rounded sandstone blocks	0.15+
505		Stone edging bank of hut circle	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with very frequent sub-rounded sandstone blocks forming a stone and earth bank inclusions	0.15+
506		Floor surface	Dark brown silt with possible charcoal flecks inclusions	0.3–0.35
507		Floor surface	Mid to dark brownish grey flat stone slabs with sub-rounded edges	0.35+

Trench No 6	Length 3.20 m	Width 2.80 m	Depth 0.30 m

Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Topsoil	Topsoil and turf. Mid to dark greyish brown silty sand with turf and rooting. Occasional sub-rounded sandstone fragments	0.0–0.2
602		Natural	Natural substrate. Mid brownish yellow sandy clay.	0.3+
603		Stone and earth bank	Mid brownish grey stone and earth bank with sub-rounded sandstone fragments inclusions	0.15–0.3
604		Tumble material from stone and earth bank	Mid greyish brown stone and earth bank material with sub-rounded sandstone fragments inclusions	0.15–0.3

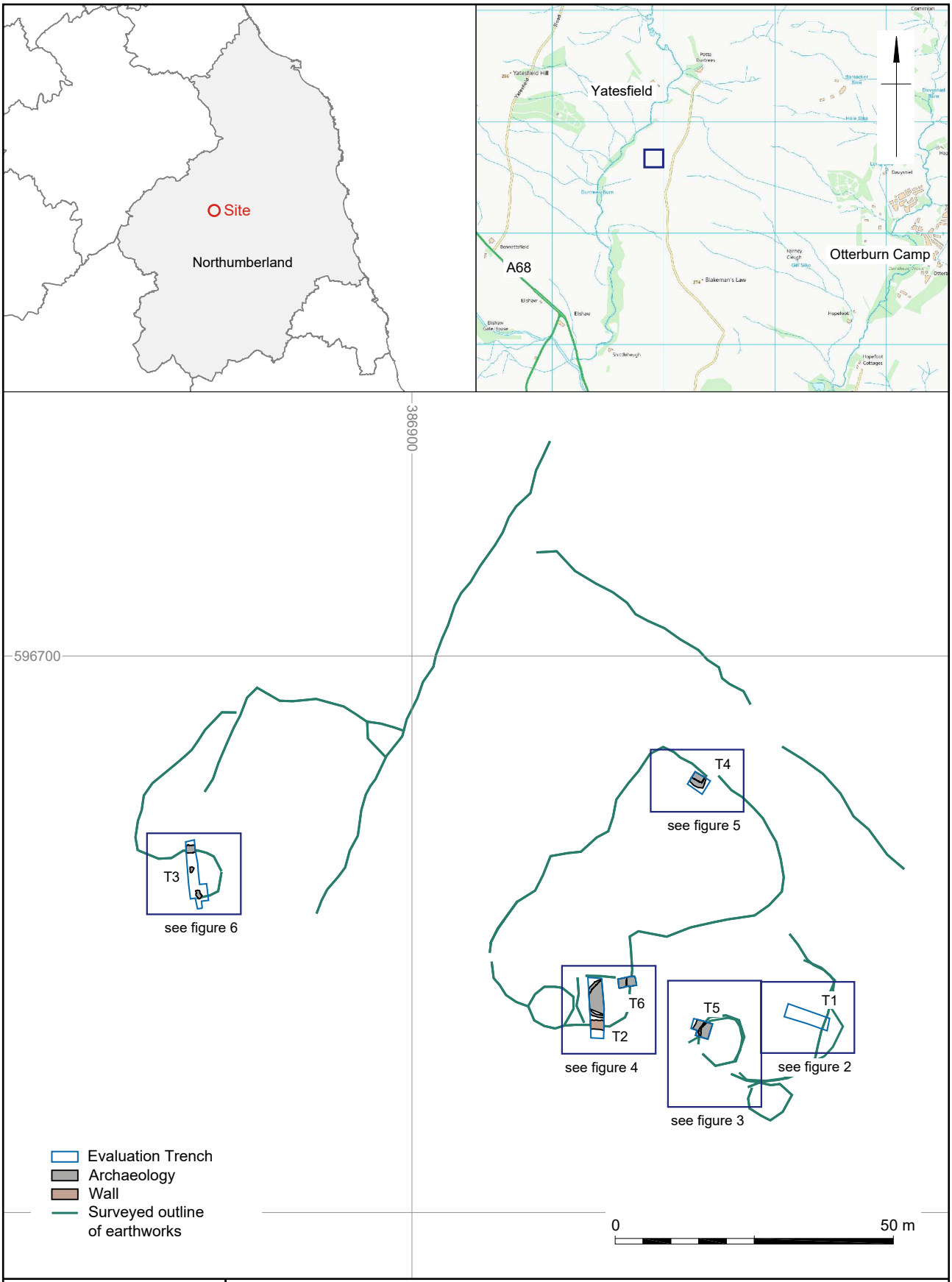
Appendix 2: Assessment of the environmental evidence

