



NORTH OF THE WALL  
**TYNEDALE  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
GROUP**

# Beyond the Wall : Edges Green Community Archaeology Survey Report



**Final Report on surveys conducted on Edges Green and  
Cleughfoot Farms April-October 2016.  
Published May 2017**



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## 1 Summary

Between April and October 2016 members of Tynedale North of the Wall Archaeology Group carried out a series of landscape surveys on Edges Green and Cleughfoot farms, north of Cawfields Gap, Northumberland, as part of their 'Beyond the Wall: Edges Green' Project. This was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Northumberland National Park.

The survey area contains two separate groupings of prehistoric features. Whilst both groupings exhibit some evidence of early clearance activity, they differ in the nature of their unenclosed settlement structures and field boundary remains. The prehistoric site on Edges Green Farm contains at least two stone-founded round houses and a series of boundary features sharing a common alignment. At Ventners Hall on Cleughfoot Farm there are two sites that each contain a pair of ring-ditches, the remains of timber-built round houses. Extensive cord rig on a variety of alignments encroaches on the round houses on both sites. Here there is only one probable clearance cairn and sparse remains of potentially prehistoric field boundaries.

300m west of the Ventners Hall ring ditch sites, the survey recorded the first rock-art decorated boulder to be discovered in the area. The heavily cup-marked boulder lies close to a robbed-out, probable funerary, cairn. The broad date range of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age for such rock art would suggest that this represents the earliest direct evidence of human activity within the survey area.

The previously surveyed Great Chesters, *Aesica*, Roman Aqueduct traverses the survey area. In the course of our Level 1 survey, anomalies in the recorded route were noticed and therefore detailed surveying was undertaken. Arising from this new work our report indicates possible revisions to the previously recorded route, identifies new visible features of the aqueduct structure, records where the aqueduct appears to terminate and argues that the aqueduct was probably not completed.

There is some evidence of medieval activity within the survey area. The long-house farmstead at East Edges Green and areas of broad ridge-and-furrow close to Cleughfoot farmhouse provide the clearest indications. There is also a possible shieling structure close to the 'Dunsloe' enclosure to the north of Cleughfoot farmhouse. The extent of post-medieval ridge-and-furrow ploughing may well have eliminated other evidence of medieval activity. It should also be noted that centuries of Reiver activity would have impacted upon the viability of settled agriculture in the survey area.

A post-medieval field system defined by earthen banks surrounds the East Edges Green farmstead, which is itself overlain by post-medieval 4m wide ridge-and-furrow. Close examination demonstrates that the ridge-and-furrow within the earthen bank enclosures pre-date the construction of the banks, suggesting variations in the balance of arable and pastoral activity during the post-medieval period.

Documentary evidence indicates that the key farms that had emerged by the time of the 1783 Enclosure Act have their origins in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Farmhouses were rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, probably overlaying earlier structures.

Over a period of some four thousand years the balance of agricultural activity in the area has fluctuated between pastoral and arable farming, and between permanent and seasonal

settlement. Our report records the archaeological evidence and discusses what can be inferred about the phases of human activity throughout this period.

## 2 Acknowledgements

Tynedale North of the Wall Archaeology Group would like to thank The National Lottery: Heritage Lottery Fund and Northumberland National Park Authority for their generous financial support enabling us to undertake a year-long community archaeology project, Beyond the Wall: Edges Green. We would also like to thank local farmers Mr Willie Weatherson at Edges Green and Mr Dennis Yeats at Cleughfoot for allowing us repeated access to their working environments in order to conduct a series of archaeological landscape surveys throughout the year. Without their support this project could not have taken place.

Further we wish to thank the professional archaeologists and geologist who have done such a tremendous job in providing training and support to our volunteers. Several of these individuals had during previous years already made enormous contributions to the understanding and skills of some members of our group via mutual engagement in the North Pennines AONB 'Altogether Archaeology' project from which our local group initially emerged.

Pete Schofield of Oxford Archaeology North has provided inspiring professional leadership to our Level 3 fieldwork. Paul Frodsham of Oracle Heritage Services delivered engrossing training workshops for both 'The Archaeological use of Lidar imagery' and 'Recording of Prehistoric Rock Art', along with practical training and support in the field. Tim Gates, whose 1998 and 2004 reports of his aerial photographic survey of the Hadrian's Wall corridor for Northumberland National Park Authority have been the primary reference source and inspiration for the work of our group, delivered a fascinating workshop on 'Archaeological Aerial Photography' and later spent a day on-site with volunteers providing valuable insights into some of the features we had puzzled over and encouraging us to further investigations. Geologist Dr Elizabeth Pickett brought us up to speed with the local geology and led a fascinating field-walk in our survey area.

Jamie Quartermaine of Oxford Archaeology North assisted us with the initial project design and provided a training workshop for our report-writing team and further guidance in the process of producing the report. Any deficiencies within the report are our responsibility, but we have appreciated the opportunity to undertake the sort of work usually the province of the professionals.

We also very much appreciate the support given to our project application by Professor Stewart Ainsworth, University of Chester, Dr Aron Mazel, Newcastle University, Sara Rushton, Northumberland County Archaeologist, Dr Kate Sharpe, Durham University and Chris Jones, Historic Environment Officer, Northumberland National Park Authority.

We are grateful to Elizabeth Williams for the provision of Historic Environment Register data for our survey area and to Historic England for provision of data relating to previous surveys of the Roman aqueduct. Thanks are also due to Kerry Shaw and Maria Hindmarsh of Hadrian's Wall Community Champions for their support.

Other local voluntary organisations have also helped the project by publicising our activities to their members. We therefore also thank Tony Metcalfe of Altogether Archaeology and Greg Finch of Hexham Local History Society for spreading the word.

The assistance of Northumberland County Archives at Woodhorn and the Local Studies section of Hexham Library in providing historic material, documents and maps is greatly appreciated.

Of course, there would be no project at all without the enthusiastic participation of a large number of volunteers. At times the weather out on the fells has been challenging and some of the terrain difficult to walk across but throughout everyone has mucked in with great good humour and mutual support. Volunteers who participated in the surveys and training workshops were:

Janet Allison, Jon Allison, Sarah Armstrong, Ian Batey, Steve Batey, Chris Battersby, Helen Bilham, Ian Blackie, Rob Boath, Rachel Bourne, Anne Bowyer, Phil Bowyer, Lynn Bridgett, Caroline Burns, Rachel Chappell, Lorraine Clay, Dot Coe, Ian Cooper, Steve Cunningham, Andy Curtis, Steve Douglas, Greg Finch, Mark Gatter, Linda Gatter, Colin Goodfellow, Martin Green, Derek Gunby, Derrick Gwynne, Jenny Gwynne, Michael Hall, Joe Hartington, Harry Hawkins, Hugh Jackson, Robert Hemsworth, Pat Hirst, Marilyn Kendall, Liz Kerrey, Liz Kirsopp, Laureen Kirtley, Sophie Laidler, Cezary Namirski, Alan Newham, Roger Oram, Roger Owen, Jane Norris, Liz Pounds, Margaret Rodgers, Tom Russell, Fransje Samson, Andrew Tate, Anne Tate, Wendy Thrower, Elaine Vallack, Alison Wheeler, Andy Willis, Ian Wilson, Luke Wootton, Ralph Wrighton.

They all have our thanks for their contributions to our community archaeology project.

## 3 Introduction

### 3.1 Background to the project

Tynedale North of the Wall Archaeology Group (NOWTAG) commenced its 'Beyond the Wall: Edges Green' project in April 2016 with financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund 'Sharing Heritage' programme and the Northumberland National Park Authority 'Small Grants' scheme. The project was designed to engage community volunteers in the exploration, recording and public dissemination of the archaeology of the selected study area north of Cawfields Gap (Figure 1). A larger area, extending north of Edges Green Farm was adopted as the basis for physical and historic background analysis.

Support from the funding organisations has facilitated the provision to volunteers of professional training, supervision and technical support to enrich their engagement in the work of the project and to enhance the capabilities and skills of participants that can be carried forward to further archaeological investigations.

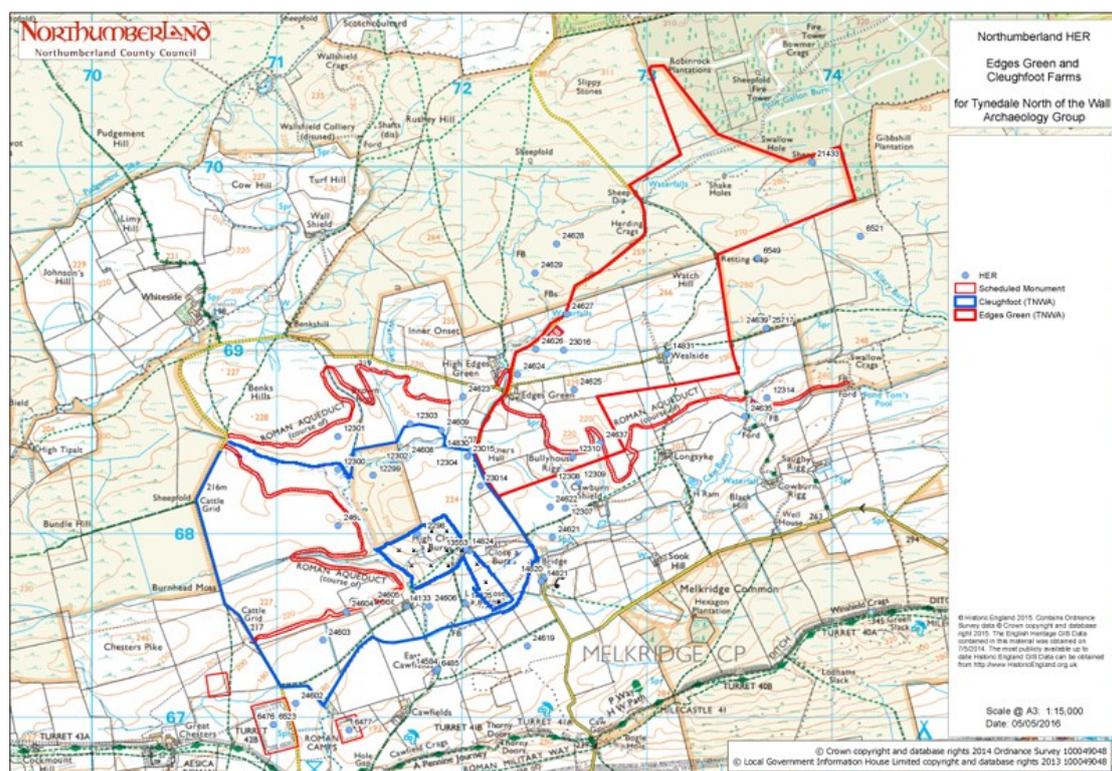


Figure 1: Survey Area. Edges Green and Cleughfoot Farms.

The archaeological parameters of the project were set out in the Project Description document compiled for NOWTAG by Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) in January 2016.

The project encompassed a series of training workshops for volunteers, documentary and archival research by volunteers, two Level 1 (Ainsworth *et al* 2007) walkover landscape surveys on Edges Green and Cleughfoot farms, the compiling of a gazetteer of Level 1 Survey

findings and a review to establish priorities for the subsequent detailed measurement Level 3 surveys (Ainsworth *et al* 2007). The training workshops and Level 1 surveys have been the subject of a previous report, Beyond the Wall: Edges Green Level 1 Walkover Survey Report, July 2016, which is available to download online at [www.tynedalearchaeology.org.uk](http://www.tynedalearchaeology.org.uk). The gazetteer of monuments found in the survey is given in the present report in Appendix 2.



**Figure 2: Volunteers discussing aerial photographic evidence at Training Workshop.**

Level 1 surveys were conducted April 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> (Edges Green Farm) and May 16<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> (Cleughfoot Farm). Level 3 surveys were conducted July 16<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> (Edges Green Farm) and October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> (Cleughfoot Farm). The UAV low altitude aerial photographic survey was carried out on Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 2017. The current report draws together the outcomes of these surveys.

### **3.2 Research aims and objectives**

The primary aim of the project was to enable volunteers to carry out an analytical field survey of the study area and to provide professional support to enable participants to achieve this. A further aim has been to engage volunteers in various aspects of reporting upon and disseminating the results of the project. NOWTAG is an entirely voluntary group established in 2013. The project was designed to meet the training needs of all volunteers, ranging from complete newcomers to more experienced group members wishing to enhance their existing capabilities. To this end, groups of volunteers have taken responsibility for the delivery of specific elements of the project from initial project design, direction of survey activities, written and public talk presentations and the production of this Level 3 survey report. This has been possible only because of the enthusiasm of volunteers to develop their skills and the

readiness of supporting professional archaeologists to give generously of their experience and expertise.

Opportunities for documentary and archival research have been taken up throughout the project period by a team of five volunteers. A summary of their findings relating directly to the archaeology of the survey area is included in the Historical Context section of this report. A more detailed account of their overall findings is published separately and will be available on the group website (see above).

The objectives of the training workshop inputs were to engage and stimulate volunteers in aspects of local archaeology, and to provide initial orientation and training prior to survey fieldwork. We also provided a direct link between the classroom-based workshops and follow-up training in the field. The four classroom training workshops were followed by sessions where each trainer worked with volunteers in the field.



**Figure 3: Examining features during Geology fieldwalk.**

Participants were provided with opportunities to learn the techniques of archaeological field survey and recording that will equip them to carry out further work beyond the life of the current project. The emphasis was upon use of techniques and equipment accessible to community archaeology groups. For Level 1 surveys this included preparatory study of aerial photographs, Lidar images. HER and National Mapping Programme data were consulted prior to conducting systematic Level 1 walkovers. These involved using recording forms and hand-held GPS equipment, as well as conducting basic measurements and photographic recording. Level 3 surveys included the use of theodolite and disto, dumpy level, tape and off-set measurements, producing plan scale drawings with hachuring, plus opportunities for use of

photogrammetric software. Volunteers also liaised with archaeologists from OAN regarding the acquiring and processing of data via use of total station and precision GPS equipment and UAV aerial photography.



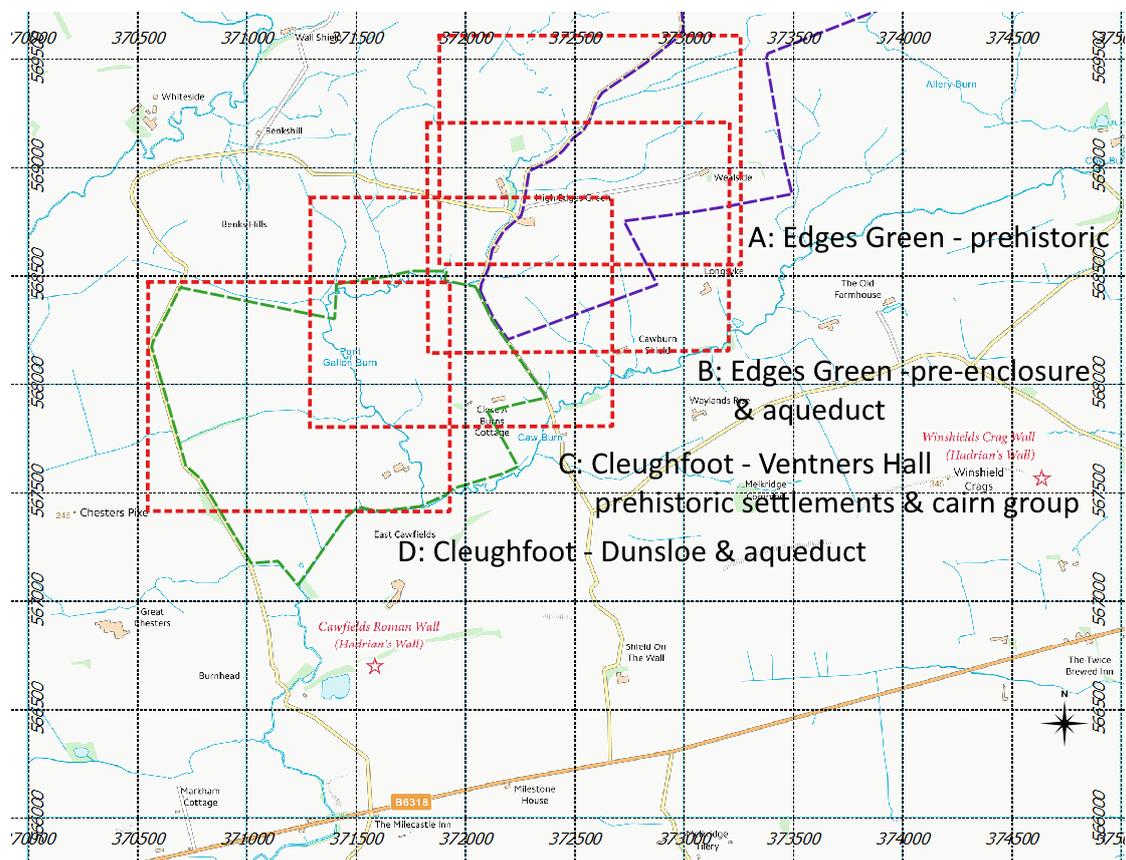
**Figure 4: Volunteers training in use of theodolite and plan drawing.**

Volunteers have also had opportunities to engage in various aspects of disseminating the results of their work. Ten volunteers contributed directly to the production of the Level 1 Walkover Survey Report (NOWTAG July 2016). Volunteers have contributed to on-line media via our website, Facebook page and Wordpress blog. Four volunteers have prepared and delivered public talks using Powerpoint presentations. This report is itself put together by NOWTAG volunteers with support from OAN.

## 4 Methodology

### 4.1 Project design

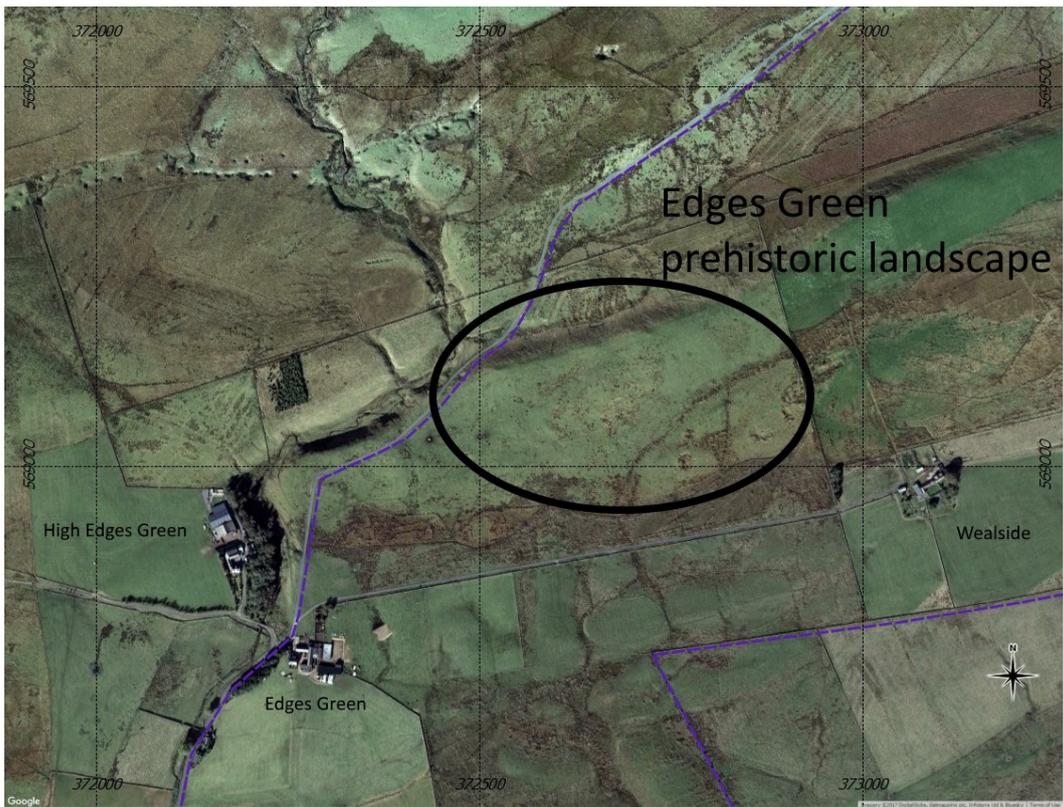
The selection of areas for Level 3 detailed survey were determined in discussion between NOWTAG and OAN following the completion of the Level 1 surveys by NOWTAG volunteers on Edges Green and Cleughfoot farms, and recorded in the Level 1 Walkover Survey Report (NOWTAG July 2016). The selected locations comprised areas of Edges Green farm as shown on maps A and B (Figure 6 and Figure 7), and an area around Ventners Hall on the eastern side of Cleughfoot farm as shown on map C (Figure 8) In addition a detailed survey was carried out on the recorded route of the Roman aqueduct across Edges Green and Cleughfoot farms, as shown on maps B and D (Figure 7 and Figure 9) and an enclosure known as ‘Dunsloe’ north of Cleughfoot farmhouse, as shown on map D (Figure 9) The relative locations of these areas is shown in Figure 5 below.



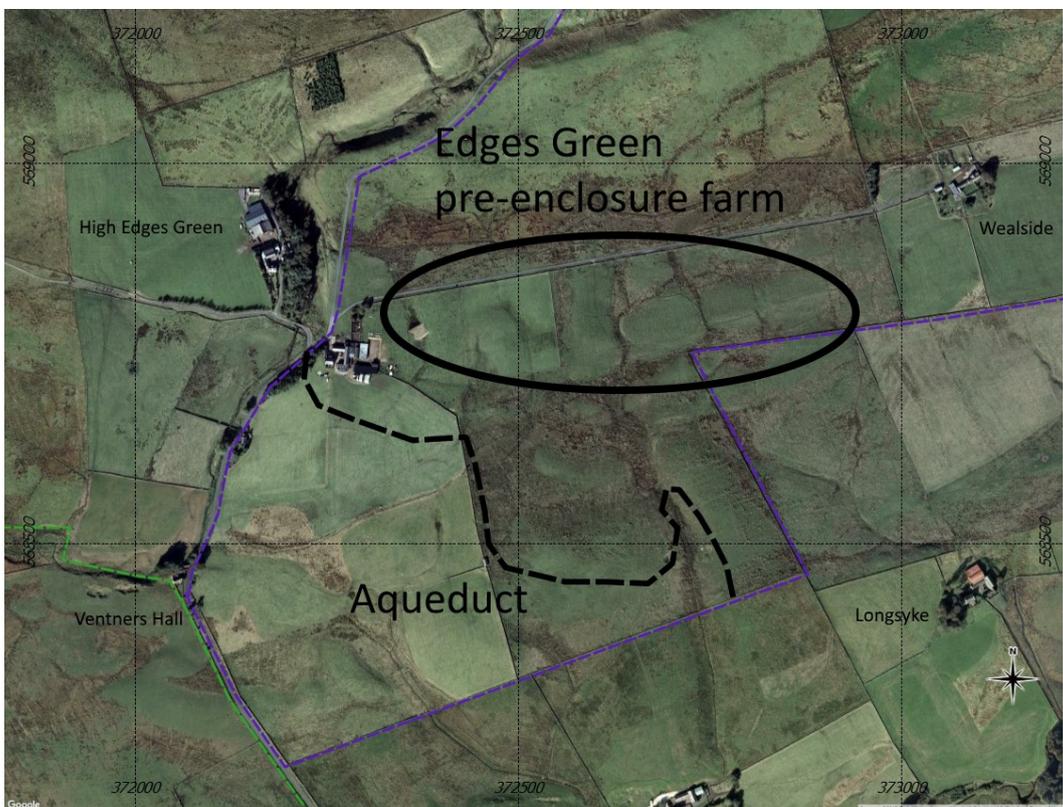
**Fig 5: Location maps for Level 3 Survey areas.**

Farm boundaries are shown in green (Cleughfoot) and purple (Edges Green).

Map data © Ordnance Survey 2017



**Figure 6: Map A - Edges Green Prehistoric landscape.**



**Figure 7: Map B - Edges Green pre-Enclosure farm and Aqueduct route.**

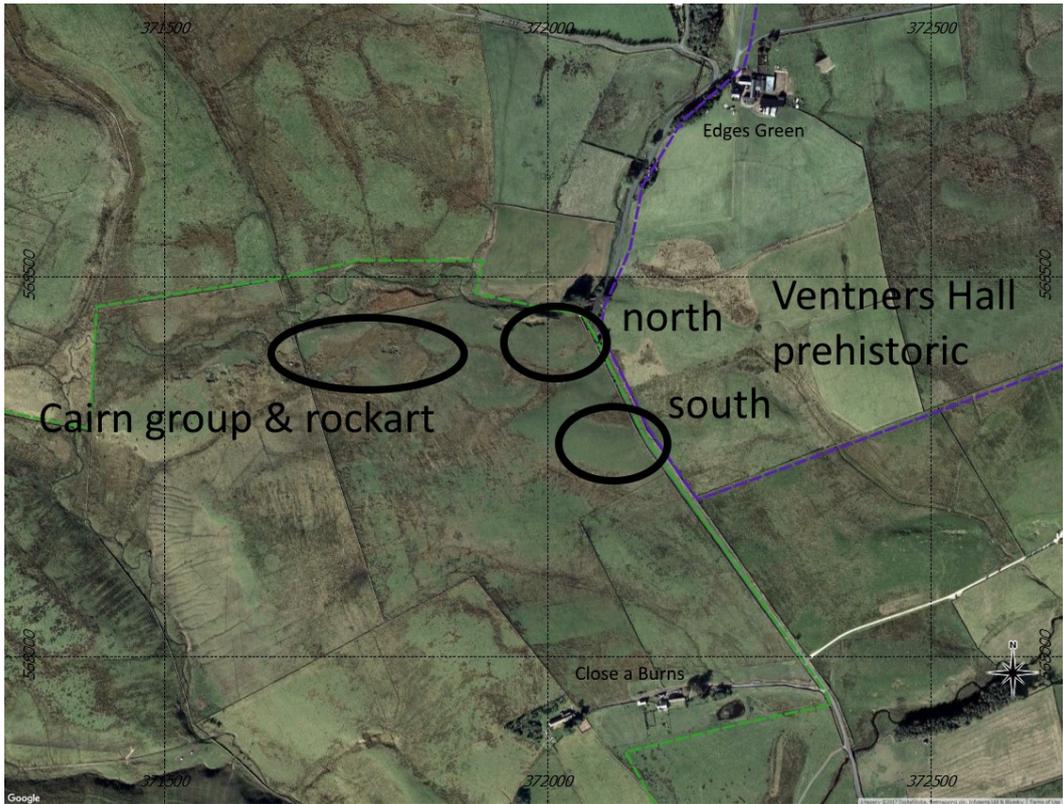


Figure 8: Map C - Ventners Hall Prehistoric areas.

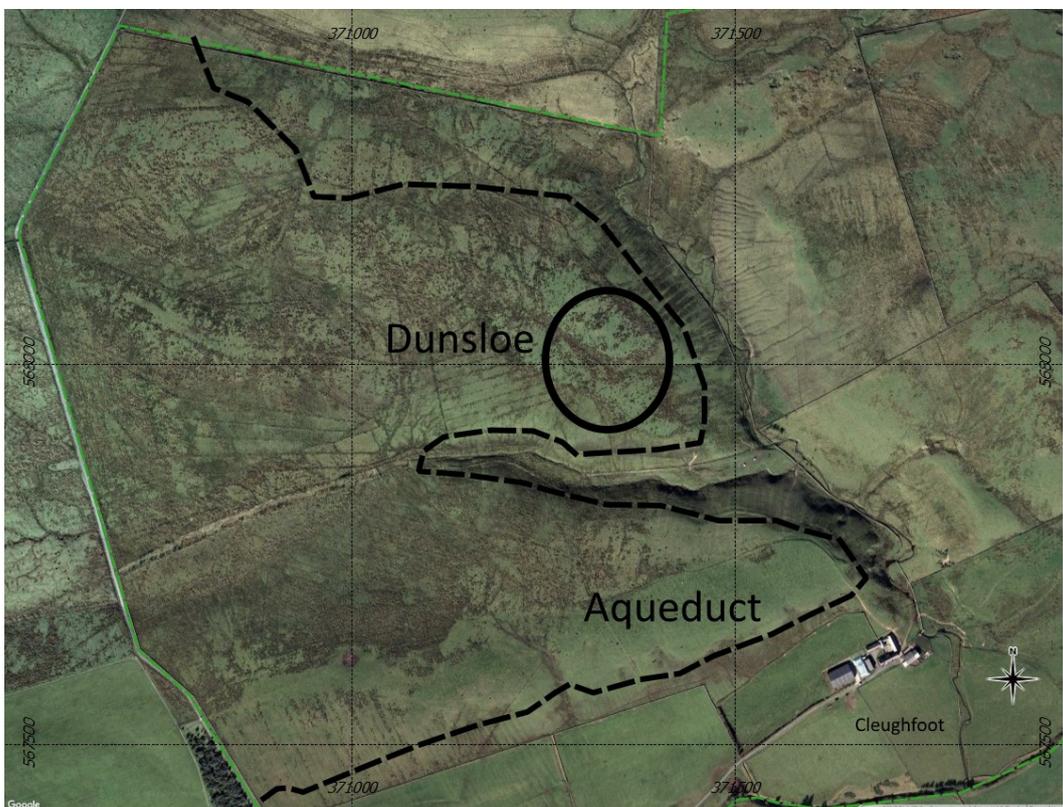


Figure 9: Map D - 'Dunsloe' Enclosure and Aqueduct route on Cleughfoot Farm.

The planning of survey activity sought to optimize the value of the budgeted volume of professional inputs and to provide experienced group members with the opportunity to take more responsibility. Professionally-led training for inexperienced volunteers was concentrated at the beginning of the first survey week, along with the completion of Total Station and precision GPS operations to record base stations for the whole survey area. Experienced members of NOWTAG led the completion of 'theodolite and disto' and 'tape and offset' measurements and plan drawings on the remaining days.



**Figure 10: Using theodolite and disto to record plan drawings.**

Due to restrictions within the Spadeadam flight zone it was necessary to schedule a separate OAN input in February 2017 in order to undertake the UAV low altitude photography at the Ventners Hall sites.

## **4.2 Detailed survey**

### **4.2.1 Survey overview**

A detailed topographical survey of each of the sites was undertaken to English Heritage Level 3 (Ainsworth *et al* 2007), and included contours generated by LiDAR.

Survey techniques were devised to be accessible to volunteers and allow for plotting in the field using equipment affordable by community groups. The opportunity was also taken to offer volunteers the chance to work with more expensive high-tech survey equipment and develop an understanding of the range of survey methods available and the contribution these make to the generation and recording of survey data.

There is a broad range of survey options that can be used by volunteers with access to non-expensive equipment, and the primary method used was theodolite with a disto mounted on top. This was supplemented by the use of tape and offset measurement at selected monuments. Survey was also undertaken by means of photogrammetry using high level

photography, with respect to survey control established by GPS / total station. A gazetteer and photographic record has been compiled by volunteers.

#### 4.2.2 Survey equipment

- NOWTAG had access to a dumpy level. Volunteers used this to complete sections across selected monuments and to re-survey parts of the route of the Roman aqueduct.
- *Total Station Survey*: A Leica 805 total station linked to a pen computer, which displays the survey results as they are generated, was used. This is important as it allows the volunteers to visualise the process and see the results being displayed.
- *Theodolite / Disto Survey*: the use of a theodolite / disto was found to be very effective during the earlier surveys, and this equipment is owned by the group. The theodolite measures angles and the disto (Leica laser range-finder) measures the horizontal distances. The information is then drawn up in the field by volunteers using an accurate film based protractor and ruler. This allows the volunteers to be involved in all stages of the process, but requires the survey control to be generated by other means.
- *GPS Survey*: Global Positioning System (GPS) can be utilised to record the general background topography. The survey grade GPS was a Leica 1200 differential system and uses Ordnance Survey base stations in conjunction with a roving station to correct the raw data with corrections transmitted by mobile phone. It is capable of an accuracy of +/- 0.03m and provides for a quick and effective means of recording the detail of the features.
- *Photogrammetric Recording*: Selected sites and immediate environs were surveyed by means of low altitude aerial photography, which, using specialist photogrammetric software, has been used to create accurate three-dimensional models of the site and topographic surfaces. Survey control is introduced to the photographs by the placement of survey control targets across the site which are located by means of survey grade GPS or total station. The photogrammetric processing was undertaken using Agisoft software which provides detailed modelling based on up to 200 overlapping photographs, creating a very detailed DTM (Digital Terrain Model) across the site. The photographs are then digitally draped over the model to create an accurate, three-dimensional model of the ground surface. The primary output, however, is a two-dimensional image which can be used to generate accurate plans or profiles.

#### 4.2.3 Survey control

Survey control was achieved by means of a high accuracy survey type differential GPS (see Section 4.2.2) to ensure that the survey was correctly located onto the Ordnance Survey National Grid.



**Fig 11: Drone photography at Ventners Hall.**

#### 4.2.4 Survey method

The detailed surveys by theodolite / total station recorded all structural and earthwork components, which were drawn by hachure survey. Survey points were marked on the ground using spray paint and the survey drawing was manually drawn up with respect to them. On completion of the survey the field drawings were digitised into a CAD system. The survey recorded all archaeological features, earthworks and elements. The survey aimed to identify, locate and record all built elements of the landscape.

#### 4.2.5 Gazetteer

A descriptive record of all features (i.e. 'monuments') was compiled using a standard proforma, incorporating, where possible, a provisional interpretation of the function of the monument and its chronology. The digital gazetteer was collated and edited using an Excel spreadsheet which was subsequently pasted into a Microsoft Word table. The gazetteer output is compatible with the NNPA HER. The table was formatted and topped and tailed within Word to produce the gazetteer volume for the survey project.

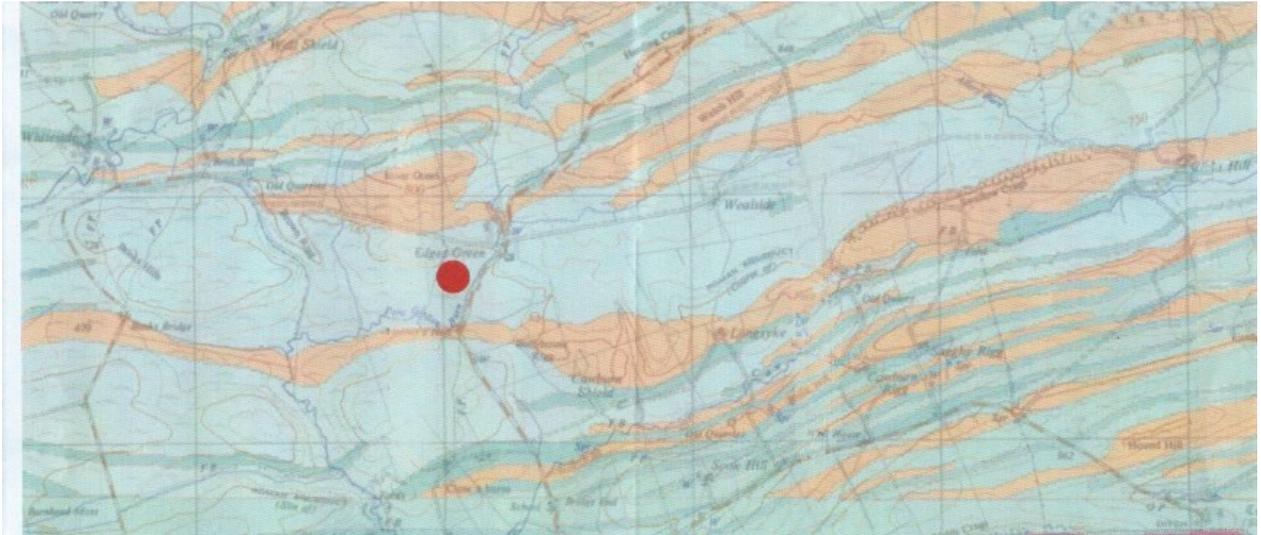
#### 4.2.6 Photographic record

A photographic archive was generated in the course of the field project, comprising landscape and detailed photography. Detailed photographs were taken of the archaeological features using a scale bar. All photography was recorded on photographic pro-forma sheets which show the subject, orientation and date. The photography was typically undertaken using a digital SLR camera with 12 megapixel resolution.

## 5 Environmental context

### 5.1 Geology

The upland landscape of the Edges Green area is dominated by a series of limestone and sandstone ridges running roughly west to east with sharp north-facing scarps or cuestas. To the south of the area, dominating the southern view is the highest scarp, known as the Whin Sill, along part of which Hadrian's Wall was built.



**Fig. 12: Edges Green Solid Geology (detail), © British Geological Survey.**

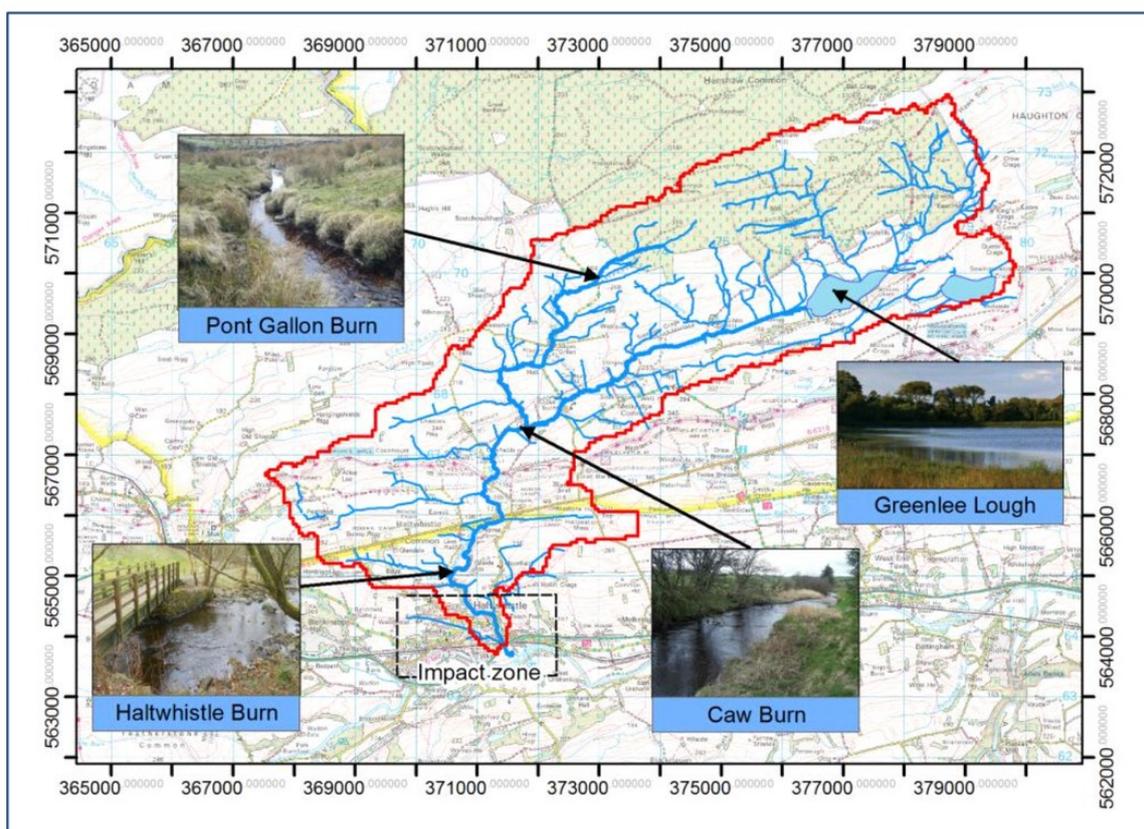
Figure 12 provides a detailed illustration of the solid geology of the Edges Green area taken from the Bellingham map of the British Geological Survey. Sandstones are depicted in brown and limestones and mudstones in pale blues. The Whin Sill is just to the south and is off map.



**Figure 13: Pont Gallon Burn just north of Edges Green Farm. Photo by Andrew Curtis**

## 5.2 Topography

The general topographical character is that of fell lands, gradually rising from south to north. Vegetation is grass and moorland in character. There is one major river system which drains the land from a high point of 311m in the north east to a low exit at 193m in the south. The area is thus largely within the 200-300 metre OD height range. The water drains off the study area near to Cleughfoot farm, and then into the headwaters of the Haltwhistle Burn, which in turn drains into the South Tyne. The whole area is essentially south-facing, but some slopes and valleys have less favourable aspects. The landscape is broadly undulating and rounded with smaller hillocks in places. Incised into the landscape is the cleft valley of the Pont Gallon Burn, a small stream rising just to the north-east of the study area in the Robin Rock area (see photograph above).



**Figure 14: Drainage pattern of Edges Green.**

Source: *Run-off Management Plan: Haltwhistle Burn Catchment Area* (Starkey et al, 2014)

## 5.3 Palaeoenvironmental context

### 5.3.1 Palaeoenvironmental summary

Two sites within 5 kilometres of the Edges Green area have been studied in terms of a palynology analysis. Each provides useful evidence for vegetation change in the area through pollen analysis and thereby evidence of man's activities in tree clearance and farming.

### 5.3.2 Crag Lough studies

Cores obtained by Petra Dark (2004) from the western edge of Crag Lough are the closest to our survey site. These indicate that until 2600 cal BC the area was predominantly wooded, with *Alnus glutinosa* (alder) and *Betula* (birch) growing around the lake, while *Corylus avellana* (hazel) and *Quercus* (oak) were present on what must have been better drained soils.

Human intervention is suggested after 2600BC when a decline in *Quercus* and *Corylus* pollen is noted. From this time, spores from Pteropsida (ferns) increase and there is an increase in the micro-charcoal, evidence she feels of scrub clearance and subsequent woodland grazing, possibly on the land to the South (i.e. atop the Whin Sill ridge, as suggested by the ferromagnetic minerals washed into the lough with the spores). With the continued reduction in *Quercus*/*Corylus* spores, *Hordeum*-type (barley) and *Poaceae* (grass) pollen appear, indicative of developing human activity, using clearings for cereal cultivation as well as pasture.

This activity appears to decline around 2000cal BC when the arboreal pollen recovers but the presence of *Ilex* (holly) and woodland herbs such as *Mercurialis perennis* (dog's mercury) suggests that the tree canopy remained light. By 1200cal BC however *Hordeum*-type (barley) pollen is consistently present and *Avena*-type (oat) pollens appear, suggesting a sustained and established arable economy in the Late-Bronze Age. Cereal cultivation stops temporarily from 900cal BC to 600cal BC. Noting an accompanying increase in micro-charcoal deposition, Dark believes this indicates a shift towards pastoralism rather than indication of human absence. From 600cal BC *Hordeum* and *Avena*-type pollens are again noted, together with *Chenopodiaceae* (goosefoot), *Rumex acetosa* (sheep's sorrel) and *Calluna vulgaris* (heather): indicative she feels of a mixed farming economy, with open grassland as well as cereal cultivation.

Around 400cal BC she notes a sustained clearance of the *Alnus glutinosa*, while there is seemingly a reciprocal rise in *Corylus avellana* and *Quercus*. Dark suspects that the removal of the alder allowed more distant plants to be represented in the pollen-rain as opposed to significant re-forestation. The removal of the alder (together with increased rainfall) might also have contributed to increased mire formation, evidenced by the appearance of wetland herbs and marginal aquatics, such as *Menyanthes trifoliata* (bog-bean), *Hydrocotyle vulgaris* (marsh pennywort), *Typha latifolia* (bulrush) and *Utricularia* (bladderwort). Throughout the period 400-50cal BC the presence of charcoal and other charred material suggests that burning was part of the land-management strategy.

By the Late-Iron Age (or perhaps with the coming of the Roman military), *Secale cereale* (rye) is noted. Dark's indicative carbon-dates from a layer above the rye pollen are a little earlier, but she is reluctant to use the earlier date as other pollen sequences taken near Hadrian's Wall suggest that *Secale* came with the Roman military. That said, she does report a decrease in *Poaceae* at the same time, possibly suggestive of a switch in the use of former pasturelands being used to grow cereal to supply the wall builders. *Betula* pollen too subsides at this time perhaps as the wood is used as fuel or as part of land clearance. While *Secale* continues to be present throughout the Roman occupation, she suspects that low levels of charcoal through this period suggests a relative decrease in settlement density close to Crag Lough. She questions if this might be indicative of civilians being moved away from the frontier zone. She also notes some evidence for hazel coppicing – sporadic peaks in *Corylus avellana* pollen –

but these are over long cycles of 150 years, which would suggest an over-reading of the pollen record.

Towards the Fifth Century AD and coinciding with the Roman withdrawal, *Secale* pollen disappears from the cores, while Poaceae and *Plantago lanceolata* (English plantain) once again increase, indicative of a partial return to pastoralism as the region de-militarised. *Betula* also starts to return at this time, indicating that land use might be rather less intensive in the early medieval period, although there is still *Hordeum*-type pollen present throughout the 500 years to 1000AD. In the eleventh century AD *Cannabis sativa* (hemp) appears in the pollen sequence until about 1700. *Secale* and *Avena*-type pollens reappear in the thirteenth century and remain a feature of the record until the 1700's when the 'Little Ice Age' again triggered a move away from arable farming.

### 5.3.3 Fell End Moss study

Davies and Turner (1979) studied the pollen record and peat accumulation rates at Fell End Moss from the Bronze Age to the Medieval period. They found that "during the Bronze Age a small amount of forest was cleared, probably in association with increased pastoralism in the area. The peak of this activity is dated to 1738 BC and, using the average rate of peat formation as a guide, it lasted about 200 years." This backs up Dark's conclusions that farming activity can be detected in the Bronze Age in this kind of locality.

Davies and Turner go on to note that from 1500 BC until AD 2 very little use was made of the land in the vicinity of the bog. But, from that date there is evidence of extensive tree clearance and the creation of pasture land and some arable. This situation is maintained until about AD 620. They also noted putative evidence during this period for the construction of Hadrian's Wall in the very high values experienced in herbaceous pollen around AD 122 and 130. Davies and Turner were among the first to note that the end of Roman rule did not coincide with a return to forested areas, indicating a continuation of previous agricultural activity and therefore some stability.

AD 1005 shows a significant rise in herbaceous pollen indicating increased cultivation, especially of rye and barley, along with more extensive pastoral farming. There is also evidence that hazel was being coppiced. This coincides with the Scandinavian immigration that may have led to populations moving east to avoid conflict and settling in the west Tyne Valley. However, this is a short-lived phase and the record shows that in the Norman and high Medieval period the area was less densely settled. The wetter climate also produced a faster rate of peat accumulation, culminating in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the area around may have been less attractive for farming than the lowlands.

The final phase is dated to 1516 and shows increased forest clearance and increased land use with wheat, barley and rye being grown.

## 5.4 Soils

Edges Green possesses two main soils. In the upper ground, generally above 250 metres OD, the ground is slowly permeable and wet, producing acid soils with a peaty surface. The lower ground, between 200m and 250m OD is also slowly permeable, but seasonally wet, producing acid, loamy and clayey soils.

## 6 Historical Context

### 6.1 Prehistoric context

Evidence for **Mesolithic** presence in Tynedale is still very sparse. But, as Young (2002) points out, this may largely be due to a lack of thorough research. We do know that Mesolithic hunter-gatherers were moving through Tynedale. There is evidence for this in finds of Mesolithic microliths near Corbridge and some Mesolithic flint scatters in the Warden Hill area. North of Edges Green there is also evidence of Mesolithic activity at Kennel Hall Knowe, now submerged beneath the reservoir at Kielder.

Our discovery of an earth-fast boulder with rock art within the survey area provides the first direct evidence for a **Neolithic or early Bronze Age** presence in the Edges Green area. This finding is consistent with other rock art sites that exist on the south facing slopes of the Tyne Valley, often between 200m and 300m OD. The standing stones, known as the ‘Mare and Foal’, are also attributed to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age and are situated just over a kilometre south of the study area (photo below).

Indirect evidence for Neolithic presence in the Edges Green study area derives from pollen records from core samples at Crag Lough (5 km east of Edges Green), pointing to activity between 3500 BC and 3000 BC.



**Figure 15: Mare and Foal Standing Stones**

Frodsham (2004) points out that the boundary between late Neolithic and early Bronze ages is blurred. Within the Northumberland National Park there are over 100 Bronze Age settlements, usually unenclosed roundhouses often with associated field systems and sometimes burial monuments.

There are features in Edges Green that may relate to the late **Bronze Age, or early Iron Age**. The round houses, cairns, field boundaries and cord rig at Ventners Hall and on Edges Green

farm demonstrate that early farming communities were active in the study area, possibly as early as the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC and as late as the era just preceding the Roman occupation.

Dumayne (1992), Tipping (1997) and McCarthy (1995) all agree that the increase in agriculture in areas along Hadrian's Wall dates to the late Iron Age and is not related to the impact of Roman settlement.

Gates (2004, 2005), from analysis of aerial photographs, has greatly added to an understanding of the farming activity that occurred in the vicinity of Hadrian's Wall in the Late Iron age by identifying extensive areas of cord rig, some of which clearly pre-date Roman structures. There are significant areas of cord rig in the survey area, one of which has been cut through by the Roman aqueduct.

## 6.2 Roman period context

Edges Green is situated very close to what became Britain's northern frontier. Stanegate, a road connecting Carlisle and Corbridge, was built sometime in the AD 70s and ran just 2 kilometres south of Edges Green. In this early phase, the nearest fort would have been at Vindolanda, about 5 kilometres east of Edges Green. For the next 25 years, until the Hadrian Wall complex was constructed, Stanegate represented the northern frontier of Britain. Hadrian's Wall was constructed between AD 120 and 130 (Birley 1977). Immediately to the north of the Wall (except where the terrain of the Whin Sill rendered it unnecessary), there was a deep ditch and to the south a broad, flat-bottomed ditch, with small ramparts on each berm. This latter feature is known as the *vallum*. Just to the south of the Wall a supply road (the Military Way) connected the forts. Stanegate and its associated forts continued to operate as a further element in this complex frontier system. This new arrangement led to a huge increase in a Roman presence in the vicinity of Edges Green with the Wall situated just 1 kilometre to the south. Farming and other activity by local people in the Edges Green area would have been powerfully affected by the Roman presence. Excavations at Walltown vallum in 1980s revealed that cultivation had preceded the ditch construction and that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD the area was open country with only small amounts of alder and hazel scrub; there was cereal cultivation in the vicinity. This provides clues as to the likely picture north of the wall at Edges Green at this time.

Great Chesters (*Aesica*), a small fort, was built in AD 128. Its granary was seemingly rebuilt in AD 225, and the commanding officer's house also appears to have been rebuilt at this time. The Great Chesters Aqueduct runs for almost 10 km towards the fort from Saughy Rigg washpool (NY74056879) in a circuitous route which crosses the survey area. The results of our survey with regard to the aqueduct are detailed in Section 7.