Table 4 Assessment of the environmental evidence

Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Charcoal	Other	Preservation
T2	IA/ RB	Edging drain	207	206	247270_ 101	31	800	80%, C, E	C	-	*Hordeum vulgare*	-	-	50	Mature + roundwood, *Calluna vulgaris* tp. stems	Frag coal C	Poor
T4	IA/ RB	Buried soil		405	247270_ 102	28	250	80%, B, E, I, F	B	-	*Hordeum vulgare*, *Triticum* sp., Triticeae	C	?burnt turf, Vicieae, Poaceae, *Corylus avellana* nutshell	20	Mature + roundwood, *Calluna vulgaris* tp. stems	Frag coal C	Good
T5	LIA /RB	Floor surface		506	247270_ 103	7	250	20%, C, I	A	A	*Hordeum vulgare* (inc six-row hulled), Triticeae, culm nodes	A*	?burnt turf, *Galeopsis* sp., *Fallopia convolvulus*, *Persicaria maculosa*, Poaceae (small-seeded), *Raphanus raphanistrum*	75	Mature + roundwood, *Calluna vulgaris* tp. stems	Frag coal C	Good

Key: Scale of abundance: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30–99, A = 30–10, B = 9–5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects

Appendix 3: OASIS record



Coordinate system: OSGB36

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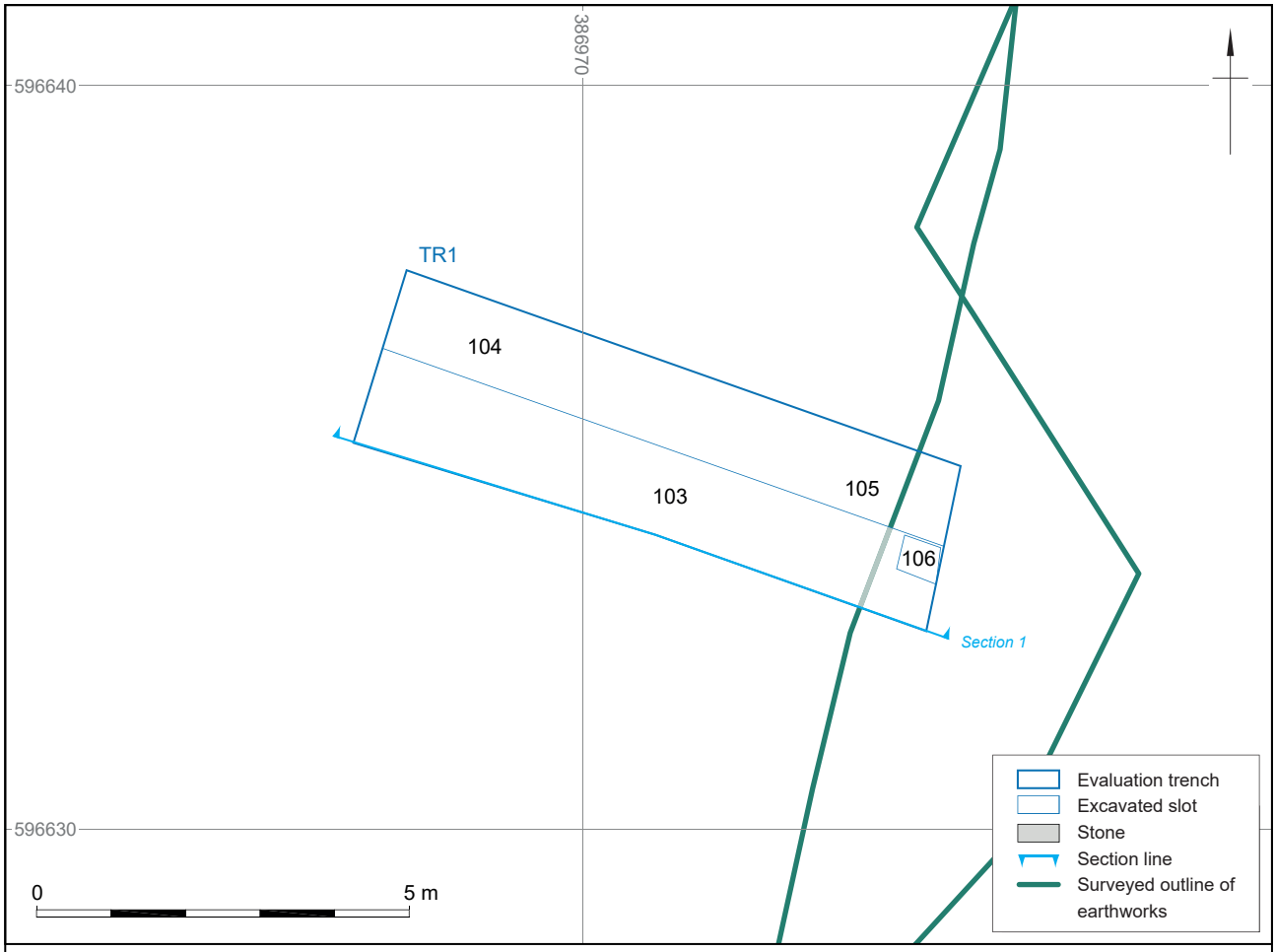
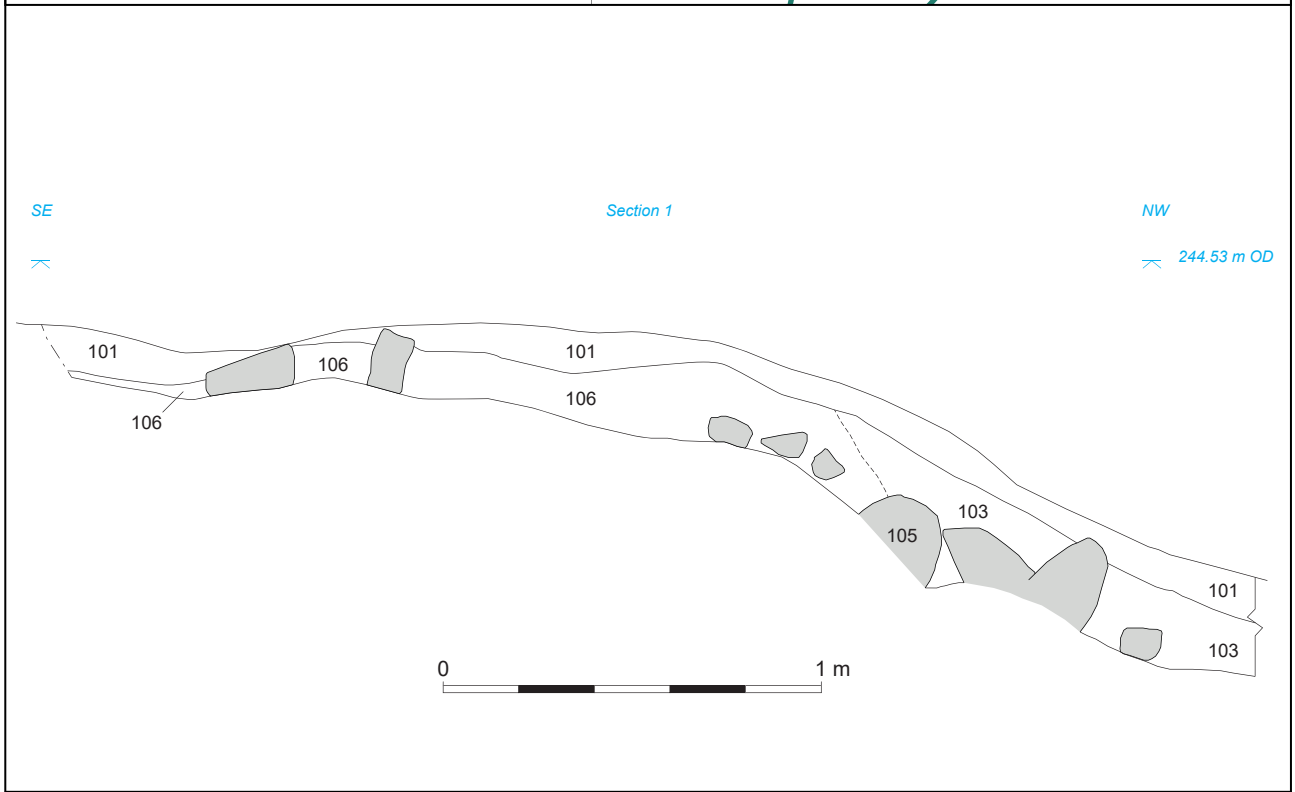
Site location, trench layout and identified archaeological features