## 6.3 Medieval context

We have only a sketchy notion of how the Edges Green area was populated and administered in **Early Medieval** times. It is likely that most of the land in this area was subject to tribal custom and practice for the first 200 years of post-Roman history. As such the land would have probably been owned as tribal commons with hunting and grazing rights for most local inhabitants, living in small settlements close to the River Tyne. Transhumance may have been practiced in this period. The archaeological evidence for a possible medieval long house east of Edges Green may date to this period and so there may have been a continued farming

presence in this area from the Iron or even the Bronze Age. Other possible early medieval occupation may have been masked by later farmsteads of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Storey (1973) suggests that the hill farms along the line of, and to the north of, the Wall, often represent continuation of post-Anglian settlement, with infilling of new farms when South Tynedale became overpopulated in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Their names retain the nomenclature of Saxon and Scandinavian tongues. In this description he includes, Wallshield, Cleughfoot, Longsyke, and Cawburn Rigg farms.

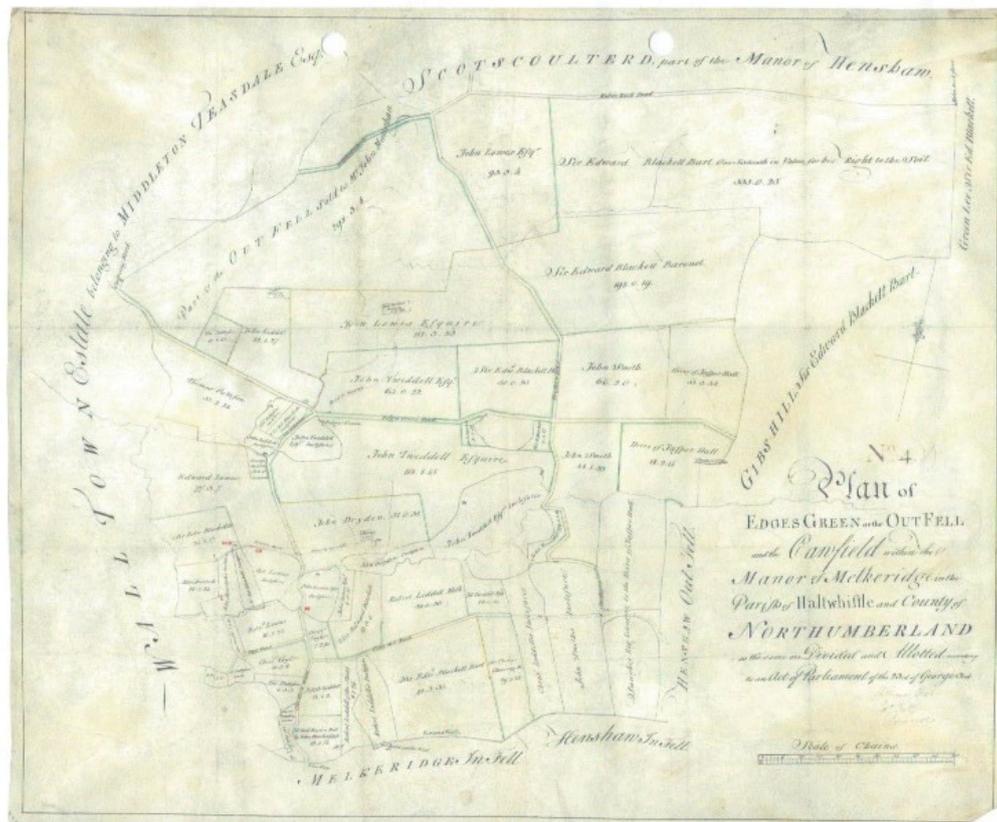
The location of Edges Green as a Border area meant that through much of the **Medieval period** it was subject to either Anglo-Scottish conflict or Border Reiver raiding. The most peaceful period of the medieval age locally, approximately 150 years, covered the latter half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century and most of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that this phase allowed some permanent medieval farmsteads to operate in Edges Green, although there is no documentary evidence and the archaeological evidence is inconclusive. Generally, the role of upland areas like Edges Green during the medieval period was either for hunting by the elites or summer pastures for grazing, undertaken by farmers living in Melkridge Manor.

#### **6.4 Post-medieval context**

Farming practice in Edges Green following the settlement of the Anglo-Scottish disputes and the Reiver problem in the early part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century was driven by a desire to maximise revenues and incomes from land that had been largely unused for centuries. It is probable that at this stage customary tenancies were granted to tenant farmers willing to establish cattle and sheep farms in areas such as Edges Green. This enabled landowners like the Blakett family, as lords of Melkridge Manor, to establish rental income. From the records, farm units at Edges Green, Wealside, High Close A Burns, Close A Burns and Cleughfoot seem to have been established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (or in some cases perhaps re-established after a long gap). In addition, on the edge of our study area, farms were established at Cawburn Shield and Longsyke. Nevertheless, the practice of summer pasturing carried on, as shown in the 1604 Survey of the Borders (Barker and Butlin 1973).

The **enclosure of the Edges Green** area took place towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century after the 1783 Act. The enclosure of Henshaw Common, immediately to the east took place at a similar time. The enclosure to the west, which includes a small part of the study area that contains Cleughfoot farm, was part of the enclosure of Walltown Estate, for which no records have yet been located. The area to the south that includes Cawfields Farm appears to have been enclosed as part of Haltwhistle Common enclosure in 1793. It seems likely that the Edges Green Enclosure Act was based upon the prior agreement of various landowners and tenants. Sir Edward Blakett, as the Lord of Melkridge Manor, had freehold title to most of the land, which was mainly if not wholly pasture. The nature of the land is primarily governed by the topography, such that the higher land is rougher pasture and moorland and the lower portion has grass fields suitable for cattle rearing and sheep fattening. This is reflected in the field sizes of the Enclosures, which can be seen in the map below, where the higher fields are large and gradually reduce in size proceeding south.

This map shows clearly the contrast between the old curved, relict boundaries of existing tenants and the new, straight boundaries of proposed new enclosures. This is better illustrated in a survey map of 1837, sections of which are included below.



**Figure 16: Edges Green Enclosure Map. Source: NRO: QRD 7/1/4**

The 1787 Enclosure Awards gave land to several families, as well as the existing Manorial Lord, Sir Edward Blackett. The main names in Edges Green Award are as follows: John Lowes; John Tweddell; John Liddell; John Smith; Edward Lowes; Thomas Patterson; and Heirs of Jasper Hall. Most, if not all, of these probably held some customary tenancies prior to the Act.

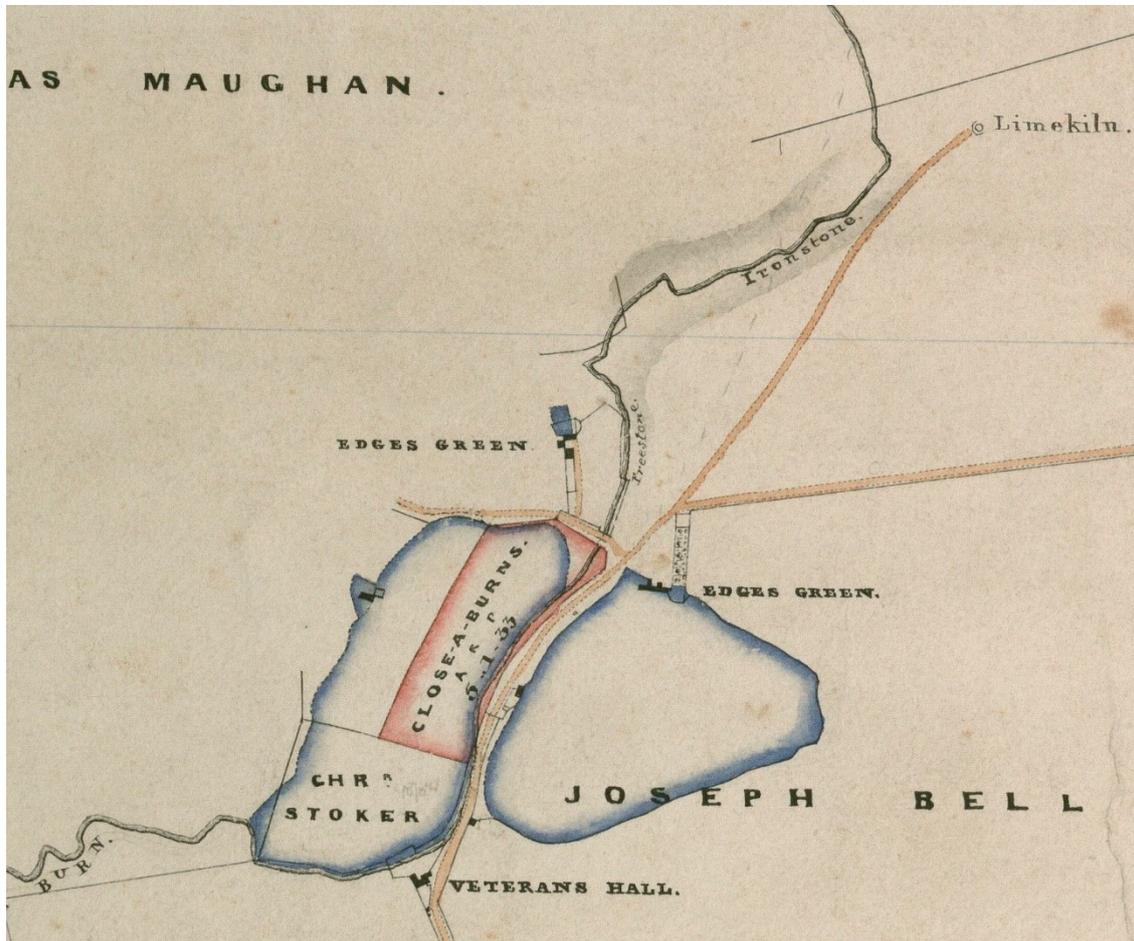
The practice of using drovers roads to drive cattle from Scotland and Northumberland to areas further south gathered pace in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and had some impact on areas like Edges Green as the routes traversed surrounding hills to reach Haltwhistle and beyond.

## 6.5 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century context

Although the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries brought massive change to Britain as a whole there was little change to the basic settlement and landscape of Edges Green. The essential land holdings remained the same as those set in the previous centuries, although there was a degree of consolidation of farm units. The roads and infrastructure were modernised at various stages but the system remained the same. New communication channels and modes of transport have undoubtedly impacted on the practice of economic and social life but these have not resulted in any significant physical change on the ground.

Sir Edward Blackett commissioned a detailed survey of his properties in the Manors of Henshaw and Melkridge in 1837. It provides a snapshot of the land boundaries and ownerships between the 1787 Enclosure Map and the 1866 Ordnance Survey First Edition. It also clearly demarcates what it calls Ancient Boundaries and allows a more detailed

examination of these areas. One of the features of these maps is the notice made of any mineral potential. Thus, there is attention to coal, ironstone and freestone, wherever they appear. An example of Edges Green is shown below:



**Fig 17: Blakett's 1837 survey map.** *Source: NRO ZBL 291/5*

The First Edition (1866) and Second Edition (1898) of the Ordnance Survey Maps covering Edges Green at a scale of 6 inches to 1 mile provide a relatively unchanged picture of settlement and farm boundaries from the 18<sup>th</sup> century Enclosure Act. Their principle interest is in charting efforts to extract minerals, such as coal and stone and establish limekilns.

There is no evidence for serious quarrying in the Edges Green area. Small quarries shown on the 1783 Enclosure Map, to the north and to the south of Edges Green do not appear as active by the time of the Ordnance Survey maps from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The limekiln marked north of Edges Green on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the Ordnance Survey has disappeared by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Coal Mining was conducted on the periphery of the Edges Green area at the following pits and an exploration for a Drift Mine was also conducted within the study area: Wallshield Colliery 1902-1985, Ventners Hall Colliery 1937-1959, Robin Rock Drift 1940s-1991, and Hilda's Exploration Drift Mine c. 1958. During the Second World War and its aftermath several

hundred miners were bussed through Edges Green to work at the mines on its northern periphery. More recently, forestry has replaced mining as the principal non-farming activity on the study area's periphery and logging waggons frequently travel through Edges Green.

## 7 Description of sites

### 7.1 Site 1: Edges Green (prehistoric)

#### 7.1.1 Site summary

The Edges Green prehistoric site lies north-east of the existing farmhouse at Edges Green. Its western edge is 250m north of the farmhouse, from where it extends in a strip 200m wide and 600m long, orientated to the east-north-east. This survey identifies hut circles, boundary banks, clearance cairns and enclosures: together forming a multi-period prehistoric landscape.



**Figure 18: Site 1 Aerial photograph.** © Tim Gates

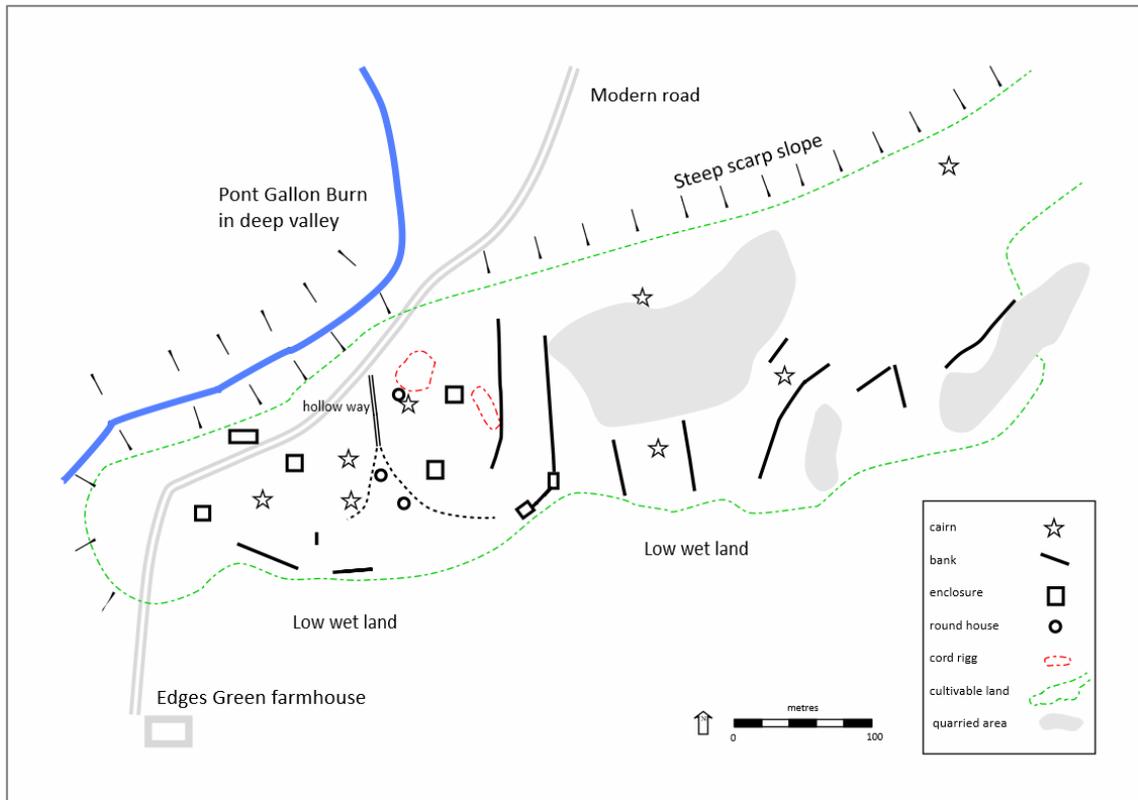
There are two records for the site in the HER. Firstly, HER 24626 (NMR NY76NW228, Monument 1383832), is described as a post-medieval stock enclosure. Its location corresponds to *EG011*. Secondly, HER 23016 is described as an unenclosed prehistoric settlement and field system, probably with Iron and Bronze Age components. The location given is between two banks in the current survey, *EG022*, *EG025*. Two possible hut sites were identified from APs but could not be found on a follow-up field visit (no hut circles were identified in the current survey at the positions given). Both HER listings were based on aerial photography (AP) by Tim Gates and a brief site visit; the current survey is the first time the site has been fully investigated on the ground.

The land slopes gently to the south; on the north side is the steep-sided valley of the Pont Gallon Burn, so the upper part of the site is a ridge; along part of this a modern road runs and forms the farm boundary. To the south of the site, the land is boggy and unusable for agriculture.

The underlying bedrock is carboniferous limestone, overlain by superficial glacial till. There are numerous small quarries in the area, mostly along the upper part of the ridge. These are recorded separately in the gazetteer as Site 12.

The site lies on land currently used for rough grazing. None of the area of the field system shows any sign of ploughing on APs or lidar images, and there are no enclosure-era stone

walls crossing it. This contrasts with the parallel sandstone ridge 250m to the south which has been extensively ploughed. The AP survey identified two small patches of cord-rig totalling no more than 600 sq m in all. This is a very small proportion of the total 120,000 sq m of the whole site and contrasts with the much larger areas of cord rig seen nearby, e.g. the area of 10,000 sq m at NY715683 (1.4km to the south-west).



**Figure 19: Site 1 simplified plan**

### 7.1.2 Clearance cairns

Eight clearance cairns were identified in site survey. Four of them were in the western part of the site, *EG009*, *EG012*, *EG013*, *EG019*. Two further cairns were located further east on the top of the ridge, *EG101*, *EG120* and two in the lower part of the eastern half of the site, *EG109*, *EG119*. All cairns were small, between 2m and 5m diameter, with heights from 0.2m to 0.5m. The only larger cairn was crescent-shaped 5.2m x 3m, height 0.6m. The cairns seem typical clearance features and are not likely to be burial cairns. In view of the quarrying across the site, other clearance cairns may have been quarried away or hidden in quarrying debris making them unidentifiable.

### 7.1.3 Field system

The site is crossed by a series of boundary banks, *EG008*, *EG014*, *EG023*, *EG025*, *EG027*, *EG108*, *EG110*, *EG111*, *EG112*, *EG116*. These are generally earthen and very low, 0.1m, to 0.25m, in height. The width of the banks is generally between 1.0m and 1.5m, although some are broader, *EG25*, *EG27*. Stones from clearance may be present, and two of the banks are simply lines of stones, *EG008*, *EG023*. In the case of *EG008*, the stones form two parallel lines, 3.7m

apart. A further bank, *EG005* was recorded on the survey but it may well be a modern drainage feature, possibly machine-cut, with a ditch on the uphill side.



**Figure 20: Site 1, monument *EG014***

No complete fields are defined by the banks, but there is a regular arrangement in that many banks are approximately parallel to each other and run southwards (downslope), stopping before reaching the poorer quality, wet, low-lying land. There is no significant difference in height of ground, i.e. lynchetting, between the two sides of the banks. Another possible member of this group of parallel boundaries is a hollow way, which broadens downhill into a funnel defined by changes of slope. *EG020*. An irregular clearance cairn, *EG118*, has also been categorised in this group of boundaries since detailed survey shows that it is part of a north-south bank not recorded on the initial survey, possibly also including structure *EG117*. In order going eastwards these parallel boundaries are *EG008*, *EG021*, *EG027*, *EG025*, *EG118*, *EG116*, *EG111*.

The separation between these boundaries in order are: 40m, 90m, 40m, 45m, 50m, 155m, suggesting semi-regular field widths of 40m to 50m, with some boundaries missing. Assuming these circa 45m wide fields stretched for about 200m from top to bottom of the slope, their area would have been a little under a hectare (i.e. just over 2 acres). The north ends of the boundaries are in two or three cases obscured by quarries. If there were east-west banks closing the northern edges of the fields, they have been lost in the disturbance of quarrying and the modern road. None of the parallel boundaries appear to cross the ridge and descend its steep northern side, apart from the hollowway, *EG020*, for which a northern continuation is seen on lidar images, beyond the Pont Gallon burn.

The south end of the parallel boundaries in some cases have some sign of the banks curving before reaching the wet ground: the side of the hollow way open out as a funnel and the eastern side curves round to join the south end of bank *EG027*. Similarly, the south end of bank *EG025* curves westwards at its south end, become bank *EG023* which runs along the margin of the wet ground.

There is a second set of parallel banks, *EG110*, *EG108*, *EG112*, *EG104* in order from the north-east. They are spaced 20m to 30m apart and run north-east to south-west. They are situated east of north-south parallel banks *EG116*. These banks are stony and may relate more to clearance than land division. In particular, *EG104* is very stony and could be later, related to quarrying.

#### 7.1.4 Enclosures

There are several possible enclosures in the site that have various forms; none are typical for agricultural enclosures.

On the north side of the modern road, and therefore lying outside the farm boundary, is a rectangular structure formed of indistinct, 0.2m high, earth banks with large stones, *EG007*. It is rectangular, 13m x 4.4m, aligned along the ridge. It may be a sheepfold, but its date and function are unclear.

*EG011* (HER 24626) is a disturbed irregular rectangular area 24m (north to south) x 21m. It is a platform, with earthen banks along some parts of all sides apart from the south. On its west side is a circular structure, *EG010*, 7.5m diameter (external), 3.1m (internal). Similarly, there is an irregular 7m diameter circular platform on its east side, *EG011A*, partly defined by a low bank. The original structure of *EG011* has probably been altered, possibly in recent times as it lies next to a road and near quarries. Classification is difficult. Neither of the circular structures are typical of round houses.



**Figure 21: Site 1, monuments *EG010* and *EG011***

*EG017* is an oval enclosure defined by a bank 19m (EW) x 16m (NS), but with an undefined southern sector. The south-east side of the enclosing bank includes a 6m x 4.5m sub-rectangular platform. Although not typical in view of the missing sector, it may be an altered agricultural enclosure.

*EG117* is a rectangular disturbed area 5m x 4m, containing several small mounds. It may be a quarrying feature, but could be a clearance feature or disturbed enclosure as, with *EG118*, it is on the alignment of one of the parallel boundary banks.

*EG118* is a rectilinear, almost square, structure. It is 5m x 4.5m, formed of 0.75m wide stony banks, 0.25m high. There are gaps in the banks at the north-east and south-west corners. Its form is atypical and its function unclear.

*EG006* is near the western edge of the site. It is a 6m diameter scoop in the south-facing hillside, scattered with large stones. It is not typical of a house platform and may be the remains of an agricultural structure such as a sheepfold.

Two possible shieling structures were noted. Firstly, there is a rectangular, dwarf-wall structure, *EG022*, at the south-west end of a stony bank, *EG023*, but not aligned on the same orientation. The structure is 7m (east-west) x 3.5m and has a sunken floor but no internal structure or apparent doorways. It lies on the edge of the good agricultural land, beside wet ground. Secondly, at the north-east end of the same bank is a square dwarf-wall structure in the internal angle where the bank turns to the north, becoming bank *EG025*. It measures 4.2m on all sides, with a sunken floor. Attached to its north wall may be a second rather shorter cell; however, this is not clearly seen. Both structures could have been used as shielings, but may be small agricultural enclosures. They are the only possible shieling structures found in the survey of Edges Green farm.



**Figure 22: Site 1, monument *EG022***

#### 7.1.5 Round houses

There are two probable plus one possible round house locations. None of these have been previously described. All are in the western third of the site, where the density of clearance cairns is also higher than in the rest of the site, which contains mainly field-boundary banks. Both patches of cord rig are also in this part of the site. This suggests that the round houses preceded or were contemporary with the system of parallel fields covering the eastern part of the site.

*EG015* is slightly irregular circular platform, slightly scooped into the south-facing hill slope. There is a bank around it, external diameter 7m, internal 5.5m, clearest on the east side. There are no visible ditches. This monument, and the nearby *EG016* which lies 24m to the north-west, are probable round house sites.



**Figure 23: Site 1, monument EG015**

*EG016* is a circular earthen bank, external diameter 6m, around the edge of a platform. The bank is absent on the south (downhill) side. There are no ditches. Both *EG015* and *EG016* lie in the funnel at the south end of hollow way *EG021*, suggesting that it was not used for stock movement at the time the houses were occupied.

*EG020* is a semi-circular earthen bank with diameter 5.5m, width 0.9m, height 0.2m. If a round-house site, then the northern half has been lost. It is situated near the crest of the ridge, next to a small area of cord rig seen on APs. There is a rectangular area nearby, 22m x 6.8m, over which the ground surface is sunken, *EG018*. This may be produced by modern turf-stripping as there is level access from the nearby road and the quality of turf is good.

## **7.2 Site 2: Ventners Hall North. Unenclosed settlement and field system**

### **7.2.1 Site characteristics**

Located immediately west of the road to Edges Green Farm and the present cottage at Ventners Hall, Site 2 features two adjacent ring ditches, *CL101* and *CL102*, surrounded by areas of cord rig. The site was first identified by Tim Gates' aerial survey (Gates 2004). It has been recorded on the Historic Environment Record, HER 23015 'Ventners Hall 2 Unenclosed prehistoric settlement and field system'. The area is currently used for grazing. The underlying bedrock is carboniferous limestone, overlain by superficial glacial till.

### **7.2.2 Ring ditches and banks**

*CL101* was identified as a ring ditch consisting of a low circular bank with an internal ditch and an incomplete external ditch. The inner ditch has a diameter of 4.8m and is 0.8m wide. The inner ditch is thought to have contained either timber posts or a timber palisade. The bank has a diameter of 8m and is 0.1m high. The external ditch is 0.5m wide with a diameter of 11m. The central area within the inner ditch is slightly raised. We were unable to confidently identify evidence of an entrance location.