Figure 1





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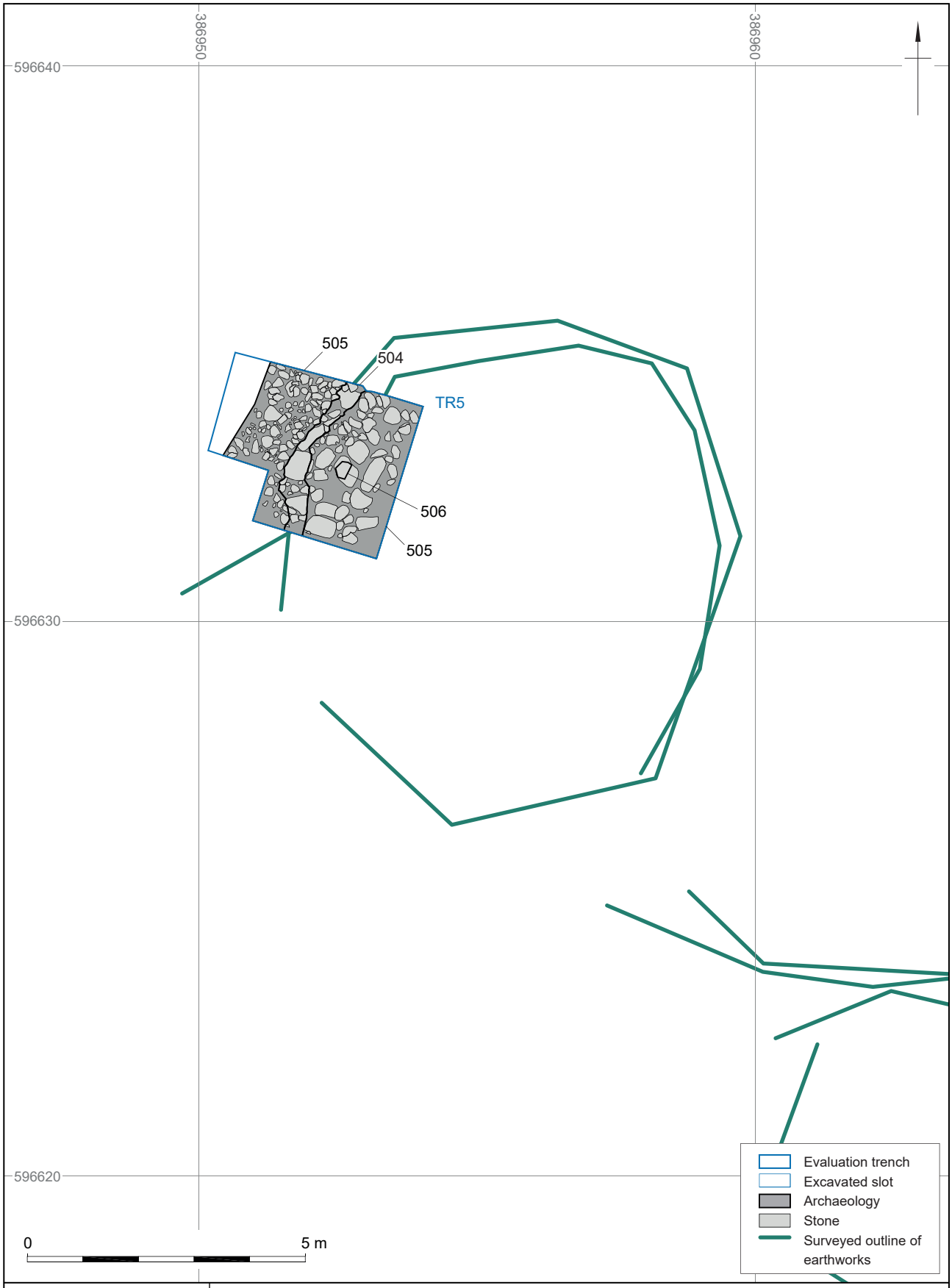
Trench 1 results and section