Some 10m north and down-slope of ring ditch *CL101* is a low linear bank *CL103*, 0.1m high, running 21m roughly east-west then turning southwards upslope for 8m before terminating some 5m west of ring ditch *CL101*.

*CL102*, also identified as a ring ditch, consists of a low circular bank with an indistinct ditch. The bank has an outer diameter of 10.3m and a height of 0.1m. Abutting its western edge is an earthwork feature 5m x 4m up to 0.25m high with a 1m wide lower central area.

### 7.2.3 Aerial photography and photogrammetry

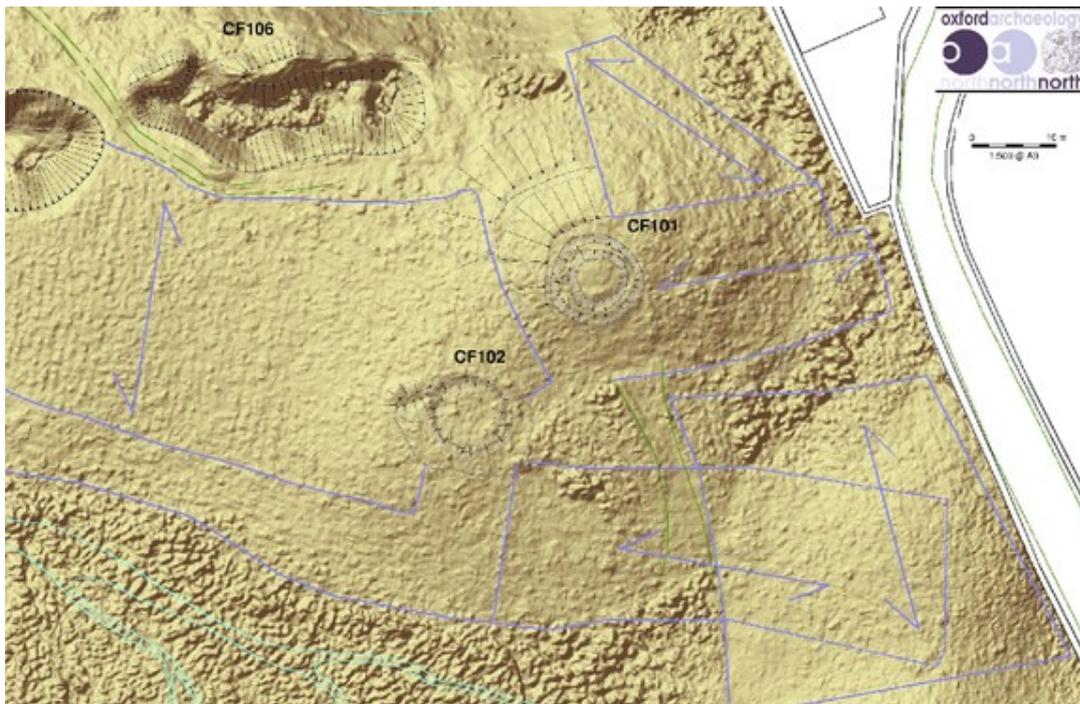
Previous aerial photography (Gates 2004) has shown extensive cord rig at this site.



**Fig 24: Ventners Hall North, Aerial Photograph. © Tim Gates**

The drone aerial photography that we undertook in February 2017 has further elucidated the distribution and alignments of this cord rig. As Figure 25 below indicates, the site is extensively covered by several areas of cord rig running on a variety of alignments and, at the south-east part of the site, includes two areas with different overlapping alignments. Cord rig runs close to both of the ring ditches and appears to overlay ring ditch *CL102*.

Down-slope and to the north-east of the two ring ditches two areas of more recent quarrying cut into the low ridge. At the southern edge of the western quarry pit lies a 7m x 5m x 0.5m high truncated oval cairn *CL108*, previously recorded as part of HER 23015. This lies above the quarry and is therefore unlikely to represent a spoil heap. Careful examination of aerial photography suggests that the cord rig bends around the western side of the cairn and possibly overlays its eastern end.



**Figure 25: Ventners Hall North, Terrain Model**

*NB: CF101, CF102 and CF 106 are given in the gazetteer as CL102, CL102 and CL106*

### **7.3 Site 3: Ventners Hall South. Unenclosed settlement and field system**

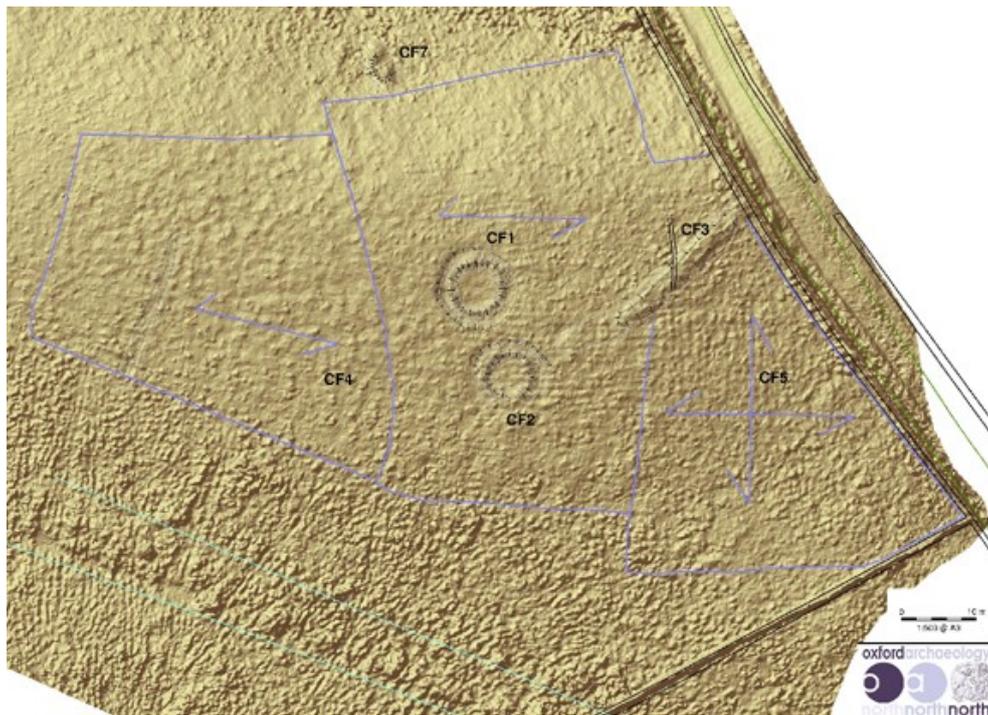
#### **7.3.1 Site characteristics**

Two adjacent ring ditches lie immediately west of the road to Edges Green some 200m south of Site 2 on the summit of a low ridge currently used for grazing. The site has previously been recorded as HER 23014 'Ventners Hall 1, Unenclosed prehistoric settlement and field system'.

#### **7.3.2 Ring ditches and cord rig**

*CL001* is a circular ditch on a gentle SE facing slope. It is of 9.2m diameter N-S and 9.4m diameter E-W. Its ditch has a maximum depth of 0.2m. It has no internal features. The roughly E-W cord rig appears to overlie the SE quadrant.

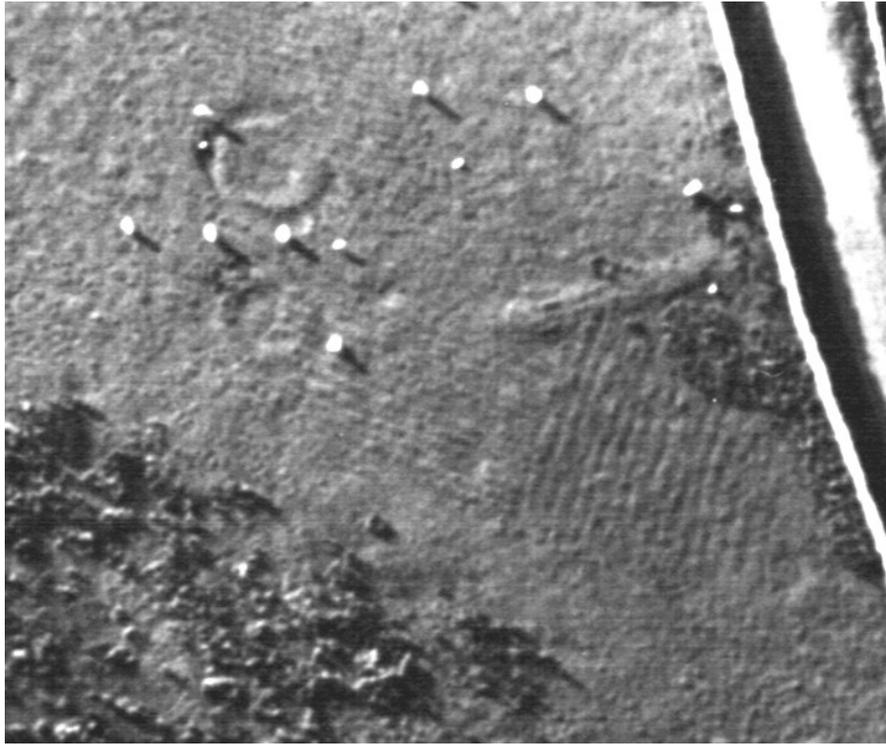
*CL002* is a circular ditch of 9m diameter adjacent to the south of *CL001*. The ditch is 1.3m wide and has a maximum depth of 0.1m. There is no indication of an external bank. It appears to be completely overlain by the roughly E-W cord rig.



**Figure 26: Ventners Hall South, Terrain Model**

*NB: CF1, CF2, CF3 and CF7 are given in the gazetteer as CL001, CL002, CL003 and CL007.  
The cord rig, CF4 and CF5, is grouped in the gazetteer into CL004*

20 metres east of *CL001* and *CL002* lies a 21m length of 20cm high, 1.9m wide flat-topped bank, *CL003*. The bank is truncated by the present-day stone wall and metalled road and there are no further indications of it in the more improved field east of the road. The relationship between bank *CL003* and the cord rig has been difficult to discern. Careful examination of the aerial photograph, as shown in Figure 27 below, gives a possible indication of cord rig encroaching on the bank. Although there are no signs of the cord rig completely overlying the bank an indication that the cord rig respected the bank could support an interpretation of *CL003* pre-dating the cord rig.



**Figure 27: Ventners Hall South, Aerial Photograph.** © Tim Gates

### 7.3.3 Clearance features

Along the northern edge of a boggy area to the south of the pasture land occupied by ring ditches *CL001* and *CL002* and the areas of cord rig there is a low curving earthen bank, *CL006*. It extends for 50m, and is 1.5m wide with a height of 0.1m. Its western end is aligned EW and its eastern end is aligned NE-SW. The location and nature of this feature is indicative of it having served as a field boundary.

Along the same edge of the current pasture land are two alignments of stones suggestive of linear clearance. *CL008* linear alignment of stones is 30m long. Its stones average approximately 0.5m in diameter. *CL009* lies further west. Its linear alignment of stones is also 30m long and its stones average approximately 0.7m in diameter.

Some 50m north of ring ditches *CL001* and *CL002* is the only cairn, *CL007*, identified in site 3. The oval cairn measures 6.8m x 3.8m x 0.25m high and is slightly concave on its eastern, down-slope, side.

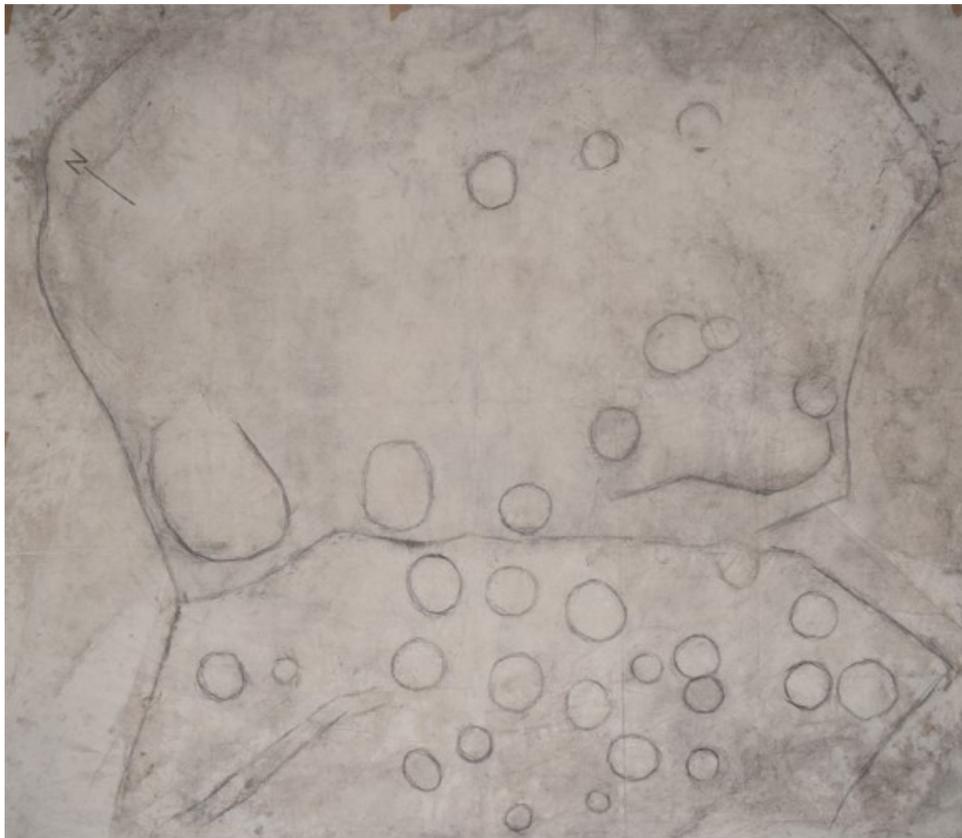
## 7.4 Site 4: West of Ventners Hall. Cairns and Rock Art.

Some 300m west from Site 2, Ventners Hall North, there are two cairns *CL014* and *CL016* located 50m apart on a low ridge. *CL014*, 5m diameter x 0.5m high, has a central depression suggesting that it has been dug into. *CL016* measures 6.3m x 5.8m x 0.3m high and is partially turf covered.

Our impression that cairn *CL014* might have had a funerary function is reinforced by the discovery about 30m further west, beyond the current stone wall, of a cup-marked stone, *CL116*. The low-lying stone 1.1m x 0.8m x 0.25m has twenty visible single cup marks, including six in a 'domino' configuration on its steeply sloping western edge. On the eastern, less sloping, side there are six further single cup marks plus two 'basins' on its top edge.



**Figure 28: Cup-marked stone CL116.**



**Figure 29: Rubbing of cup-marked stone CL116. Anne Bowyer.**

## 7.5 Site 5: East Edges Green farmstead and field system

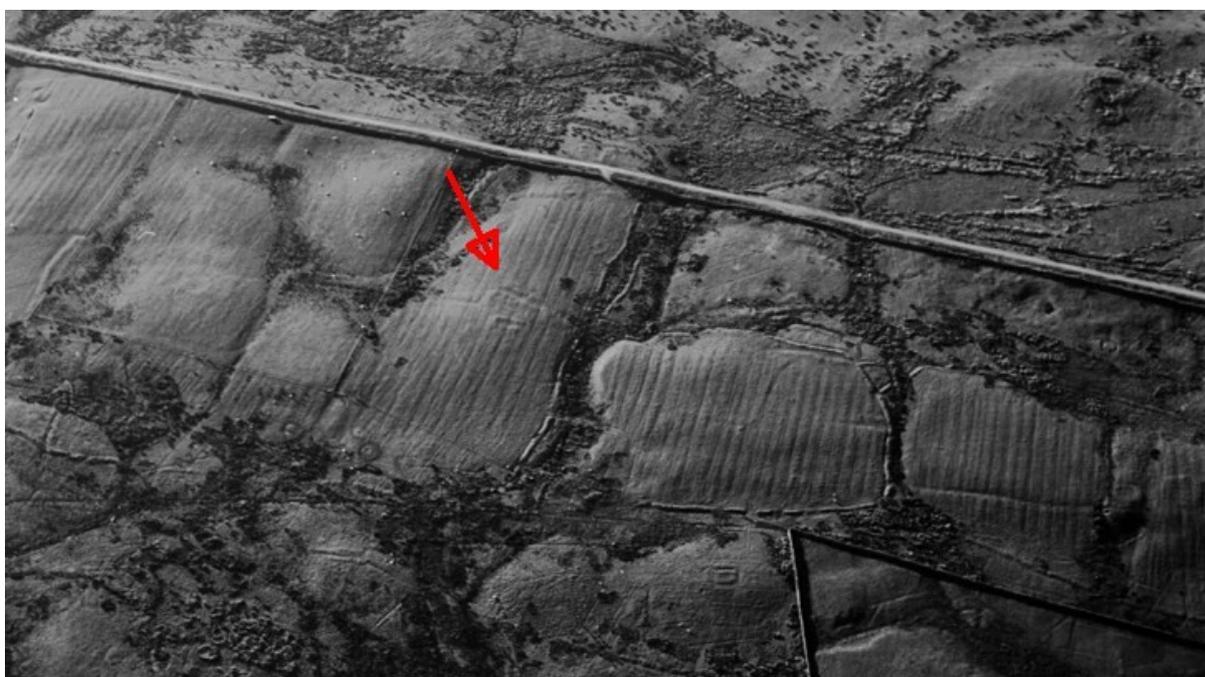
### 7.5.1 Location

The East Edges Green farmstead site, *EG034*, lies 300m east of the existing farmhouse of Edges Green Farm, and 500m west-south-west of the existing farmhouse of Wealside Farm. The modern track from Edges Green to Wealside is 100m to the north of the farmstead. A field system of enclosures defined by earthen banks stretches from 300m east to 600m west of the farmstead. There are two possible stack stands *EG044*. A couple of drainage features (short lengths of ditch with upcast material) lie in wet ground 30m to the south: these may be modern, *EG040*, *EG041*.

East Edges Green is recorded in the HER as a post-medieval shieling and field system: HER 24625, NMR NY76NW268, Monument 1386510.

The farmstead and field system lie on land currently used for grazing. The underlying bedrock is carboniferous limestone, overlain by superficial glacial till. There are no rock outcrops or quarries in the area covered by the field system. The fields are on a gentle south facing slope, with boggy rough pasture to both south and north. Damp natural gullies run southwards downslope draining the land.

Further east along the ridge there are fragmentary remains of similar banks and hollow ways, Site 6, defining a field at Wealside, but modern land improvement has obliterated much of this. To the west, there is evidence of old fields at Edges Green farm with curving, pre-enclosure field boundaries and a small area of broad ridge-and-furrow seen on lidar images to the south of the farmhouse.



**Figure 30: Site 5, Aerial photograph. Farmstead is arrowed. © Tim Gates.**

The features of the farmstead and field system area are shown well on aerial photographs (APs) by Tim Gates (TMG 16655-7, 9, & 17), as well as on lidar images and in the field.

### 7.5.2 Farmstead

East Edges Green farmstead, *EG034*, lies in the centre of one of the fields of the field system. The field is defined by earthen banks and has natural gullies to the east and west. The farmstead is situated on a prominent spur with good views across adjacent fields. A dwarf wall longhouse structure lies on the south edge of a platform. The longhouse is 10m x 5m, with the long axis orientated east-west. Its walls survive as indistinct earth banks, up to 0.2m high. No internal divisions are apparent. There is a 0.8m wide entrance halfway along the long northern side and a probable entrance opposite it on the southern side. The east end of the longhouse is less well-defined, possibly because the wall has slumped down the side of the platform.

The platform forming the yard of the farmstead is 20m x 10m, aligned east-west across the slope, as is the longhouse. Steep slopes on all sides define the platform, apart from the south side where the longhouse runs along its edge. There are no defining banks, or internal structures, except that APs show a possible three-celled rectangular structure aligned east-west on the north-east corner of the platform; this may be an artefact caused by cultivation furrows crossing the platform's edge. A hollow way, *EG035*, approaches the platform from the west. This is 13m long and circa 1m in width across its base. It reaches the platform in the centre of its western side.



**Figure 31: Site 5, monument *EG035***

A shallow ditch crosses the spur of land on the north (uphill) side of the platform, probably to control drainage. To its north are two short, 5m, sections of east-west bank: the function of these is unknown. They may be a relict part of a field boundary bank, mostly destroyed by later ploughing, or may be the remnant of an ancillary farm building.

Across the whole field in which the farmstead is situated, and running over the farmstead itself, is north-south ridge-and-furrow. This is straight and 4m wide (ridge to ridge), typical of post-medieval horse-ploughing. Clearly it occurred when the longhouse was already abandoned and demolished to a low level. It is similar to the ridge-and-furrow pattern of other fields in the field system around the farmstead.

### 7.5.3 Stack Stands

There are two possible stack stands at East Edges Green. One lies 30m to the south of the field system in wet rough pasture, *EG044*. It is a raised sub-rectangular platform, 9m (EW) x 6m. The platform is 0.3m high and surrounded by a ditch although this is indistinct on the west side. There are no entrances or internal structure.

The other possible stack stand was not clearly defined on the ground but can be seen on lidar images and APs in the centre of the easternmost field of the field system by a cairn, *EG038*. It is a sub-rectangular platform, 8m (east-west) x 5m, defined by a ditch on all sides with a low internal bank. There are no internal structures or entrances.

### 7.5.4 Field System

As described above, a field system surrounds the Edges Green East farmstead. The fields are defined by low earthen banks (*EG029, EG031, EG032, EG033, EG036A, EG036B, EG036C, EG037, EG039, EG0133*). These vary in width from 1.0m to 1.6m and in height from 0.2m to 0.5m. They are earthen (sod-cast) with stones only rarely present. Height is variable with many short, low, sections.



**Figure 32: Site 5, monument *EG032***

The fields are sub-rectangular, with curved corners and slightly convex sides with very few straight sections. Four main fields can be seen, in a row from west to east. The fields are separated from neighbouring fields by natural gullies draining southwards down the slope. In addition, the westernmost field has a similar gully dividing the field into an eastern and western portion. The southern edges of the fields are approximately at the dividing line between good pasture land and wet rough pasture to the south. The northern edges are also approximately where the land's agricultural quality deteriorates.

Post-enclosure straight stone walls cross the area but are unrelated to the field system.

The westernmost field is approximately 100m (east-west) x 160m (1.6 hectares, 4 acres). It is mostly obscured by modern land improvement in a post-enclosure field defined by straight stone walls. However, the southern edge of the field is still present, identifiable by the faint 4m ridge-and-furrow. The northern edge extended north of the Edges Green to Wealside track where faint north-south ridge-and-furrow is seen on APs up to 10m north of the track.

The west-middle field contains the farmstead itself. The field is 50m (east-west) x 170m (0.8 hectares, 2 acres). The northern half of the eastern side has a double bank with 8m separation. The bank on the western margin of the field is mostly absent. The northern edge of the field lay 15m to the north of the Edges Green to Wealside track as there are short banks here, *EG029*, and faint ridge-and-furrow on APs.

The east-middle field is 100m (east-west) x 70m (0.7 hectares, 1.8 acres). There is a low, almost obliterated bank, *EG 36C*, running northwards from the centre of the field. It turns eastwards before reaching the northern edge of the field and runs to the eastern edge, just below the north-east corner. This may be a relic of a previous phase of the field system. The north-east corner of this field has a diagonal bank cutting it off from the rest of the field, forming a small annexed enclosure, trapezoidal in shape. This is approximately 15m x 10m.

The easternmost field is 160m (east-west) x 80m (1.3 hectares, 3 acres). It is divided into equal parts by a natural north-south gully. The bank around southern field edge is absent for 2m where it crosses the gully; it may have been washed away by water action, or never present. A hollow way crosses the field from east to west, cutting through the ridge-and-furrow and the bank on the west side of the field. This may be part of the old route from Edges Green to Wealside. Close to the intersection of the hollow way and gully is a small, 2m diameter, stony mound, *EG038*. This contains a layer of hard black material, so may have an industrial origin.

The fields are all crossed by straight north-south ridge-and-furrow, 4m width. The ridges are variable in height and width. This is clearly seen on both APs and lidar images. It crosses over the top of the farmstead. The alignment of the ridge-and-furrow doesn't follow the banks defining sides of the fields, as the banks are curving. In many places, the ends of the ridges lie very close (less than 2m) to the banks, e.g. on the southern edge of the east-middle field: too close to comfortably turn a horse-plough. At the north-east corner of the same field, the ridge-and-furrow appears to underlie the bank. The ridge-and-furrow does not pass over the banks anywhere.

#### 7.5.5 Relationship to fields of neighbouring farms

There is a clear uncultivated gap between the Edges Green East field system and the next farm to the east, Wealside. Part of gap consists of an improved-post-enclosure field, but there is also 80m of rough pasture which shows no evidence of previous cultivation. Wealside itself has evidence of a field system, Site 6, lying to its south-west. It consists of curving banks and holloways, *EG045*, *EG046*, *EG047*, *EG048*, *EG049*.

The relationship with the fields around Edges Green Farm to the west is less clear. Edges Green has a complex patch-work of ridged cultivation areas around the west and south sides of the farmhouse. There are also improved, post-enclosure, fields seen on AP (TMG 16655-9). Only a small natural gully separates the fields of Edges Green and East Edges Green

To the north of Edges Green is a small L shaped earth bank, *EG002*, with arms 5.2m and 6m long. This is recorded on the HER as a post-medieval stock enclosure: HER 24624, NMR

NY76NW224, Monument 1383685. Nearby is a longer curving earth bank, *EG003*, which is 1.8m, wide, 61m long and 0.2m high. These may be relict parts of an enclosure and field boundary. It is impossible to say if they formed part of the East Edges Green field system, or that of Edges Green. As described below, the East Edges Green fields must have become part of a nearby farm (probably Edges Green) when the farmstead itself was abandoned and over-ploughed.