Figure 2



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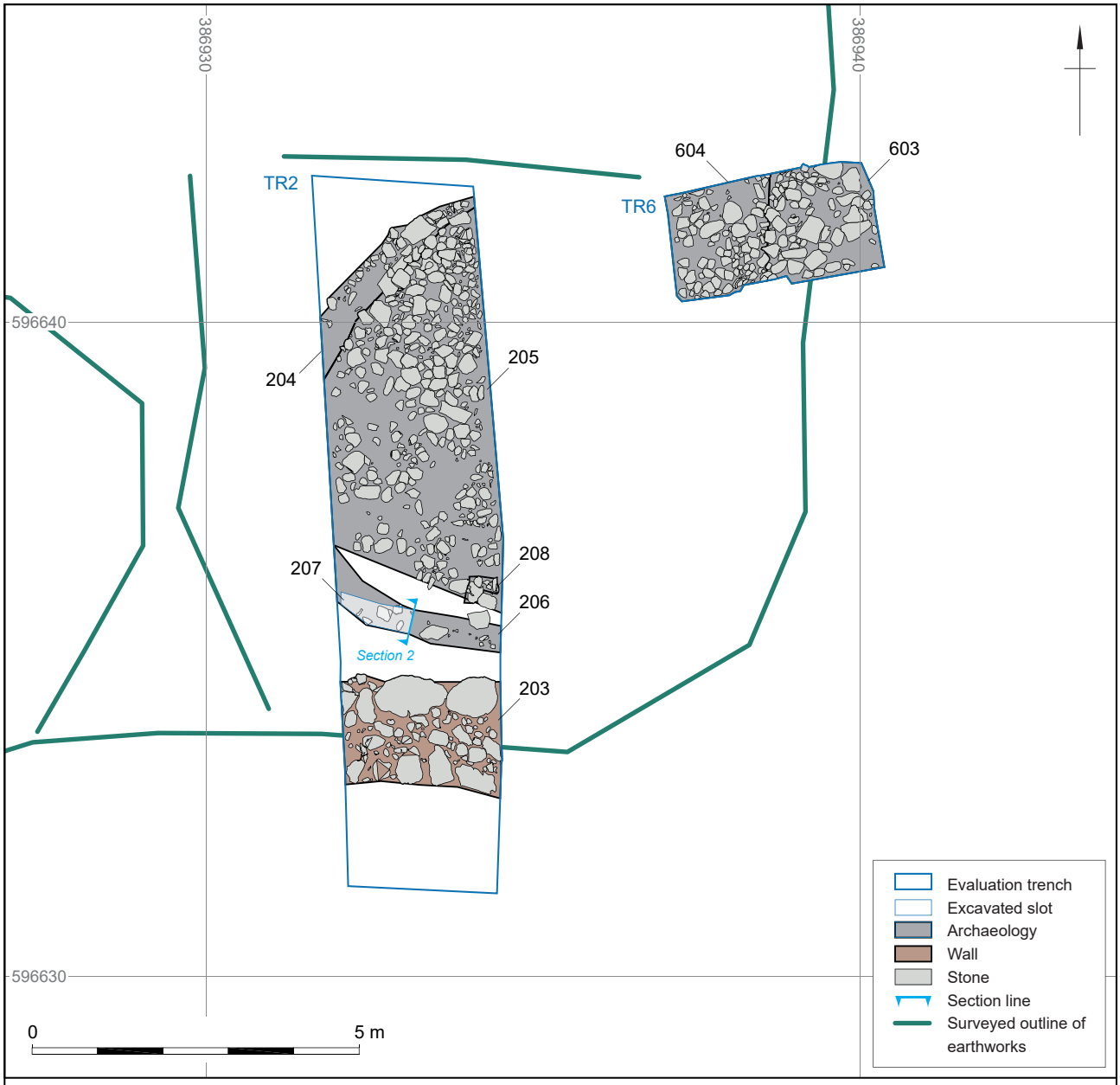
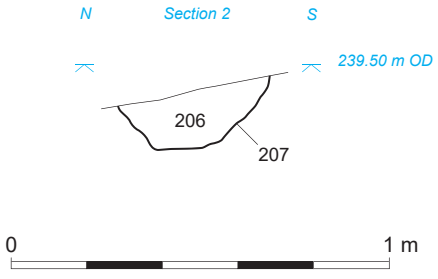
Trench 5 results