## 7.6 Site 6: Wealside post-medieval field

Wealside farmhouse lies 800m east of Edges Green farmhouse. The straight track joining them is a post-enclosure feature since it cuts across the fields of East Edges Green. A parallel hollow way runs further to the south and may have been the predecessor of the modern track (see Site 5 description). The straight track is seen on the 1861 OS map, as are the straight post-enclosure stone walls defining the fields around Wealside. There is evidence of an older, pre-enclosure, field and related hollow ways to the south and west of the farm.

The Enclosure Map (see historical discussion) shows this older approximately oval field enclosed in a new straight-sided field. Documentary records shown that the farm was established (or re-established) in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but the current farmhouse is a 19<sup>th</sup> century structure (HER N14831).

The old field is approximately 130m x 100m (1.3 hectares, 3.2 acres). The farmhouse lies at its north-west corner. On lidar images, faint narrow straight cultivation ridging can be seen running across part of the field north to south. The northern edge of the field is defined by a low bank with a hollow way on its north side, *EG049*. The hollow way is 5m wide, 0.5m deep and its western end terminates at the wall surrounding Wealside farmyard.



**Figure 33: Site 6, monument *EG049***

The eastern side of the field is defined by a drainage ditch and hedge. The curving southeast corner has no ditch but a large earth bank, 68m long and 0.5m high, *EG048*. Its base is 6m wide. The west end of this bank runs parallel to, but north of, a straight dry-stone wall until it disappears in a wet area. Nearby is an oval flat-topped earth mound, *EG047*, 9.8m x 8m, which may be natural or upcast from drainage work in the wet area.

The western edge of the field consists of a 125m-long, hollow way, *EG045*, running south from the farmhouse. This is 2.3m wide at its base. It is crossed by stone walls without an evidence of gaps or gates so clearly precedes them. Near its south end, it is joined on its west side by another hollow way, *EG046*, 17m long and aligned WNW to ESE. This has indistinct banks on both sides.

## 7.7 Site 7: Cleughfoot medieval / post-medieval fields

At Cleughfoot there is evidence of a field system of boundaries, enclosures and related hollow ways which preceded the enclosure-era stone walls around improved fields. The system spreads for 800m east-west along a south facing slope, with Cleughfoot farm in the centre. At the east end of the system are Low Close A Burns and Close A Burns farmhouses.

For maps of the distribution of features in this area see our Level 1 Walkover Survey Report (available on the group website). No Level 3 survey was done at this site.

The underlying geology is carboniferous: mainly sandstone, though with bands of limestone. Currently the land is used for grazing. Higher up the slope, on rougher pasture, there is evidence of broad curving medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation, and on the top of the ridge is an area of cord rig, seen on Tim Gates' APs. Two small enclosures overlie this broad ridging and may be stock enclosures or stack stands. The broad ridging can be seen faintly over some of the improved fields, in places overlain by narrower straight ridging.



**Figure 34: Site 7 Aerial Photograph of Cleughfoot farmhouse. © Tim Gates**

Cleughfoot and Close A Burns farms were probably established or re-established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (see historical discussion). The current farmhouses are thought to be 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings (HER: 14133, 14825 and 14824). The boundary and enclosure banks are earthen, mostly low (about 0.3m) and about 1m to 2m wide. Most of the boundaries run across or straight down the slope. Describing the features from west to east:

A hollow way, *CL122*, runs across the slope for 60m. It is up to 3.5m wide. It turns downslope at its east end and becomes indistinct at the west end. Although not on exactly the same alignment, it may continue further east as hollow way and bank *CL120*. This is a low earth bank with a hollow way on its upslope side, running eastward for 180m across the slope. It clearly cuts through the broad ridge-and-furrow. Lying on the south side of the east end of *CL120* is a small sub-rectangular banked enclosure, *CL121*, HER24603. This is 12m (east-west) x 20m.

There is a low (0.1m to 0.15m) semi-circular bank about 100m south of the east end of hollow way, possibly a circle truncated on its west side, *CL123*. It measures 3.3m (east-west) x 8.9m and lies on the edge of an area of broad curving cultivation ridges.



**Figure 35: Site 7, monument *CL123***

About 100m to the north of the east end of *CL120* is a small, 5m x 10m, rectangular enclosure, HER24604. This is seen only on APs as it is almost ploughed-out. It overlies broad ridge-and-furrow.

Further east there is a trackway, *CL127*, which is 85m long and 3m wide. It runs across the slope, though not aligned with *CL120*. It is a short distance north of and parallel to the modern track to Cleughfoot farm, so may be a previous track to the farm site. North of this track is an area 30m x 85m where very narrow (averaging 1m wide) ridges across the slope overlie broader (4m wide) straight ridges running up and down slope, *CL126*. Immediately north of this area is an enclosure era stone wall, beyond which are broad (6m) ridges up and down slope. The very narrow ridges (clearly seen on the AP above, west of the farmhouse) overlie the 3m ridges which themselves succeeded the broad medieval ridges. The nature of cultivation that produced the 1m ridges is unclear; although the same size as cord rig they are much more regular. It is probably significant that Cleughfoot farmhouse is nearby, so it may

be an area previously used for vegetable cultivation. About 50m to the north is a small (under 10m) banked enclosure seen on APs overlying broad ridge-and-furrow, HER24605.



**Figure 36: Site 7, monument *CL126***

To the east of Cleughfoot farm, Pont Gallon Burn runs southwards in a small valley. On the east bank of the Burn is a set of three enclosures. The most northerly and largest, *CL129A* HER24606, is an enclosure 35m (east-west) x 16m surrounded by an earth bank 1m wide and 0.2m high. On the north side (i.e. upslope) it has an external ditch. The central enclosure, *CL129B*, is a sub-circular platform to the south of *CL129* and separated from it by a 3m wide depression. This platform is 12m (east-west) x 10m and is 0.2m to 0.3m high. The most southerly and smallest, *CL129C*, is an irregular platform 12m x 8m.



**Figure 37: Site 7, monument *CL129B***

The three enclosures are contained in a triangular area which shows no evidence of cultivation ridging, but immediately to the south is a field of narrow (4m) straight cultivation ridges. This irregular, 130m x 130m, field is defined on two sides by a stony earth bank, 1m wide and 0.5m high, *CL128*. The other sides are formed by burns. The cultivation ridges are broader (10m) in the southern part of the field, and stop 2m short of the bank, with a headland.

Running north-eastward from the east side of this field is a straight linear earth bank, *CL131*, 70m long and terminating 7m from Low Close A Burns farmhouse. There is a parallel bank,

1.5m north of the main bank, for the 20m closest to the farmhouse. On the far side of the farmhouse the bank resumes, *CL133*, although it is indistinct at first. About 90m beyond the farmhouse the bank turns through a right angle to run south-east towards the burn. There is a parallel bank, *CL131A*, about 15m to the northwest; this is very straight, has a ditch on both sides, and is probably part of the most-recent (enclosure-era) land division.

Running north from Low Close A Burns is a pair of parallel stony earth banks, separated by 1.5m, *CL132*. There are trees on the western bank. Lidar images show that this route continues northwards as a hollow way, curving eastward to reach Close A Burns farmhouse.



**Figure 38: Site 7, monument *CL132***

South of Close A Burns are two related earth banks. *CL136* is 30m long and aligned north-east to south-west. It forms the northern limit of narrow cultivation ridging, which is clearly older than the enclosure-era walls of the modern field; the ridges run under the northern field boundary, and are not aligned with the field edges. *CL137* is 15m long and at right angles to *CL136*, but not joining it.

## **7.8 Sites 8: Dunsloe shieling**

Two features are located on the hill top north of Cleughfoot farm: *CL021* (Site 8) and *CL022* (Site 9).

Site 8 is located 100m to the south of Site 9, on top of the same hill but down slope from Site 9. It is 7.5m by 4m, roughly rectangular and defined by low stony banks. There is a raised area at one end and a possible entrance feature.

Site 8 is most probably a shieling structure of indeterminate but possibly medieval date.



**Figure 39: Site 8, monument CL021 Dunsloe shieling.**

## **7.9 Site 9: Dunsloe enclosure**

Site 9 is an enclosure approximately 21.5m by 16m in size, recorded as HER 24607. There is an earthen bank surrounding the feature, with a possible entrance to the south side. An external ditch is present for part of the perimeter, mainly the north-west and south-east quadrants. Within the southern end of the enclosure is a flat platform approximately 14m by 10m and there is a lower annex at the northern end. To the east of the structure is a sub-rectangular area of ground disturbance. The feature is located at the summit of the hill with significant long-distance views to all sides. From historical records, it appears to have been known as Dunsloe but no other information was found.

Site 9 is hard to categorise. It may be a shieling structure, like Site 8, but it is unclear why there would be two so close together. Site 9 does have the size and design characteristics of a Roman signal station, but its location so close to Hadrian's Wall makes this interpretation problematic. Excavation of this feature would be the only way of providing any detailed interpretation.

## **7.10 Site 10: Clearance cairns at northeast corner of Edges Green farm**

There are two clearance cairns approximately 2km northeast of Edges Green farmhouse, 17m apart. The northern cairn, *EG129*, is 4m diameter, 0.25m high and the southern cairn, *EG130*, is 4.4m diameter, 0.5m high. There is an arc of large stones on the south and west sides of this cairn with a 4m line of large stones running north from the cairn.



**Figure 40: Site 10, EG130**

### **7.11 Site 11: Banks and ditches north of Close A Burns**

There is a scatter of mounds, banks and ditches in the rough pasture on the south-facing slope north of Close A Burns, all of which are probably related to post-medieval drainage and other agricultural activities. *CL09* is an indistinct scoop 5m across with a low bank around the northern quadrant. It is next to a natural gully and has no internal features. *CL110* is 16m long bank with uphill ditch. *CL112* and *CL114* are oval earth mounds in boggy pasture, 3.6m and 4.8 on their longest axes. *CL113* is a 4.7m length of ditch with upcast mounds on both sides.

### **7.12 Site 12: Quarries at Edges Green**

Shallow quarries are dug into the sandstone ridges north east of Edges Green farmhouse. Most are very small, with depths up to 2m and lengths between 5m and 40m. There is a quarry building, *EG123*, adjacent to the small quarries *EG124* and *EG125*. The 8.5m x 3m building has two unequal cells and survives to a maximum height of 5 dry stone courses (1.5m).



**Figure 41: Site 12, EG123**

*EG121* is a possible shooting butt: it is a grass-covered 3.2m x 2.9m mound, 0.5m high. There is a 1.2m diameter depression in the centre with an opening to the south-east. The mound lies

on the northern edge of the ridge, immediately above a limestone outcrop which has a demolished lime kiln, HER24627, at its base.



**Figure 42: Site 12, EG121**

A pair of sandstone quarries, *EG043*, lie 50m apart cut into each side of a small stream valley 500m south-east of Edges Green farmhouse. There is a stone ford crossing the stream between them. Each quarry is 20m diameter with a depth of 3m. The HER record, HER24637, describes them on the basis of APs as possibly sow kilns or stack stands.



**Figure 43: Site 12, EG043**

### **7.13 Site 13: Quarries at Ventners Hall**

A line of quarries, up to 35m, are situated along the sandstone ridge west of Ventners Hall. Two of them are cut deeply into the northern scarp of the ridge: *CL106*, *CL107*.

### **7.14 Site 14: Peat stand south of Pont Gallon Burn**

This is a raised rectangular platform 4m x 5m, with a surrounding ditch, *CL119*. It lies next to an area of boggy ground 500m west of Ventners Hall. It is a probable peat stand.



**Figure 44: Site 14, CL119**

### **7.15 Site 15: Stack stand north of Pont Gallon Burn**

This is a raised oval platform, 5.5m x 4m, surrounded by a shallow, 1m wide, ditch. *CL138*. It lies 180m north-west of Ventners Hall. The HER record, HER24609, describes it as a round house or stack stand.

### **7.16 Site 16: Ridge-and-furrow north of Pont Gallon Burn**

About 400m west of Ventners Hall is an unusually small area of 3m wide cultivation ridges aligned north-south, *CL115*. It covers a small promontory of drier land south of a dry-stone enclosure wall. It is 30m (east-west) x 15m. Beyond the wall to the north is cord rig aligned east-west.



**Figure 45: Site 16: Aerial photograph. © Tim Gates**

### 7.17 Site 17: Boulder with quarrying marks

A boulder, *CL024*, lies 900m west of Ventners Hall. It is 1m x 1m and is 0.5m high. There are two incised wedge slots on it.



Figure 46: Site 17, *CL024*

### 7.18 Site 18: Pair of worked stone gateposts west of Ventners Hall

A pair of stone gatepost, *CL017*, is situated 300m west of Ventners Hall. They are 1.4m high and have slots carved in them.

### 7.19 Site 19: Gravestone

This gravestone dated 1905, *CL135*, lies flat in the middle of pasture 200m south-east of Close A Burns. There is a chapel 200m to the south-east.

### 7.20 Site 20: Ruined building

A rectangular barn/byre, 9m x 4.5m, lies 300m south-east of Edges Green farmhouse. It is built of roughly-course, roughly-dressed stone blocks with lime-mortar bonding. The slate roof is partially fallen. There is a wooden door but no windows. Internally there are wooden animal stalls. *EG042*. The building adjoins enclosure-era dry stone walls, with which it is aligned.



Figure 47: Site 20, *EG042*

### 7.21 Site 21: Drinking trough by Edges Green farmhouse near aqueduct line

This 0.9m x 0.5m stone trough, *EG003*, is sunk into boggy ground by an active spring on the west side of the road adjacent to Edges Green farmhouse. The side of the road behind the trough is revetted with a stone wall 4.2m long, 0.5m high. The spring is close to the line, as marked on OS maps, of the Roman aqueduct (Site 23).



**Figure 48: Site 21, *EG003***

### 7.22 Site 22: Hexagonal sheepfold and enclosure north-east of Edges Green

This hexagonal sheepfold, *EG128*, HER 21433, is present on the first edition OS map. It is constructed of dry stone walling, with sides of 12m. On the south side is a gateway with stone posts. There is a small 6.6m x 3m annex to the east of the gateway. Spur walls run south from the fold for 7m and north-west for 13m. It is in good condition.



**Figure 49: Site 22, *EG128***

## 7.23 Sites 23 & 24: Roman aqueduct

### 7.23.1 Reasons for our re-survey of aqueduct

The survey area is crossed by an aqueduct intended to serve Aesica (Great Chesters) Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall. Parts of it cross both Edges Green farm (as Site 23) and Cleughfoot farm (as Site 24). The aqueduct route shown on the plan below, Figure 50, is complex due to the aqueduct following contours in the terrain on an almost level grade with a fall of only 22m in its entire 11km length. The aqueduct consists of a dished depression approximately 0.75m in width and originally approximately 0.5m deep with a waterproof clay lining. It is not a unique structure, with other Roman forts in the UK having aqueduct based water supplies, but it appears to be the only fort on Hadrian's Wall which has an aqueduct. It is unusual in that the aqueduct is located north of Hadrian's Wall and therefore in 'enemy' territory.

Survey of the aqueduct was limited to the areas where its route is within the survey areas of Edges Green and Cleughfoot farms, providing a route length of around 4km to investigate, being some one third of the aqueduct's total length.

The aqueduct's route is well known from earlier surveys and is the only monument within the survey area which had been surveyed in any detail previously. Its route is shown on Ordnance Survey mapping and it is scheduled as an Ancient Monument along its entire length (Northumberland HER 6480). We were not therefore at the outset anticipating this survey identifying any new information on such a well-known monument.

The initial Level 1 survey identified significant gaps in the aqueduct route along the survey length where the aqueduct was not visible. Previous surveys of the aqueduct had identified gaps but had assumed that these were the result of the monument being "ploughed out" by later agricultural activity. However, wider survey work as part of the Level 1 survey showed that the later agricultural activity in the area had not caused significant ground disturbance with, for example, large areas of cord rig visible. As a result, it was not easy to explain why gaps in the aqueduct route were present: clearly some cause other than ground disturbance had to be responsible.

In order to assist our investigation, previous surveys of the aqueduct were researched. This identified that it had originally been surveyed in the 1860s by Collingwood Bruce and that the route shown on the Ordnance Survey mapping was based on this work. Whilst a number of other limited surveys had been undertaken, particularly in the 1960s, the only other comprehensive survey was undertaken in 1990 by Mackay for RCHMS. We were able to obtain a full copy of this survey which significantly aided our work.

### 7.23.2 Aqueduct survey findings

The survey findings below are referenced to the numbered sections of the aqueduct shown red on the plan, Figure 50. The aqueduct route shown on this plan is as marked on OS maps.

Discussion of the findings can be found in Section 8.3 of this report.

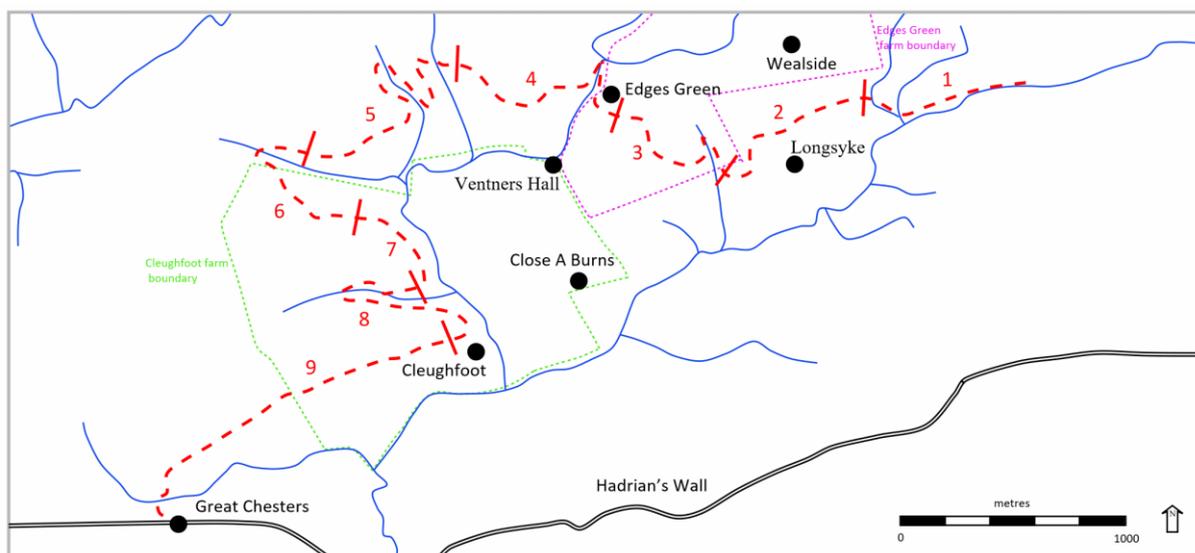
**Sections 1 and 2** - Outside of survey area.

**Section 3** - The aqueduct enters the survey area as a shallow depression difficult to identify against the ground surface. It then disappears where the published route dog-legs around a ravine in the ground, with the entire ravine section missing. Further west, the aqueduct becomes very visible as it crosses a well-drained field, cutting through cord rig. This

demonstrates that the cord rig predates the aqueduct, which is assumed to have been constructed around 135AD to co-ordinate with the known construction date of the fort it served.

At the west end of this field the aqueduct route becomes confused with other drainage channels intersecting.

The published route then shows it crossing the field south of Edges Green farm which has been heavily improved and the aqueduct is not visible. Level survey undertaken by us showed however that it could not have taken this route as the field level is significantly lower than the aqueduct gradient. Further surveying of levels identified a revised aqueduct route north of the cord rig field, where the aqueduct can be seen on the ground. This is some 300m from the published route.



**Figure 50: Route of aqueduct as shown on OS map, with sections numbered as in text.**

**Section 4** - The aqueduct is entirely absent along this section. This is partially explained by its route being beneath modern roads but other areas along section 4 are not in disturbed areas.

**Section 5** - The east end of section 5 was beyond our survey area but the west end was investigated and in this area the aqueduct is very visible, but as a double line along a steep slope with one line 1m above the other for a distance of around 0.5km.

**Section 6** - Once the aqueduct reaches the stream bed at the end of section 5 it entirely disappears along this section but the land has not been disturbed by any later activity

**Section 7** - The aqueduct suddenly reappears at the north end of section 7 and becomes for 100m or so a well-defined structure with a walkway alongside the aqueduct ditch. After 100m the aqueduct seems to disappear but the walkway continues as a path-like structure cut into the slope of the hill. This continues until the beginning of section 8.

**Section 8** - At the start of this section the path-like structure continues, approximately 1m below the predicted level of the aqueduct. There is a small retaining wall on the path where

it crosses a gully on the slope. This wall appears to be constructed to a Roman design. Further west on this section the path disappears, but this seems to be as a result of later quarrying or similar activity which extended to both sides of the ravine that the aqueduct is predicted to traverse. As the aqueduct route returns westward further along section 8, both aqueduct and walkway reappear beyond the quarrying as a sophisticated structure for around 200m in an excellent state of preservation on the steep slope. Water appears to be still present in the aqueduct on this section.

**Section 9** - At the start of section 9 the aqueduct vanishes abruptly so that the end of the ditch can be identified. Beyond this point the aqueduct is no longer present and this is the case to the end of the survey area half way along section 9, some 1.5km before reaching Aesica fort. Using the results of the Mackay 1990 survey it appears that there is no evidence of the aqueduct visible for the final 1.5km to the fort.

## 8 Discussion

### 8.1 Introduction

The study area at Edges Green exhibits a variety of prehistoric monuments, a Roman aqueduct and a range of pre-Enclosure and post-Enclosure agricultural features. Prehistoric monuments include a cup-marked boulder, three possibly funerary cairns, scattered clearance cairns and linear clearance features, two stone-based round houses, four ring ditch remains of timber-built round houses and extensive areas of cord rig. One area of cord rig has been cut through by the Roman aqueduct. The ring ditches are overlain or encroached upon by other areas of cord rig. Other than these instances there is little surface evidence to support a confident assessment of the sequencing or dating of the prehistoric features.

The location of the aqueduct, purportedly supplying Great Chesters fort (*Aesica*), to the north of Hadrian's Wall, raises interesting questions about native activity in the area during the Roman period. The absence of features that could be ascribed to the early medieval period and issues concerning the potential dating of pre-Enclosure features raises further questions that we address below.

Whilst the area is today subject to pastoral farming, surface evidence is indicative of there having been periods of arable farming during both the prehistoric and the medieval/ post-medieval periods.

Given these considerations, whilst it is possible to outline a general sequence of human activity in the Edges Green area, our discussion has to also identify a number of unanswered questions that impact upon attempts to delineate a more definitive sequencing.

### 8.2 Prehistoric activity

#### 8.2.1 Initial settlement

Although there is palynological evidence suggesting Neolithic activity at Crag Lough 6km east of Edges Green there is no direct evidence of such activity in our study area. However, our discovery of a cup-marked boulder on Cleughfoot Farm may represent the earliest direct evidence of human activity in the area. Prior to our survey the nearest known rock art sites were at Crag Lough and at Hartleyburn Common, some 11km south-west of Edges Green.

#### 8.2.2 Rock Art and funerary cairns

The dating of 'cup-and-ring' rock art remains problematic. The limited dating available has been of decorated stones associated with datable funerary monuments. Bradley (1997) suggests that they first appeared in the late fourth millennium BC and extended through the later part of the Neolithic, and were still in use in the early Bronze Age, giving a date range from 3200 to 1700 BC. While there is limited use in the middle Bronze Age, there is no evidence that this rock art extended into the first millennium BC. Beckensall and Frodsham (1998) have argued that it is not possible to assign all earthfast rock art to the Neolithic and that there is a case for an early Bronze Age dating for some such rock art. It has also been argued that many of the more complex motifs are likely to be of Neolithic date and that later examples tend to be less complex, consisting mainly of simple cup marks.

There is insufficient evidence to definitively date the rock art boulder on Cleughfoot Farm. However, its location near to a possible funerary round cairn, combined with its motifs being simple cup marks suggests an early Bronze Age date. Although round cairns are a very common tradition across upland areas and have a broad date range, 95% of the datable round cairns in south-west Scotland can be ascribed to the early Bronze Age, primarily on the basis of ceramic finds (Yates 1984). The few datable round cairns from Cumbria support this chronology (Grinsell 1953).

In all there are three cairns (*CL014*, *CL016*, *CL108*) along a low E-W ridge that may have been funerary monuments. There is no evidence of a clearance cairnfield in the vicinity, nor evidence of other clearance activity near the two western-most cairns. The eastern-most of the cairns (*CL108*) has been encroached upon by later cord rig.

If these cairns and the rock art boulder do constitute evidence of early Bronze Age burial activity is there any other evidence of the activity of the people who used them? The small size of the cairns, 5m to 7m diameter, suggests that if they had a funerary function they were used by just a few families rather than any extensive community. Whilst it may be tempting to posit an association with the inhabitants of the timber-built round houses at nearby Ventners Hall this would be entirely speculative.

### 8.2.3 Early clearance

Site 1 (Edges Green), and Site 3 (Ventners Hall South) exhibit signs of early clearance. Present-day remains give different appearances between the sites. Such differences may however have arisen from the nature of subsequent activities at the two sites. There are no signs of early clearance at Site 2 (Ventners Hall North), although the extensive cord rig may be an indication that all early clearance features, such as cairns or linear stony alignments, may have been obliterated by the subsequent activity. Similarly, the absence of cairnfield concentrations may merely mark the impact of later field system development.