Figure 3





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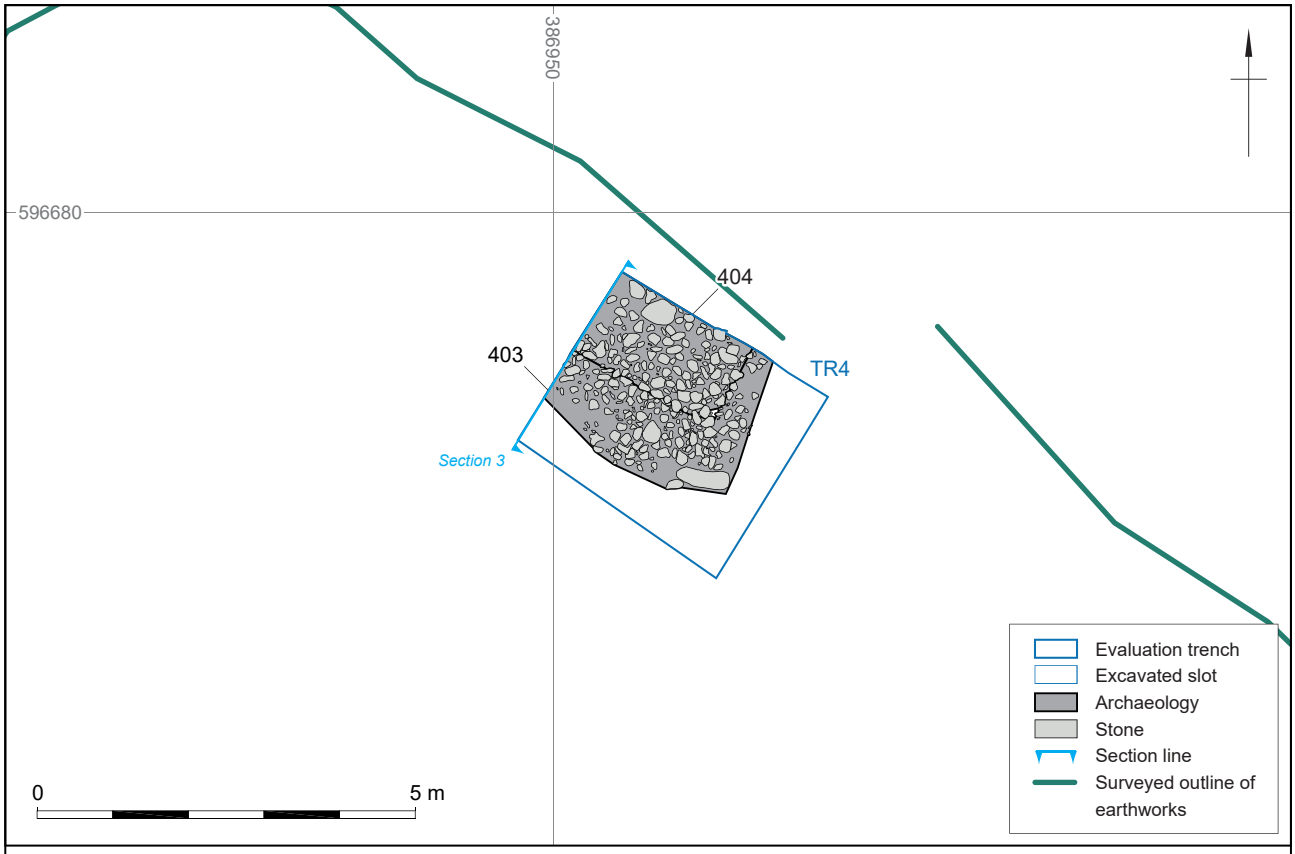