We have no basis for determining whether or not early land clearance preceded, followed or was contemporary with the rock art and possible funerary cairns.

At Site 1 there are eight cairns, four at the western side of the site and four more widely spread over the eastern side of the site. Extensive quarrying on the eastern side of the site may well have removed other cairns or compromised their recognition amongst quarry debris. In the south-eastern area of the site the stony linear features *EG110*, *EG111* and *EG112* could potentially represent linear clearance rather than later field boundaries. It is also quite possible that early linear clearance features on Site 1 were subsequently developed into field boundaries.

In contrast to Site 1, at Site 3 there is just one cairn. Evidence of early clearance at this site is in the form of two stony linear alignments, each extending for some 30m along the northern edge of boggy land. These alignments do not appear to be part of a field boundary system. Although it is very likely that they pre-date the extensive area of cord rig, which in turn post-dates the two ring ditches at Ventners Hall South, this cannot be asserted definitively.

At Site 2 there must have been clearance pre-dating the cord rig, but no evidence of it remains. It is most likely that both Sites 2 and 3 were subject to early clearance. To the west of this, including on Site 4, there are no signs of clearance at any period.

#### 8.2.4 Domestic structures

Three unenclosed settlement sites have been identified. At Sites 2 and 3 the ring ditch remains of timber-build structures are very similar in form and dimensions, suggesting that they are either contemporary with one another or closely related sequentially. All four structures clearly pre-date the extensive cord rig.

At Site 2, Ventners Hall North, there is a curving bank that appears to be associated with the eastern-most round house. Located on the slope north of the round house it may well have formed part of a boundary delineating lower, wetter land close to Pont Gallon Burn.

At Site 3, Ventners Hall South, there is a length of earthen bank just east of the round houses that appears to pre-date the cord rig, and which therefore potentially is associated with the round houses.

In contrast, at Site 1 (Edges Green) the two round houses identified are stone-founded structures. They are located to the west of a series of four north-south aligned field boundaries which delineate more cleared areas of land. It is reasonable to associate the settlement with the field boundaries. It can be safely concluded that the round houses pre-date the hollow way that lies immediately to the north. The round houses are located at the point where the hollow way funnels outwards down the slope and would have been immediately in the way of any movement of livestock associated with the hollow way. Livestock movement through the round house location would be consistent with the heavily degraded nature of the structures visible today.

What can be said about the relationship between the unenclosed settlement sites at Edges Green and Ventners Hall? The structural differences suggest that they were not contemporary with each other, but do not provide a basis for confidently proposing any particular sequence. The generally accepted broad range of dates for unenclosed settlements is 1500 to 100 BC (Jobey 1985, Haselgrove 2002). Recent analysis of prehistoric roundhouse types in Northern Britain presented by Rachel Pope (Pope 2014) gives a date range for ring ditch roundhouses of 1600 to 400 BC. The date range for stone-founded roundhouses substantially overlaps this period and extends into the Iron Age/Romano-British period.

As the settlements at Ventners Hall pre-date the cord rig that encroaches upon them, there is a question as to where the people who undertook the ploughing were living. It is possible that Sites 2 and 3 represent two phases of settlement at Ventners Hall with the previously occupied site having been ploughed by those who had established a second pair of timber-built round houses. However, as cord rig encroaches upon the round houses at both sites there would remain the question of where those responsible for the second phase of cord rig would have lived.

Could the cord rig at Ventners Hall been created by people from the unenclosed settlement at Edges Green? Although this possibility has to be considered there are factors that would appear to make this unlikely. The Ventners Hall cord rig is nearly a kilometre distant from the Edges Green site. There are two smaller areas of cord rig on the cleared area just to the north of the Edges Green round houses. There would have been scope to enlarge these before choosing to move further afield to Ventners Hall.

### 8.2.5 Field system and cord rig

To the west of the roundhouses at Edges Green is a field system consisting of parallel boundaries, earthen banks with some stones, running downslope from the top of the ridge to the unimprovable wet ground at the bottom of the south-facing slope. The ground in these fields shows evidence of clearance, being mostly free of large stones, but has no evidence of cultivation ridges.

This shows the progression from initial clearance of land for pastoralism, on to the establishment of small “proto-fields” amongst the clearance cairns, and then the construction of large fields, cultivated by the ard, as part of mixed arable/pastoral farming. The width of the fields, around 45m, is a little larger than the 35m average noted for very similar upland field systems at Town Bank in the Lake District (Quartermaine & Leech 20012, p332). At Town Bank the fields are closely associated with complex farmsteads, usually dated to the later prehistoric period, rather than earlier on in the Bronze Age. Other upland areas (North York Moors, Dartmoor, Scottish Borders etc) also have these co-axial systems of late prehistoric parallel fields.

Unfortunately, the destruction of a significant fraction of the site at Edges Green leaves open the question as to where the farmers using the field system lived. An Iron Age enclosed settlement may have been lost to quarrying, or they may have lived in the nearby unenclosed round houses, or somewhere else which has not left an obvious trace.

The cord rig, like the field system at Edges Green would have been cultivated by ard or by hand; the mouldboard ploughs, in use from early medieval times onwards would have not been capable of producing these narrow (less than 1.5m) ridges. Where cord rig has been identified in relation to Roman structures (Hadrian’s Wall and army camps), the cord rig is always older, e.g. at Greenlee and Cawfields (Woodside and Crow 1999). On the present site, the Roman aqueduct conforms to this rule, in that APs clearly show that the aqueduct cuts through the cord rig.

Edges Green and Cleughfoot are unusual in that cord rig can be seen on the ground, not just from aerial surveys. The cord rig is in small patches, about 25m typical width: the alignment of the ridges varies in direction from patch to patch. Where patches overlap, the ridges cut across each other. This is seen in the south-east section of the cord rig at Ventners Hall South, and on AP and Google Earth images of the large area of cord rig 600m west of Ventners Hall at NY715683. The patches of cord rig are not delineated by any kind of visible boundary.

Topping (2008) has extensively studied cord rig in the Cheviots and elsewhere and found evidence that it is associated with an intensification of agriculture in the later part of the Iron Age. The worsening climate at that time may have created a need for better drainage of arable plots. Interestingly, cord rig was not identified in the large Lake District upland survey (Quartermaine and Leech 2012), possibly due to the wetter climate preventing upland arable cultivation at that time. Thus it seems likely that in the current survey area the cord rig was a late prehistoric development, with a change to using this form of arable cultivation for some (maybe not all) crops, possibly with increased reliance on pastoralism. Notably, the system of parallel prehistoric fields at Edges Green was not converted to cord rig; it is unclear whether it was in continuing use for grazing, was used for crops which didn’t require the good drainage of cord rig, or went out of use.

It is impossible to be certain how much of the land that was later ploughed at Edges Green, Cleughfoot and Wealside was in use for agriculture in prehistory. Interestingly, the post-medieval ploughing is on sandstone ridges at Edges Green East and Cleughfoot, but the surviving traces of prehistoric settlement are on limestone ridges at Ventners Hall and Edges Green. This could be just a chance association, or possibly the better land is on sandstone so that only this has been ploughed in recent centuries, whereas both limestone and sandstone land was used prehistorically.

### **8.3 The Roman aqueduct**

The Roman aqueduct crossing the survey area is well-known and is a scheduled monument. It was investigated primarily to understand why a number of sections of the route were visually absent, given that ground disturbance from later activity in the landscape was minimal along the aqueduct's published route. Details of the survey are given in Section 7.23.

Sections 1 and 2 of the aqueduct (see Figure 50 for a plan) were not surveyed as they were beyond the survey area. Analysis of aerial photography, however, along this section did not identify any missing sections of aqueduct.

Section 3 of the route had two missing segments identified. The first of these, at the point where the aqueduct crosses a ravine, showed that the ravine is likely to have been bridged 75m further south than the published route. This avoids the need for the dog-leg which is shown on the published route but is not visible on the ground. The second missing segment within Section 3 is due to the route having been misinterpreted. It actually follows a revised route some distance from the published route and is intermittently visible on the ground. It is unclear why the published route is wrong in this area as the correct route is easy to identify and the 1990 aqueduct survey by Mackay did show the correct route.

Along Section 5 of the route, the aqueduct appears on the ground as two parallel lines, approximately 1m apart in height, cut into the slope which it follows for about 400m. In the past, this has been interpreted as an error by the Roman builders. Careful inspection of this section, combined with anomalies on other parts of the route, led us to reinterpret this feature as the lower line being an access walkway for construction and maintenance, with the actual aqueduct 1m higher up the slope. Further work shows that it is likely that this feature was present along the entire aqueduct, with the construction walkway consistently on the down-slope side of the actual aqueduct and around 1m in width. On relatively level ground the walkway was adjacent to the aqueduct and on steep slopes generally some 1m below the aqueduct. However, part of the route in Section 8 has the walkway adjacent to the aqueduct on a steep slope, requiring some complex construction.

Section 6 and Section 7 of the route were confusing. The aqueduct appears to be entirely missing for the first part of Section 6 for no reason that could be identified. It then reappears as a well-constructed aqueduct and walkway at the end of Section 6 and the beginning of Section 7. On the second half of Section 7 and the beginning of Section 8 there appears to be a walkway 1m below the level where the aqueduct should be, but no aqueduct can be found. The aqueduct and walkway appear to stop abruptly at the end of Section 8 and no trace of aqueduct or walkway can be identified on Section 9 in the survey area and, using the 1990 Mackay survey, for the remaining 1.5km route up to Aesica fort.

In summary, the aqueduct appears to be fully constructed for the first 7km of its length from the water source to the end of Section 5. There then appears to be partial construction for the next 2km along Sections 6, 7 and 8 and then no construction along Section 9 for the final 2km to the fort. This seems to point to the aqueduct being an incomplete structure, on which construction was abandoned somewhat abruptly.

This assessment that the aqueduct was not completed has not been previously put forward. A review was made of what is known about water systems at Aesica, since if the aqueduct was a completed structure then running water systems should be present to take advantage of the supply. In fact, there is no evidence of water systems in the fort; the bathhouse, for which a supply is essential, is located away from the fort, down-slope where local springs could be used.

Whilst it is not possible to prove that this aqueduct was unfinished, strong evidence points to this conclusion, giving a high degree of probability. What reasons might there be for the failure to complete the aqueduct? Three possibilities spring to mind. Firstly, construction of the aqueduct may have been a project to occupy and train Roman troops, with little interest in whether the aqueduct actually worked. Secondly, the construction may have been interrupted by military conflict which caused a change of policy as to whether it was wise to complete a long aqueduct which could be difficult to protect. Thirdly, construction may have been halted when troops were despatched to construct the Antonine Wall in the 140s, and after the return to Hadrian's Wall in the 160s the aqueduct construction was not restarted due to the perception that north of the Wall was now outside Roman territory (or that the fort had functioned without an aqueduct for so long that there was no need for one).

#### **8.4 Medieval settlement and farming after the Romans**

There is little evidence to show when the Edges Green and Ventners Hall prehistoric farmsteads went out of use. The cord rig was clearly not renewed across the course of the Roman aqueduct, nor was it remodelled with ridges parallel to the aqueduct to avoid crossing it. Hence that particular patch was probably no longer in use from early in the Roman occupation. This may have been because it lay in a military exclusion zone, being close to the aqueduct; other patches could have still been used at that time. Evidence from elsewhere in Northumberland is that farming continued into the Roman period with continuity of use of Iron Age settlements.

The lack of any sign of ridges crossing the aqueduct, or any cord rig in the wider area crossing over the many Roman camps, makes it unlikely that cord rig continued in use after the Roman era.

From the broader area, we know that settlements and associated farming activities continued within or near to Roman vici at Great Chesters and Vindolanda forts. We know too that at some stage in the Anglo-Saxon period new settlements were established along the north bank of the River Tyne at Haltwhistle, Melkridge, Henshaw and Thorngrifton. Later, all of these villages developed as medieval townships and manors.

The practice of transhumance has been shown in other studies to date back at least to the Anglo-Saxon period and certainly it was a common medieval feature of high areas like Edges Green to be used for summer grazing, either for sheep or cattle. Shielings have been definitely

identified near the remains of the Roman Wall at several locations close to Edges Green (Woodside and Crow, 1999), the closest being at Bogle Hole, just south of Edges Green.

The broad curving ridge-and-furrow at Cleughfoot, aligned up and down the south-facing slope of the ridge above the Burn, is good evidence for early medieval activity in the study area. The start of this broad ridge ploughing is usually attributed to the introduction of larger ploughs and plough-teams in the later Anglo-Saxon period (from about the ninth century). This is probably the best agricultural land in the area. It is notable that no attempt was made to plough the land farmed prehistorically at Ventners Hall and Edges Green, leaving the cord rig and field system intact (cord rig would be destroyed by a medieval mould-board plough). Clearly settlement was on a much-reduced scale to that seen previously. The reduced population put less pressure on the land and the main use of all but the best land may have been for summer grazing. The pollen evidence (see above) supports this possibility. Climate improvement at the time helped this temporary increase in arable agriculture of upland areas.

The only sites for medieval farms found in the survey were the long-house farmstead at East Edges Green and the possible shielings, one on Dunsloe and two at Edges Green adjacent to one of the prehistoric boundary banks. The Edges Green shielings are far from definite; small rectangular structures like these could be of almost any date. However, they are clearly not medieval farmsteads as there is no evidence for associated ploughing or enclosures, so they lie on what in medieval times was marginal land. Similarly, the possible shieling site at Dunsloe, on a ridge-top, may have been an attempt to put to use land which was too high for permanent farming. There is no field system at Dunsloe and no associated enclosures, making interpretation or dating impossible without excavation.

The longhouse farm at Edges Green East has been ploughed over with narrow cultivation ridges typical of post-medieval horse-ploughing. Hence details of this structure have been lost, but it clearly had a yard on a platform to its north side and a well-used hollow way approaching it from the west, suggesting long-term use. Longhouse buildings of this type can date from early medieval through to post-medieval eras (Quartermaine and Leech 2012), although in this case it must have fallen out of use fairly early as it was ploughed over. Other medieval farmsteads may lay under modern farmhouse sites, such as at Cleughfoot and Edges Green, since there is little incentive to move a farm once it has been established on a good site.

No broad ridge-and-furrow ploughing is seen at East Edges Green (unlike at Cleughfoot), but may have been destroyed by later ploughing which covers all usable arable land around the farmstead.

Historical evidence favours the East Edges Green farmstead being in use around the twelfth and thirteenth centuries when the climate was favourable and the population increasing, forcing year-round occupation of land previously only used seasonally. In normal circumstances, a location like Edges Green could have supported a small hamlet in the later medieval period, with several shielings in that vicinity. The lack of development can be accounted for by the vulnerability of the area to both Anglo-Scottish border conflict and the later Reiver problem, as well as decline in population after the Black Death. Apart from a brief period of relative peace in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Tynedale presents a case of arrested development that did not begin to be redressed until the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The highest parts of Edges Green, later called the Outfell, may have been part of a medieval hunting zone, called Forest of Lowes. The boundaries of this area are not clearly shown but ranged over the higher hills and moors in North Tynedale, extending over a considerable area. There is no evidence of any hunting activity in the Edges Green locality but it cannot be discounted.

## **8.5 Post-medieval settlement**

Improvement in security in the 17<sup>th</sup> century allowed an increase in agriculture and the establishment, or re-establishment, of many of the current farms in the area. This may be when arable agriculture once again became important and the areas of narrow (3m wide approximately) ridge-and-furrow were created. These cover all the good land at Edges Green East, going over the long-house farmstead which must have been not only abandoned but demolished by then. The narrow ridges also overlie most of the older broad ridge-and-furrow at Cleughfoot, apart from that on higher parts of the slope which it were not worth bringing back into arable use.

The earliest record for tenancies at Edges Green is in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century and it seems likely that all the key farms that emerge by the time of the 1783 Enclosure Act, except High Edges Green Farm, would trace their origins to some time in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

There is evidence that this period of increased arable agriculture was only temporary. The climate was less favourable in the 17<sup>th</sup> century than it had been 400 years previously, although better ploughing technology would partly compensate for that. At East Edges Green, banks were constructed around the best land and ploughing ceased (see Site description). The banks were curving and cut across the field corners since it was no longer necessary to have an unimpeded run for the plough. They were designed for agriculture based on grazing. Presumably they were surmounted by fences and/or hedges. The enclosures at Cleughfoot also may date from this time, when there would have been more need to control and confine livestock.

The stack stands found in the area (at East Edges Green and Site 15 near Pont Gallon Burn) may be for animal feeding at this time, though very little is known about this type of structure.

The Enclosure Awards of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century established the modern field boundary system that, with minor amendments, exists to this day. It seems probable that by the time of the Act significant parts of the southern portion of the Edges Green survey area had old field boundaries that can be seen as curved relic boundaries in the Enclosure Map. The main area to be newly-enclosed was the higher land, known as the Outfell. Many people claimed ancient rights of use of this land but the enclosure process divided the area into large tracts of land for only a few people.

The farmhouses were rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as shown by HER descriptions. There is evidence for an increase in land under the plough again, since the older cultivation ridges are partly destroyed in some of the newly enclosed fields near Edges Green, Cleughfoot, and Wealside farmhouses. Most of the land, however, was still used for grazing as shown by the extensive survival of earlier remains, both prehistoric and later, in many fields.

In more recent years, arable farming has yet again gone into decline in these marginal lands, with it being abandoned in the survey area. Better transport made it easier to bring in supplies

and winter feed, and gave ready access to markets to buy and sell livestock. Hence there is no longer any incentive to use land for crops when it is only marginally suitable.

Subsequent records in the 19<sup>th</sup> century show that few ownerships and tenancies altered over the next 100 years. Mineral extraction, although explored, yielded little of commercial value in the survey area. Small quarries were developed, largely as use for building stone, and one limekiln operated for a short period in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is shown on the OS first edition map (1866) but not on the second OS Map of 1898. Coal pits were dug in a couple of locations in the Edges Green upper fells, as shown in the 1837 Survey map of Sopwith, the 1866 OS first edition, and the 1898 OS second edition, but clearly yielded little of value.

During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century there were three commercial coal mining operations on the fringe of the survey area: Wallshield Colliery (1902-1985 at NY715702), Ventners Hall Colliery (1937-1959 at NY725707), and Robin Rock Drift (1940s-1991 at NY729708).

## 8.6 Factors that have led to changes in landscape use

The survey area is at the limit of being suitable for farming, so quite small changes in the social, political and meteorological environment has meant that the land went into and out of use. Factors that have been influential include:

**Climate:** which was comparatively good in the Bronze Age and the high medieval (around 13<sup>th</sup> century) period.

**Population:** which rose in England during the Iron Age and Roman period, then fell back after the end of Roman rule due to economic decline and, possibly, plague. For the 250 years after 1066 there was a rapid rise (more than doubling) until famine and plague greatly reduced population numbers in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

**Disease:** most importantly plague, which caused major population falls in the sixth and fourteenth centuries

**Security:** raiding by reivers made life difficult, if not impossible, for farmers in the area from the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries

**Transport:** the development of droving routes followed by the improvement in roads made it easier to specialise in pastoral farming in the post-medieval period, rather than the mixed farming required previously in view of relative isolation.

At times in the last four thousand years, the area has seen quite extensive arable use, at times lower intensity farming with a few areas of arable crops, and at times it has been used only for summer grazing, if at all. These changes will have varied in pace, with times when the situation was stable, interspersed by periods of great change when communities gave up the struggle to make a living out of the land, or when incomers into the area worked hard to bring unused land into intensive use.

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## 10 Appendix 1: List of sites in survey area

This is a list of the sites into which the monuments identified during the Level 1 survey have been grouped, taking account of their location and presumed function/period. The HER number is the catalogue number in the Northumberland Historic Environment Register. Column 3 indicates whether the site was surveyed at Level 3.

Site	HER	Level 3 survey?	Description
1	23016 24626	yes	Prehistoric settlement NE of Edges Green farmhouse
2	23015	yes	Ventners Hall North prehistoric roundhouse settlement
3	23014	yes	Ventners Hall South prehistoric roundhouse settlement
4	24608	yes	Cairns and cup-marked stone west of Ventners Hall
5	24624 24625	yes	Medieval/post-medieval farmstead & field system at East Edges Green
6			Medieval/post-medieval field system at Wealside
7	24606 24603		Medieval/post-medieval field system at Cleughfoot
8		yes	Dunsloe shieling
9	24607	yes	Dunsloe enclosure
10			Cairns at NE end of Edges Green farm
11			Earthen mounds north of Close A Burns, possibly modern
12	24637		Quarries on ridge at Edges Green
13			Quarries on ridge west of Ventners Hall
14			Peat stand south of Pont Gallon Burn
15	24609		Stack stand north of Pont Gallon Burn
16			Ridge-and-furrow north of Pont Gallon Burn
17			Boulder with quarrying marks
18			Pair of worked stone gateposts west of Ventners Hall
19			Gravestone of Anne & Harry Smith
20			Ruined building
21			Drinking trough by Edges Green farmhouse on aqueduct line
22	21433		Hexagonal sheepfold and enclosure NE Edges Green
23	6480	yes	Roman aqueduct (Edges Green section)
24	6480	yes	Roman aqueduct (Cleughfoot section)

## 11 Appendix 2: Gazetteer of monuments

This is a list of monuments identified in the survey. Each is allocated (column 2) to one of the sites listed in the previous table. Monuments on Cleughfoot farm (prefix CL) are listed first, in order of monument number, followed by monuments on Edges Green farm (prefix EG).

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>CL001</b>	3	NY 72093 68270	round house	Circular ditch on gentle SE facing slope. Diameter (bottom to bottom) 9.2m (NS), 9.4m (EW). Maximum depth 0.2m. No internal features. Cord-rig appears to overlie the SE quadrant. Round house site.
<b>CL002</b>	3	NY 72097 68257	round house	Circular ditch. Diameter (bottom to bottom) 9.0m, width 1.3m, maximum depth 0.1m. Cord-rig appears to overlie all of feature. Round house site overlain by cord rig.
<b>CL003</b>	3	NY 72129 68280	earth bank	Flat-topped earthen bank. Length 21m, width 3.2m to 3.9m (at bottom of slope), 1.9m (at top of slope), height 0.2m. Aligned NE-SW. NE end truncated by dry-stone wall and modern road. Cord rig CL005 possibly overlies this feature (running N-S). Boundary bank.
<b>CL004</b>	3	NY 72102 68256	cord rig	EW cord rig, passes over roundhouse CL002 and possibly part of roundhouse CL001. Visible on ground for 32m (EW) x 14m. Also adjacent NS cord rig, NY 72127 68271, possibly passes over bank CL003. Visible on ground for 20m (EW) x 48m.
<b>CL005</b>	2	NY 72000 68420	cord rig	NS cord rig close to roundhouses CL101 and CL102. Is seen on aerial photographs, but not visible on the ground.
<b>CL006</b>	3	NY 72077 68327	earth bank	Low curving earthen bank. Length 50m, width 1.5m, height 0.1m. Western end aligned EW, eastern end aligned NE-SW. At margin of good pasture (to N) and rough/wet ground (to S). Probable field boundary.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>CL007</b>	3	NY 72080 68298	clearance cairn	Oval cairn, width 3.8m, height 0.25m. Slightly kidney shaped (concave on E side). Possible clearance cairn, possible burnt mound (although not near water source).
<b>CL008</b>	3	NY 72047 68254	stony bank	Linear alignment of stones, length 30m, stones approx 0.5m diameter. At boundary of good pasture (to N) and wet/rough land (to S). Clearance feature.
<b>CL009</b>	3	NY 71987 68284	stony bank	Linear alignment of stones, length 30m, stones approx 0.7m diameter. At boundary of good pasture (to N) and wet/rough land (to S). Clearance feature (similar to, and W of, CL008).
<b>CL010</b>	3	NY 72051 68185	earth bank	Earthen bank, aligned NS, length 10m, width 2.5m, height 0.3m, S end is at dry-stone wall, continues beyond wall as CL111. Field boundary.
<b>CL011</b>	3	NY 72054 68180	earth bank	Earthen bank, continuation of CL010 to south of dry-stone wall. Length 4.5m, width 2.2m (bottom) 0.9m (top). Height 0.15m. The bank has a rounded end. Boundary bank.
<b>CL012</b>	3	NY 72003 68217	platform	Circular scoop. Diameter 7.4m, deepest at SW end. Indistinct intermittent bank at edge. Age/function unknown.
<b>CL013</b>	3	NY 71997 68181	hollow way	Hollow way. Length 20m, width 1m, depth up to 0.1m. Aligned NS. Age unknown.
<b>CL014</b>	4	NY 71697 68417	burial cairn	Cairn, diameter 5m, height 0.5m. Appears disturbed/robbed. Probable clearance/burial cairn.
<b>CL015</b>	13	NY 71803 68408	stone quarry	Disturbed quarried area 15m NS x 25m EW. Depth 2m.
<b>CL016</b>	4	NY 71742 68423	clearance cairn	Oval cairn, diameter 5.8m NS, 6.3m EW, height 0.3m. Stony but partially turf-covered. Clearance cairn.
<b>CL017</b>	18	NY 71686 68369	gate posts	Pair of stone gateposts with slots carved in them. Height 1.4m.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>CL018</b>	4	NY 71790 68372	earthwork	Irregular earthwork. Partly raised (south end and centre) sub-circular stony area, 6.3m NS x 5.8m EW, height 0.2m. Scoop at N end (downhill) 3.8m (EW) x 3.3m (NS). Age and function uncertain.
<b>CL019</b>	13	NY 71595 68369	stone quarry	Quarry 15m NS x 21m EW.
<b>CL021</b>	8	NY 71352 67955	enclosure	Subrectangular structure defined by low stony banks. 7m EW x 4.5m NS. Banks up to 0.3m high. Stony raised rectangular external area at W end. Possible entrances at W end and/or S side. Possible shieling.
<b>CL022</b>	9	NY 71334 68042	enclosure	Enclosure defined by earthen banks near top of hill. 12m (W) x 10m (NS). Bank height 0.3m. Semicircular annex on N side. Deep external ditch on NW side, shallower external ditch intermittent around rest of feature except gap in ditch (entrance?) on S side. Whole feature 21.5m (NS) x 16m EW.
<b>CL023</b>	9	NY 71348 68053	enclosure	Subcircular enclosure defined by low bank. 5m x 5m. Bank height 0.2m. Lies 20m to NE of larger enclosure CL022.
<b>CL024</b>	17	NY 71132 68329	stone with quarrying marks	Boulder with prominent quarrying marks (two wedge slots). 1m x 1m, height 0.5m. To NE is a bank length 20m, width 1.5m.
<b>CL101</b>	2	NY 72024 68428	round house	Low circular bank with internal ditch and incomplete external ditch. Inner ditch has external diameter 4.8m, width 0.8m. Bank has diameter 8m (top to top), height 0.1m. External ditch is 0.5m wide. Central area is slightly raised. Round house site.
<b>CL102</b>	2	NY 72009 68406	round house	Low circular bank with indistinct ditch. Bank height 0.1m. Outer diameter 10.3m. Abutting earthworks on W side 5m x 4m, height up to 0.25m, central area lower, 1m wide. Round house site.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>CL103</b>	2	NY 72019 68433	earth bank	Low curving bank, adjacent to roundhouse site CL101. Height 0.1m. From bend runs 20m to E and 8m to SW. On AP appears to split into 2 banks at SW end. Boundary bank.
<b>CL104</b>	2	NY 72032 68409	trackway	Possible track, 10m long, 1.5m wide. May be prehistoric, but possibly post-medieval serving nearby quarries.
<b>CL105</b>	2	NY 72038 68416	mound	Sub-circular disturbed area. 7m NS x 6m EW. Indistinct depression at N end 1m wide. Function and age unclear.
<b>CL106</b>	13	NY 71988 68441	stone quarry	Quarry 33m x 12m. Depth 7m.
<b>CL107</b>	13	NY 71950 68437	stone quarry	Quarry 34m x 15m. Depth 7m.
<b>CL108</b>	4	NY 71920 68420	clearance cairn	Cairn, truncated by quarry CL107. Oval 7m x 5m, height 0.5m. Possible surrounding ditch. Probable clearance cairn (it lies above the quarry so not likely to be spoil heap).
<b>CL109</b>	11	NY 72178 68027	platform	Indistinct scoop, diameter 5m. There is a low (0.05m high) bank around the northern quadrant. It lies next to a natural gully. There are no internal structures. It is too small to be a likely house site and is probably post-medieval
<b>CL110</b>	11	NY 72195 68011	earth bank	Earthen bank, length 16m, width 1.7m. It has a 1.2m wide ditch on its uphill (NW) side. It is probably a modern drain.
<b>CL112</b>	11	NY 72192 68153	mound	Oval earthen mound with no visible stones, lying in rough wet pasture. 3.6m x 1.9m, long axis aligned NS. Age uncertain, but likely to be post-medieval.
<b>CL113</b>	11	NY 72063 68010	ditch	Ditch aligned EW, with two equal earthen mounds to N and S. Ditch length 4.7m, width 1.4m (top to top). Mounds 0.3m high. Probably modern drain.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>CL114</b>	11	NY 72045 68008	earth mound	Oval earthen mound with flat top. No stones visible. 4.8m x 3.6m (at bottom), 3.4m x 1.2m (at top). Long axis orientated NS. Close to a drainage ditch. Probably modern upcast from ditch.
<b>CL115</b>	16	NY 71633 68484	narrow ridge-and-furrow	Area of 3m wide cultivation ridges aligned NS, 30m EW x 15m NS, terminated at its north edge by a dry-stone wall. North of the wall (on AP) is cord-rig aligned EW. Unusually small to be an area of post-medieval cultivation ridging.
<b>CL116</b>	4	NY 71668 68404	cup marked stone	Cup-marked earth-fast boulder. Many cups. 1.1m (NS) x 0.8m (EW), height 0.25m. Approx 30m from burial cairn CL014.
<b>CL117</b>	13	NY 71567 68374	stone quarry	Quarry, irregular shape. 25m x 25m.
<b>CL119</b>	14	NY 71564 68298	peat stand	Rectangular raised platform with surrounding ditch. 4m NS x 5m EW. No banks or entrances. Beside boggy area. Probable peat-stand.
<b>CL120</b>	7	NY 71283 67445	earth bank	Earthen bank. Length 180m, aligned WSW - ENE. Field boundary.
<b>CL121</b>	7	NY 71242 67418	enclosure	Subrectangular enclosure defined by low earth banks. 20m (EW) x 12m (NS).
<b>CL122</b>	7	NY 71130 67420	hollow way	Hollow way, length approx 60m, width 3.0m to 3.5m. Aligned EW, bending S downslope at E end. Course indistinct at E end, may continue towards feature CL120.
<b>CL123</b>	7	NY 71153 67307	enclosure	Low semicircular earth bank, possibly originally circular truncated on W side. 8.9m (NS) x 3.3m (EW), height 0.10m to 0.15m. Possibly roundhouse site truncated by medieval ploughing, but may be medieval enclosure.
<b>CL126</b>	7	NY 71542 67564	ridge-and-furrow	Rectangular area of narrow cultivation ridges 0.5m to 2m wide, height up to 0.25m, aligned EW, overlying broad ridge-and-furrow aligned NS. Area rectangular 30m (NW-SE) x 85m (NE-SW).

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>CL127</b>	7	NY 71546 67517	trackway	Trackway, length 85m, width 3 m. Course further W not visible, may continue E.
<b>CL128</b>	7	NY 71881 67605	stony/earth bank	Stony linear bank, forming NW and NE margin of area of ridge-and-furrow. Length 200m, width 1m, height 0.5m from base of ditch on NE side. There is headland of 3m separating the ridge-and-furrow from the bank to the NE. Both ends of bank are at burns.
<b>CL129 A</b>	7	NY 71826 67608	enclosure	Enclosure defined by low earth bank. 35m (EW) x 16m (NS). Bank width 1m, height 0.2m. External ditch along N side of enclosure.
<b>CL129 B</b>	7	NY 71819 67593	platform	Subcircular platform S of enclosure CL129A. 10m (NS) x 12m (EW). Height 0.2m to 0.3m. Drainage ditch on S side of platform running E to burn. Linear depression 3m wide between this feature and CL129A also runs to burn.
<b>CL129 C</b>	7	NY 71811 67579	platform	Irregular platform S of platform CL129B. 12m x 8m, height 0.2m to 0.3m.
<b>CL130</b>	7	NY 71749 67748	earth mound	Irregular flat-topped mound, earthen, but with stones on probing to 0.1m. Close to burn and small quarry, may be modern.
<b>CL131</b>	7	NY 71992 67600	earth bank	Low earthen bank, aligned SW-NE. Length 70m, width 1m, height 0.2m. At its eastern end there is a parallel bank, 20m long, lying 1.5m N of the main bank. Both banks terminate about 7m W of cottage.
<b>CL131 A</b>	7	NY 72068 67675	earth bank	Earthen bank, aligned SW-NE. Length 75m, width 1m, height 0.4m. Ditch on both sides. Disturbed at W end near cottage.
<b>CL132</b>	7	NY 71980 67717	stony/earth banks	Stony earthen double bank. The banks are about 1.5m apart, aligned NNW-SSE. Length 170m. Row of trees on W bank. Pair of gateposts, one on N end of each bank.
<b>CL133</b>	7	NY 72066 67654	earth bank	L-shaped bank, running 60m SE and 45m SW from angle. SE end indistinct. Boundary bank.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>CL135</b>	19	NY 72299 67881	grave- stone	Gravestone laid flat in turf. 1.4m x 0.7m. A former chapel is at Bridge End 200m SE. Inscription: IN MEMORY OF ANNE WISE WIFE OF FRANK P SMITH OF GREYSTONE DIED MARCH 14 1890 AGED 30 ALSO OF HARRY SMITH ELDEST SON OF THE ABOVE WHO DIED MARCH 7 1905 AGED 17 YEARS.
<b>CL136</b>	7	NY 72192 67855	earth bank	Low earthen bank, aligned NE-SW. At NW boundary of area of ridge-and-furrow but does not have same alignment. Length 30m. Width 2m.
<b>CL137</b>	7	NY 72176 67887	earth bank	Low earthen bank, aligned NW-SE. Length 15m.
<b>CL138</b>	15	NY 71897 68562	stack stand	Oval platform 4.3m NS x 5.5m EW. Surrounded by shallow 1m wide ditch. No entrances. Probable stack-stand.
<b>CL139</b>	24	NY 71453 67974	aqueduct	The section of the Roman aqueduct passing through Cleughfoot farm.
<b>EG001</b>	5	NY 72300 68848	earth bank	Low curving earthen bank, length 61m, width 1.8m, height 0.2m. No stones. Aligned EW at W end, NW-SE at E end. Intermittent ditch on N side, maximum depth 0.05m. Field boundary.
<b>EG002</b>	5	NY72305 68868	earth bank	Low L-shaped earthen bank. From corner runs 6m southwards and 5.2m eastwards. Width 1.2m, height 0.2m. No stones. Field boundary.
<b>EG003</b>	21	NY 72249 68774	trough	Stone drinking trough about 0.9m x 0.5m, sunk into boggy ground at spring. The ground beside it is revetted with a stone wall, length 4.2m, height 0.5m. The spring lies on the line of the Roman aqueduct as marked on OS map.
<b>EG004</b>	1	NY 72270 69004	earth mound	Low earthen mound by road, 2m diameter, probably modern.
<b>EG005</b>	1	NY 72347 68940	earth bank	Earth bank, occasional large stones, ditch on uphill (NW) side, possibly a modern drain.
<b>EG006</b>	1	NY 72319 68973	platform	Indistinct scoop, 6m diameter, in south facing slope with scatter of large stones, possibly old sheepfold.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>EG007</b>	1	NY 72350 69024	enclosure	Indistinct low earth banks with large stones, forming a rectangular feature with long axis along ridge, 13m x 4.4m, possibly steading or sheepfold.
<b>EG008</b>	1	NY 72401 68956	stony banks	Two parallel irregular rows of stones, stones maximum diam 0.5m. Rows 16.6m long and 3.7m apart. Rows aligned NE - SW.
<b>EG009</b>	1	NY 72363 68982	clearance cairn	Cairn 4m x 2m, aligned with long axis NW-SE. Height 0.4m. Stone diam 0.3m - 0.4m. Probably clearance cairn.
<b>EG010</b>	1	NY 72377 69011	round house	Circular bank, part of feature EG011 (in its W side), diameter 7.5m (external edge), 3.1m (internal edge). 0.3m high. Possible entrance at SW. May be hut site.
<b>EG011</b>	1	NY 72388 69004	rectilinear enclosure	Disturbed rectangular area defined by earthen banks, 24m (NW-SE) x 21m. Several internal banks. Contains 2 circular structures: EG010 and EG011A. Both may be hut sites, but there is likely to have been later disturbance including by the modern road which runs across the NE side of the feature.
<b>EG011 A</b>	1	NY 72390 68996	circular platform	Circular platform, part of EG011 (at its SE corner), possible house platform.
<b>EG012</b>	1	NY 72426 68980	clearance cairn	Crescent-shaped cairn, curved side faces SE down slope. Externally: 5.2m (NW-SE) x 2.3m, internally 2.8m x 1.3m. Height 0.6m. No scoop above it so not a house platform. Probably clearance cairn.
<b>EG013</b>	1	NY 72425 69008	clearance cairn	Flat topped circular stony cairn, 3.4m diam. Probably clearance cairn.
<b>EG014</b>	1	NY 72437 68932	earth bank	Earthen bank 24m long, aligned WSW-ENE. External breadth 1.4m, height 0.3m.
<b>EG015</b>	1	NY 72463 68979	round house	Circular bank defining a platform diameter 5.5m (internal), 7m (external). Possible entrance at SSE. Probable roundhouse site.
<b>EG016</b>	1	NY 72450 68998	round house	Circular bank defining a platform, diameter 6m (external), height 0.3m. Probable roundhouse site.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>EG017</b>	1	NY 72487 69003	stony banks	Stony banks defining 3 sides of an oval area 19m (EW) x 16m (NS), but S side of area is undefined. The SE side of the enclosing bank includes a 6m x 4.5m sub-rectangular platform. Possibly prehistoric, but not a true enclosure as one side missing.
<b>EG018</b>	1	NY 72489 69060	turf cutting	Rectangular shallow flat-bottomed depression 22m x 6.8m, depth 0.2m, with low bank at edges. Aligned with long dimension NE-SW. May be produced by post-medieval turf removal as near to road.
<b>EG019</b>	1	NY 72467 69046	clearance cairn	Circular cairn of earth and stones. Diameter 4.5m, height 0.4m. Probable clearance cairn.
<b>EG020</b>	1	NY 72462 69052	round house (not certain)	Semicircular earthen bank with internal depression. Diameter 5.5m, width 0.9m, height 0.2m. If originally circular, then northern half has been lost. Possible roundhouse site.
<b>EG021</b>	1	NY 72445 69043	hollow way	Holloway running N-S. length 30m, width 1.8m (at S end), 3m (at N end). On lidar, it continues to the N on the other side of the modern road.
<b>EG022</b>	1	NY 72552 68970	shieling?	Rectangular dwarf wall structure 7m EW x 3.5m NS defined by banks of earth with stones. Sunken interior. No internal structure. Adjoins EG023. May be a shieling.
<b>EG023</b>	1	NY 72560 68978	stony bank	Irregular line of stones, length 22.5m, aligned NNE-SSW. Southern end adjoins EG022. Ground is rougher to the E. Probable field boundary.
<b>EG024</b>	1	NY 72573 68992	shieling?	Rectangular low dwarf wall structure in internal corner of boundary banks (EG023 and EG025). 8m x 4.2m. Aligned with long dimensions NW-SE. Sunken interior. Internal wall dividing it into two square cells, NW cell is less well-defined. Possibly shieling.
<b>EG025</b>	1	NY 72572 69007	earth bank	Broad earthen bank with stones running N from dwarf wall structure EG024. Length 17.5m, width 3.6m, height 0.25m. Probable field boundary.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>EG026</b>	12	NY 72579 69036	stone quarry	Disturbed area 21.5m NS x 16m EW. Irregular circular depression 6.7m diameter in N half, rectangular depression 2m x 1m in centre (which has two sides revetted with stone walling), two irregular stony scoops into southern border. There is a scatter of large stones over all the feature. The northern end of bank EG025 adjoins this feature. Probably an area of modern quarry activity.
<b>EG027</b>	1	NY 72533 69030	stony/earth bank	Bank, irregular, aligned NS. Length 50m, width 3.6m, height 0.20m. Earthen with large stones. There is a shallow ditch on the W side. There is a possible very low rectangular structure in middle, length 5.0m (NS), width 0.6m. Probable field boundary.
<b>EG028</b>	1	NY 72501 69054	earth banks	Earth banks enclosing 3 sides of rectangle 9m x 5m, height 0.15m. The long dimension is aligned NE-SW. The NW side absent. Possibly an enclosure.
<b>EG029</b>	5	NY 72598 68883	earth banks	Two low curving earth banks, which join in an acute angle at their E ends. The longer, northern bank has length 50m. Shorter, southern bank has length 22m. Both are aligned roughly EW with curve concave to S. Both have width 1.6m, height 0.2 to 0.5m. They appear to be a continuation of bank EG031 on the other side of modern road.
<b>EG031</b>	5	NY 72628 68800	earth bank	Earthen bank. Aligned NS, slightly sinuous. Length 130m, width 1m, height up to 0.5m. Field boundary.
<b>EG032</b>	5	NY 72634 68830	earth bank	Earthen bank. Aligned roughly NS but sinuous. Length 50m. Lies E of, and is parallel to, similar bank EG031. Field boundary.
<b>EG033</b>	5	NY 72687 68813	earth bank	Earthen bank. Aligned roughly EW but curving. Length 90m, width 1.5m, height 0.5m. Field boundary.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>EG034</b>	5	NY 72600 68787	farmstead	Rectangular platform/yard with longhouse. Width 16m EW, length 16.5m NS. On the southern part is a dwarf-wall rectangular structure, length 9.8m (EW), 4.4m (NS), with possible entrance in middle of N side. Holloway EG035 approaches the platform from the W. Probable farmstead site with longhouse and yard.
<b>EG035</b>	5	NY 72575 68786	hollow way	Holloway aligned EW, leading to farmstead EG034. Length 13m, width 1m to 2m, depth 0.1m.
<b>EG036 A</b>	5	NY 72750 68871	earth bank	Earthen bank, part of field/enclosure system. Marks the N, S and E sides of a 100m EW x 50m NS field.
<b>EG036 B</b>	5	NY 72733 68828	earth bank	Earthen bank, part of field/enclosure system. Defines a 15m x 15m annex at the NE corner of field EG036A.
<b>EG036 C</b>	5	NY 72700 68810	earth bank	Earthen bank, part of field/enclosure system. Length 35m. It lies inside EG036A & B and may predate them.
<b>EG037</b>	5	NY 72909 68844	earth bank	Earthen bank, part of field enclosure system. Defines the N, E, and S sides of a round-cornered subrectangular enclosure 70m(NS) x 160m (EW).
<b>EG038</b>	5	NY 72824 68801	mound	Small mound 2m diameter, containing a layer of hard black material. Function and age uncertain.
<b>EG039</b>	5	NY 72498 68668	earth bank	Bank, sod-cast. Aligned approximately EW. Length approx 200m. Boundary bank.
<b>EG040</b>	5	NY 72604 68670	ditch	Linear depression. Length 35m, width 1m, aligned EW, with irregular mounds to N and S. In wet ground. It may be drainage feature of unknown date.
<b>EG041</b>	5	NY 72620 68658	earth bank	Earthen bank with a ditch on its W side. Length 14m, width 1m, height 0.3m. Aligned NE-SW.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>EG042</b>	20	NY 72462 68477	barn/cow house	Rectangular building, 9m x 4.5m, of roughly-coursed, roughly-dressed stone blocks with lime mortar bonding. Upper parts of walls ruinous. Slate roof but many slates fallen. Wooden door (house-size) in wooden frame with stone lintel. Single cell internally. Animal stalls at N end constructed of wooden frame and metal sheeting. Windowless.
<b>EG043</b>	12	NY 72725 68480	stone quarry	Two quarries, centred 50m apart, in the E and W sides of a small stream valley. Quarries each 20m diameter, depth 3m. Stone ford across stream between them.
<b>EG044</b>	5	NY 72713 68721	stack stand	Raised rectangular platform, surrounding ditch, except possibly absent on W side. 9m (EW) x 6m (NS). Probable stack-stand.
<b>EG045</b>	6	NY 73100 68903	hollow way	Hollow way. Aligned NNW-SSE. Length 125m, width 2.3m (at bottom), 6m (at top). Crossed by a later dry-stone wall. North end is at farmyard of Wealside farm.
<b>EG046</b>	6	NY 73139 68822	hollow way	Hollow way. Aligned WNW-ESE. Adjoins hollow way EG045 at its SE end. Length 17m, width 1.5m (at bottom), 3.2m (at top). Has indistinct banks/mounds on both sides.
<b>EG047</b>	6	NY 73276 68863	earth mound	Oval flat-topped earthen mound. 9.6m x 8m. Beside a boggy area. May be natural.
<b>EG048</b>	6	NY 73324 68850	earth bank	Large curved earth bank. E end is aligned NE-SW, W end is aligned EW. Length 68m, width 1.5m (top), 6m (bottom), height 0.5m. Is on boundary between improved land to NW and rough pasture to SE. Field boundary.
<b>EG049</b>	6	NY 73200 69006	hollow way	Holloway. Aligned EW. Length 200m, width 5m (at bottom), depth 0.5m. There is a parallel bank on its S side. Its W end is at the farmyard of Wealside Farm. It probably skirts the N edge an arable area, of which the bank is the boundary.
<b>EG101</b>	1	NY 72858 69206	clearance cairn	Low circular cairn, earth with stones. 4.7m EW x 5.0m NS, height 0.20m. Looks damaged. Centre is absent. Probable clearance cairn.

	<b>Site</b>	<b>Grid ref.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>EG102</b>	12	NY 72888 69234	stone quarry	Quarry 14m x 10m, shallow, scatter of quarried sandstone blocks on floor.
<b>EG103</b>	12	NY 72877 69040	stone quarry	Quarry 20m NS x 30m EW. Depth 1m to 1.5m. Grass covered with little stone visible.
<b>EG104</b>	12	NY 72886 69067	stony bank	Rubble bank. Length 36m, width 1m, height 0.2m. Aligned NE-SW. Close to quarry EG103. Probably related to quarrying.
<b>EG105</b>	12	NY 72907 69070	stone quarry	Quarry 16m NS x 11m EW. Depth 2m.
<b>EG106</b>	12	NY 72912 69087	stone quarry	Quarry 20m NS x 30mEW. Depth 2m. Prominent grass covered bank on S side. E edge is adjacent to dry-stone wall.
<b>EG107</b>	12	NY 72727 69121	stone quarry	Quarry 10m x 10m. Depth 0.5m.
<b>EG108</b>	1	NY 72760 69063	stony/ earth bank	Low curving bank of earth and stones. Length 44m, width up to 1m, height 0.10m. A boundary bank.
<b>EG109</b>	1	NY 72740 69065	clearance cairn	Small circular group of large stones, diameter 2m, height 0.3m. Clearance cairn.
<b>EG110</b>	1	NY 72736 69080	stony/ earth bank	Low curving bank of earth and stones. Length 15m width up to 1m, height 0.20m. Aligned roughly EW. Boundary bank.
<b>EG111</b>	1	NY 72823 69050	earth bank	Low bank. Length 39m, width 1m, height 0.20m. Aligned NS. Boundary bank.
<b>EG112</b>	1	NY 72810 69063	earth bank	Low bank. Length 9m, width up to 1m, height 0.2m. Aligned EW. The E end is adjacent to bank EG111, but separated from it by a small gap. Boundary bank.
<b>EG113</b>	12	NY 72781 69046	stone quarry	Quarry 10m x 6m. Depth 0.5m.
<b>EG114</b>	12	NY 72775 69012	stone quarry	Quarry 30m NS x 20m EW. Depth 1m. Wider at N end, rushes at S end.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>EG115</b>	12	NY 72693 69092	stone quarry	Quarried area of many small pits. Area ill-defined, diameter approx 60m.
<b>EG116</b>	1	NY 72674 69012	stony/ earth bank	Low bank of earth and stones. Length 47m, width up to 1.5m, height 0.2m. Aligned NS. Boundary bank.
<b>EG117</b>	1	NY 72625 68966	stone quarry	Rectangular disturbed area 5m NS x 4m EW. Contains several stony mounds. Possible quarrying feature.
<b>EG118</b>	1	NY 72615 69029	stone quarry	Rectangular stony bank 4.5m NS x 5m, width 0.75m, height 0.25m. Gaps at NE and SW corners. Possible quarrying feature or sheepfold.
<b>EG119</b>	1	NY 72644 69017	clearance cairn	Oval cairn, 2m EW x 3.5m NS, height 0.3m, looks disturbed, with evidence of rabbit activity. Probable clearance cairn.
<b>EG120</b>	1	NY 72637 69118	clearance cairn	Circular cairn, diameter 5.5m, height 0.5m. Well-defined. Probable clearance cairn.
<b>EG121</b>	12	NY 72588 69124	lime kiln	Mound 3.2m (NS) x 2.9m EW. Height 0.5m. Pit in centre 1.2m x 1.2m, opening to SE. Grass-covered. Possible lime-kiln.
<b>EG122</b>	12	NY 72967 69130	stone quarry	Quarry 40m x 20m. Long axis aligned NE-SW along contour. Depth maximum 2m.
<b>EG123</b>	12	NY 73997 70011	quarry office	Ruin of 2-cell building by quarry. 8.5m EW x 3m NS. Dry-stone walls to maximum height of 1.5m (5 courses). Internal cross wall 3m from E end, dividing building into two unequal cells. Tumble of stones in interior. Adjacent to small quarries EG124 and EG125. Probably a quarry building.
<b>EG124</b>	12	NY 73998 69999	stone quarry	Quarry 15m diameter, depth 1m to 1.5m. Lies close to S side of building EG123. Possible entrances on N and SW sides.
<b>EG125</b>	12	NY 73990 70007	stone quarry	Quarry 16m NS x 12m EW. Depth 1m. Lies close to NW of building EG123.
<b>EG126 A</b>	12	NY 74061 69996	stone quarry	Quarry 30m NS x 15m EW. Shallow.