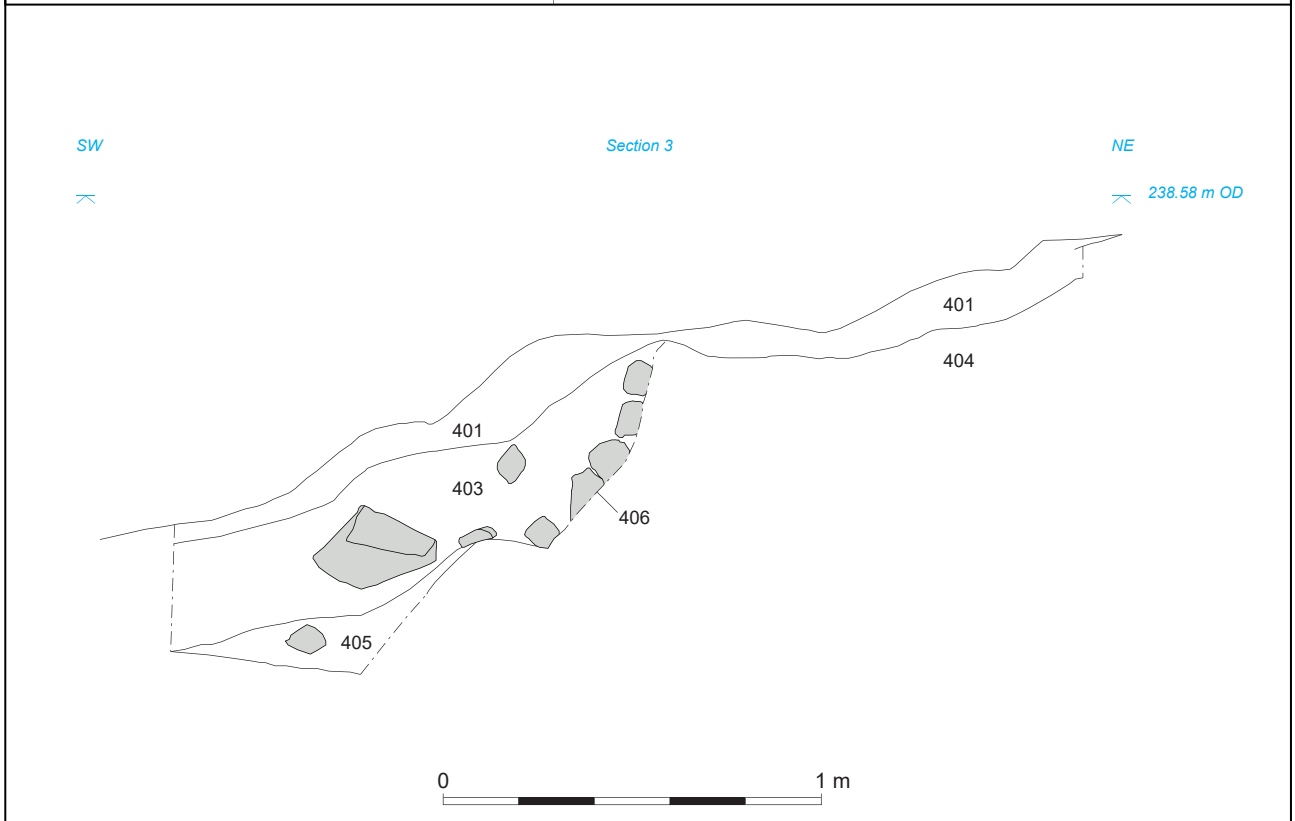
Trench 2 and trench 6 results and section

Figure 4





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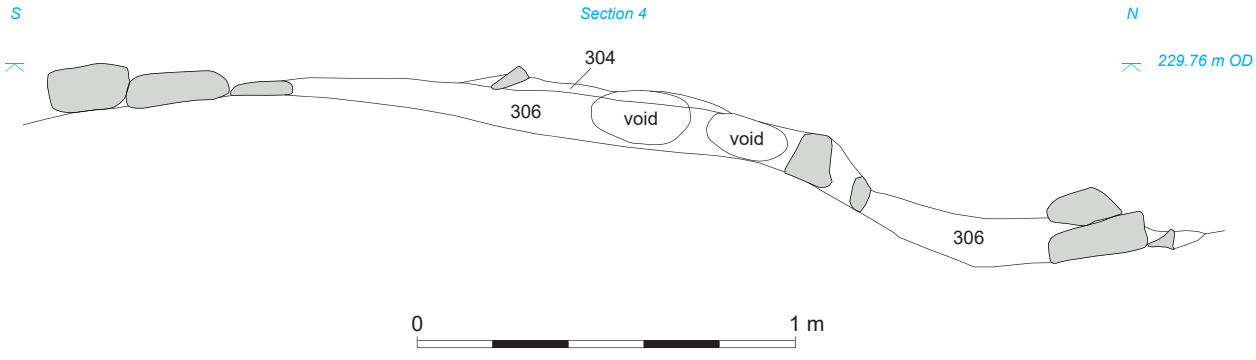
Trench 4 results and section

Figure 5



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Trench 3 results and section

Figure 6

Plate 1: Revetment wall 105 and bank material 104 from the north

Plate 2: Trench 1 including bank/path 103 from the north-west

Date:	21/12/2021	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	AW
Path:	T:\Projects\247270\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\EVAL\2021_12_21		

Plate 3: Trench 5 showing earth and stone bank 505, kerb stones and stone flag floor 507

Plate 4: Occupation deposit 506 within trench 5 from the east

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	AW
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Plate 5: Stone with pecked rock art cup mark in trench 5 from the east

Plate 6: Wall 203 from the east

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	AW
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Plate 7: Trench 2 showing stone platform 204 from the north-east

Plate 8: Tamped clay floor 208 from the east

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	AW
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Plate 9: Trench 2 showing dark fill 206 of drain 207 on inside of wall 203 from the north

Plate 10: Wall 205 and north-western edge of stone build-up deposit 204 from the south-west

Date:	21/12/2021	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	AW
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Plate 11: Trench 6 from the west

Plate 12: Trench 4 from the south

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	AW
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Plate 13: Stone built sheep stell over the top of earth and stone bank

Plate 14: Flat stone 305 in centre of possible hut circle in trench 3 from the east

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Plate 15: Possible threshold 303 and earth and stone bank 307 from the south

Plate 16: Earth and stone bank 304/306 from the north

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	AW
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