	Site	Grid ref.	Type	Description
<b>EG126 B</b>	12	NY 74021 70044	stone quarry	Quarry 8m NS x 15m EW. Depth up to 0.5m.
<b>EG126 C</b>	12	NY 73973 70024	stone quarry	Quarry 4m NS x 8m EW. Depth 1.5m.
<b>EG127</b>	12	NY 73924 70056	stone quarry	Row of 7 large boulders. Length 13m, aligned EW along ridge. Stony mound to S. Possibly related to quarrying.
<b>EG128</b>	22	NY 73905 70024	sheep fold	Hexagonal sheepfold of dry-stone walling. Each side 12m. The gateway on S side, width 2m, has stone gateposts. Small 6.6m x 3m annex on S side to E of gateway. Spur walls running S from fold for 7m and NW from fold for 13m. In good condition.
<b>EG129</b>	10	NY 73837 70002	clearance cairn	Cairn, stony, moss-covered. Diameter 4m, height 0.25m. Clearance cairn.
<b>EG130</b>	10	NY 73830 69986	clearance cairn	Cairn, stony, moss-covered. Diameter 4.4m, height 0.5m. Large stones in arc on S & W sides, and in loose pile to N. A 4m line of large stones to N. Clearance cairn.
<b>EG131</b>	12	NY 73618 69864	stone quarry	Quarry triangular 20m NS x 20m EW, apex to S. Depth 1m to 1.5m.
<b>EG132</b>	12	NY 73245 70315	stone quarry	Quarry scoop adjacent to forestry plantation. 20m x 7m, long axis aligned NE-SW. Depth 0.5m.
<b>EG133</b>	5	NY 72873 68812	earth bank	Bank defining the E and S sides of a 200m EW x 60m NS field. There is a ditch on its E side. Bank width 1m, height 0.2m to 0.5m. In the southern part of the field there is a subtle change of slope running EW.
<b>EG134</b>	23	NY 72551 68442	aqueduct	The section of the Roman aqueduct passing through Edges Green farm.

## 12 Appendix 3: Site plans

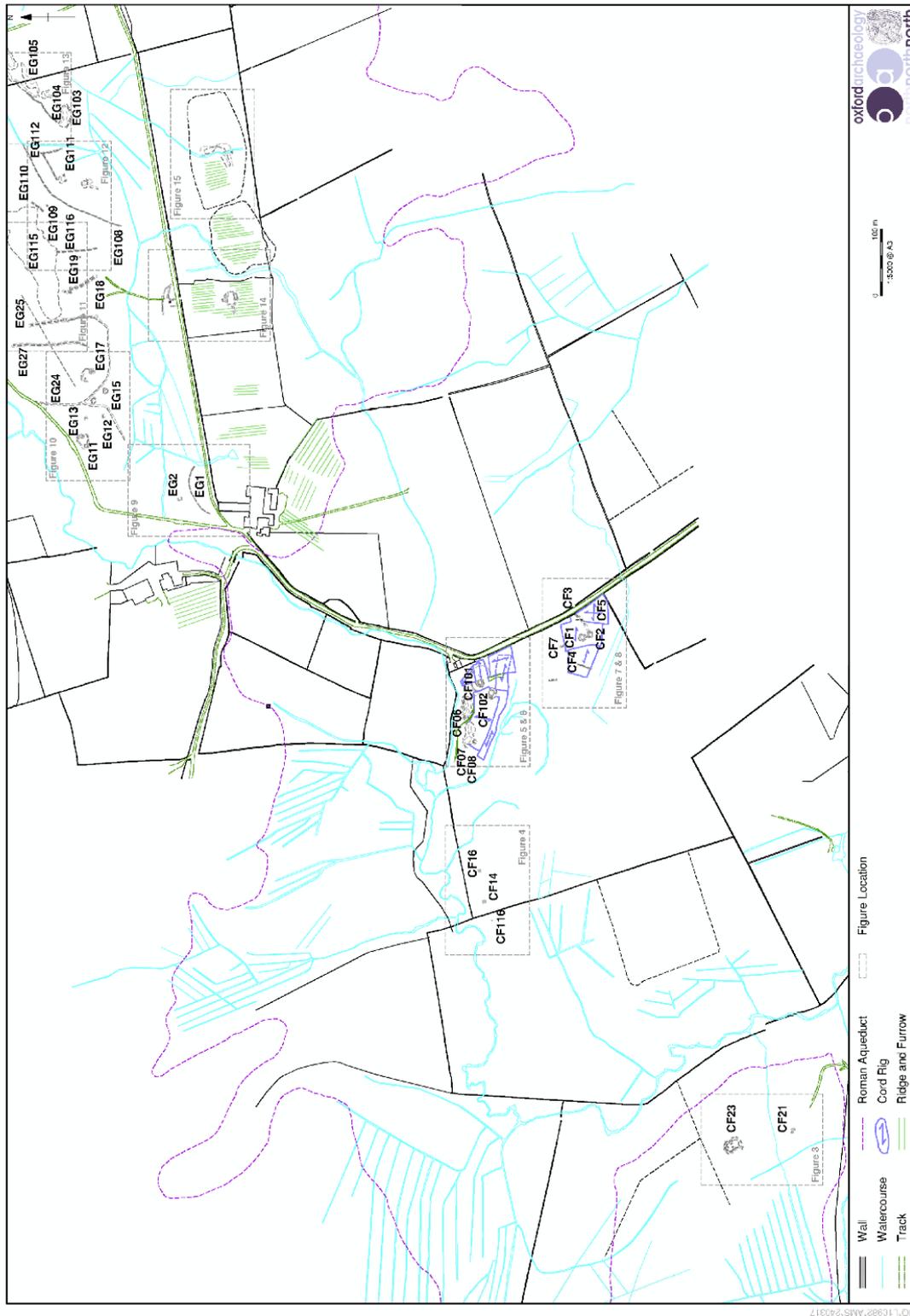


Figure 2: Plan of Edges Green Survey areas, showing the location of detailed figures

**Plan 2: Location map of the Level 1 survey areas. Monument numbers should be ignored.**

JQ'L10882'AMS'2403'7

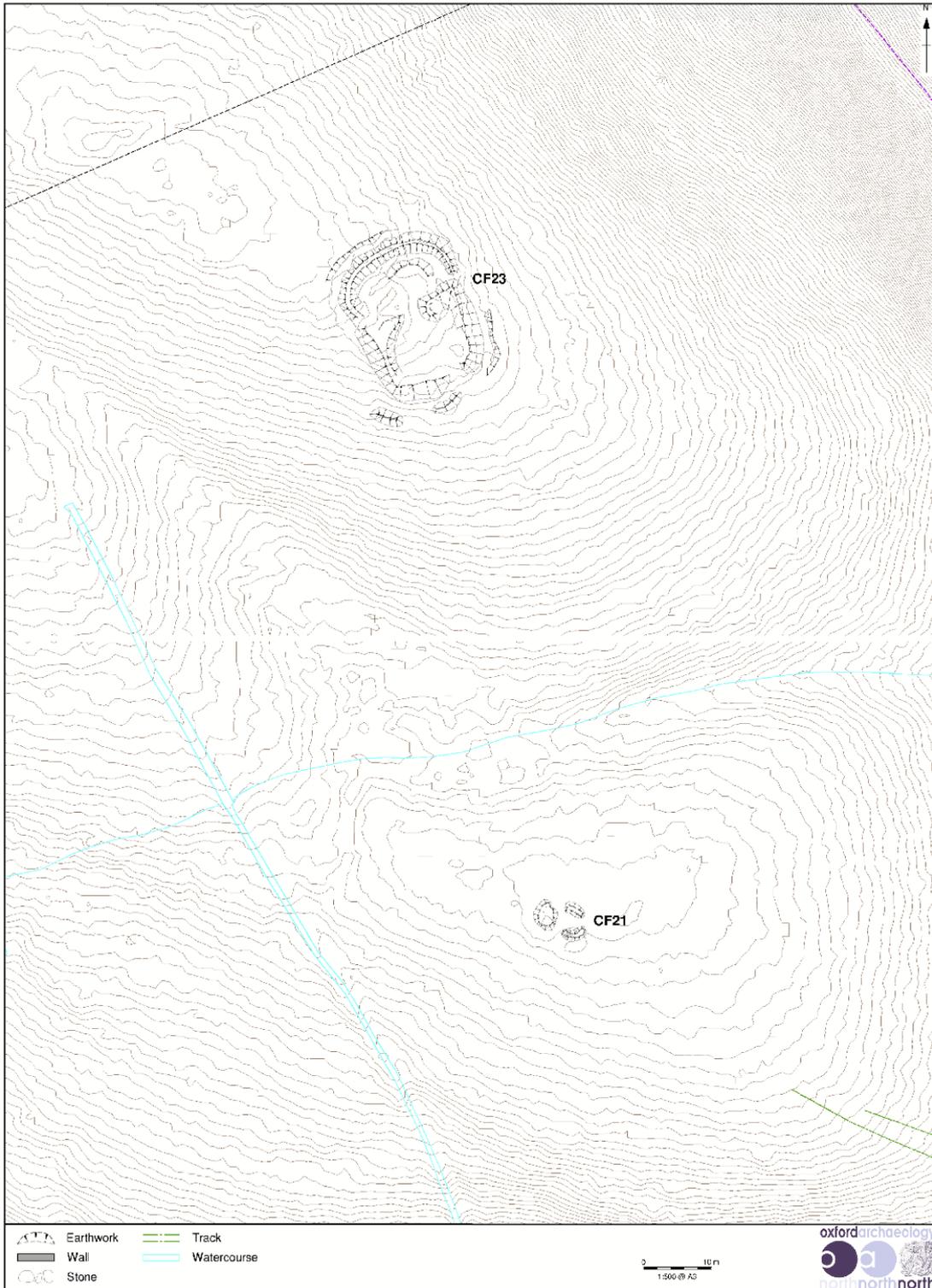


Figure 3: Earthworks CF21 and CF23

**Plan 3: Sites 8 and 9, (Dunsloe shieling and enclosure).**

*NB: CF23 is Site 8 (Dunsloe shieling) CL021. CF21 is Site 9 (Dunsloe enclosure) CL022.*

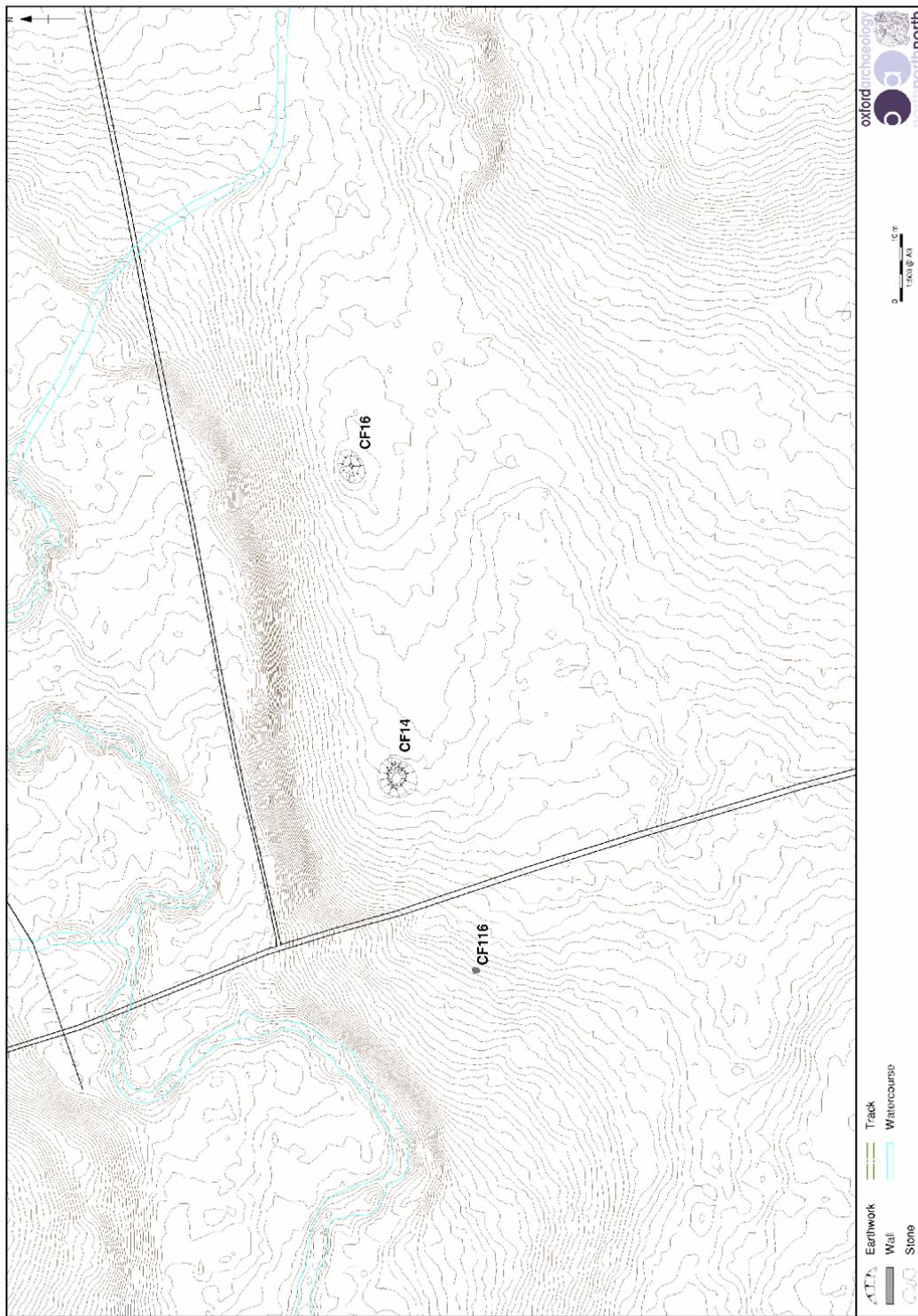


Figure 4: Earthworks CF14 and CF16, and Rock Art CF116

**Plan 4: Site 4, The cairns and rock art west of Ventners Hall**

*NB: CF14, CF16 and CF116 are given in the gazetteer as CL014, CL016 and CL116*

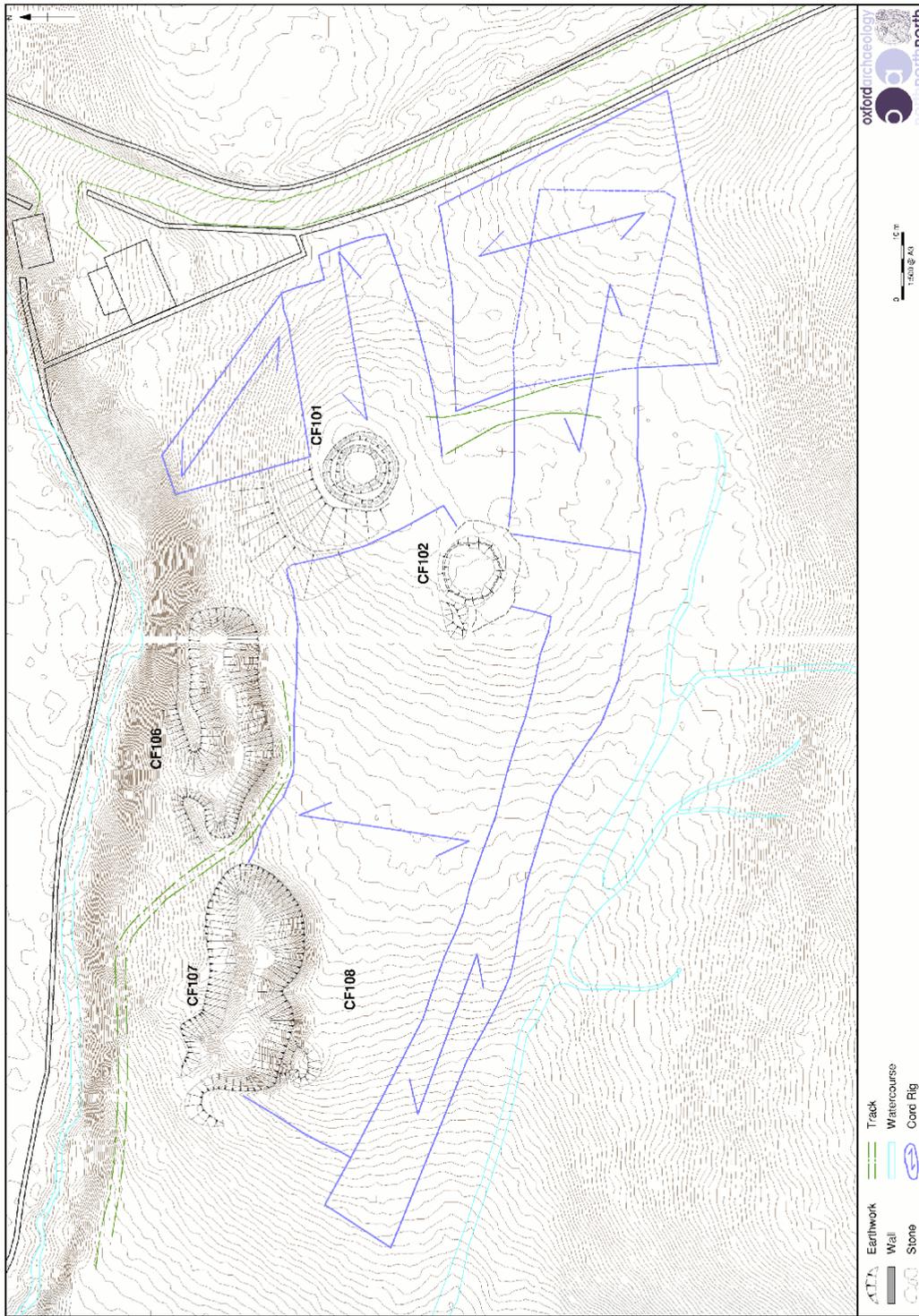


Figure 5: Earthworks CF101, CF102, and CF106-CF108

**Plan 5: Site 5, Ventners Hall North**

*NB CF101, CF102, CF106, CF107, CF108 are given in the gazetteer as CL101, CL102, CL106, CL107 and CL108*

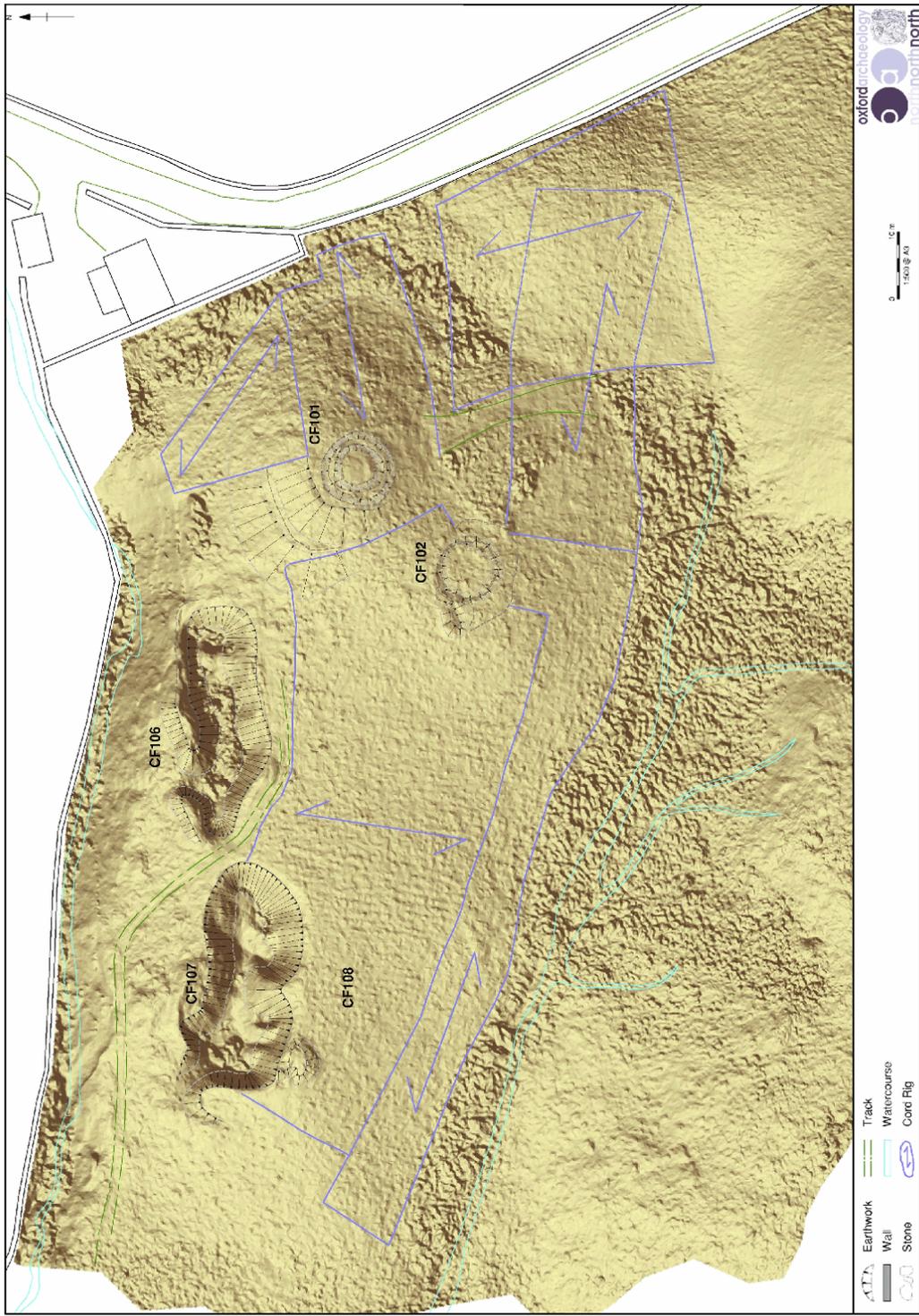


Figure 6: Earthworks CF101, CF102, and CF106-CF108, overlain upon the hillshade plot (Zxs)

Plan 6: Site 5 Ventners Hall North terrain model.

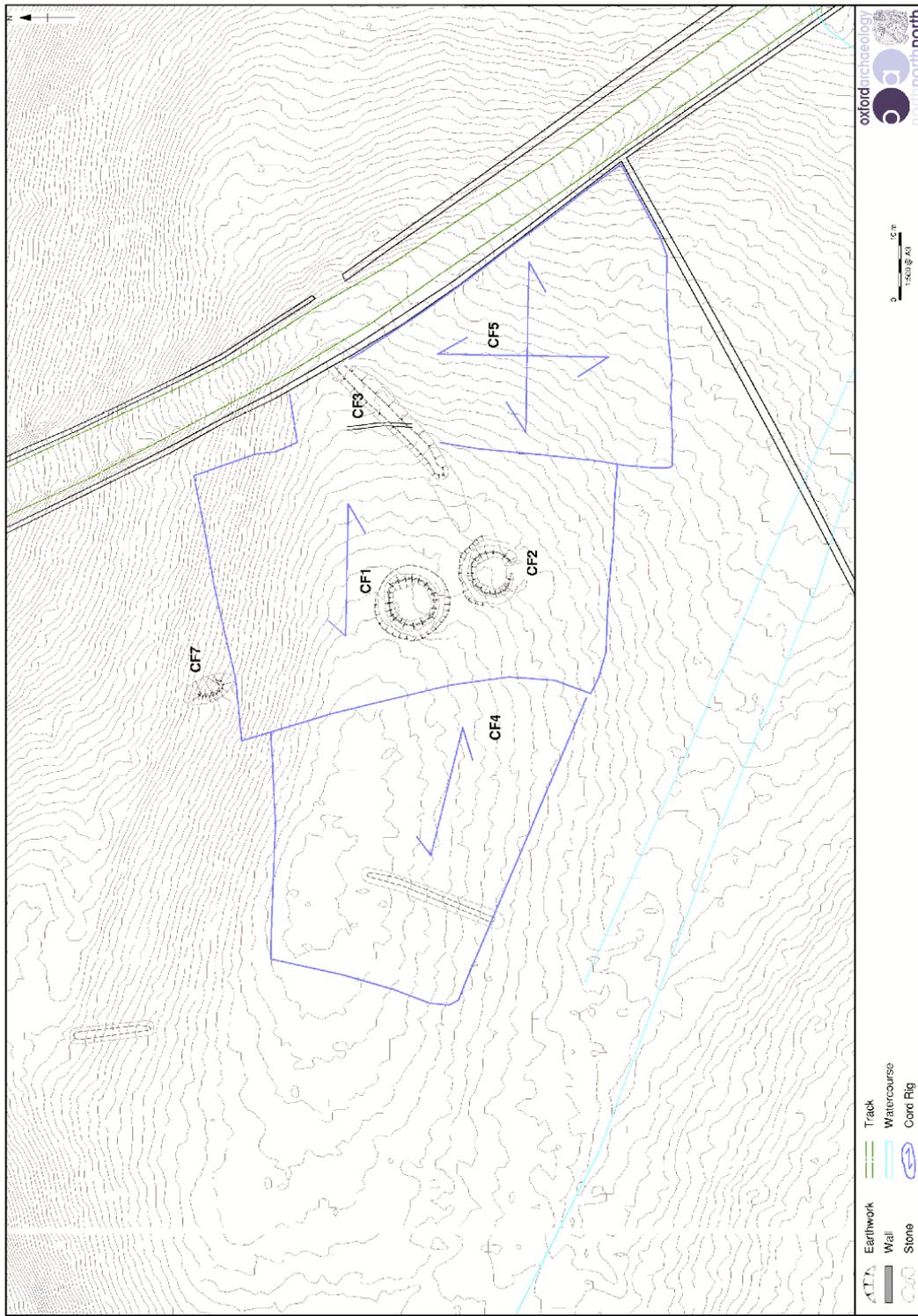
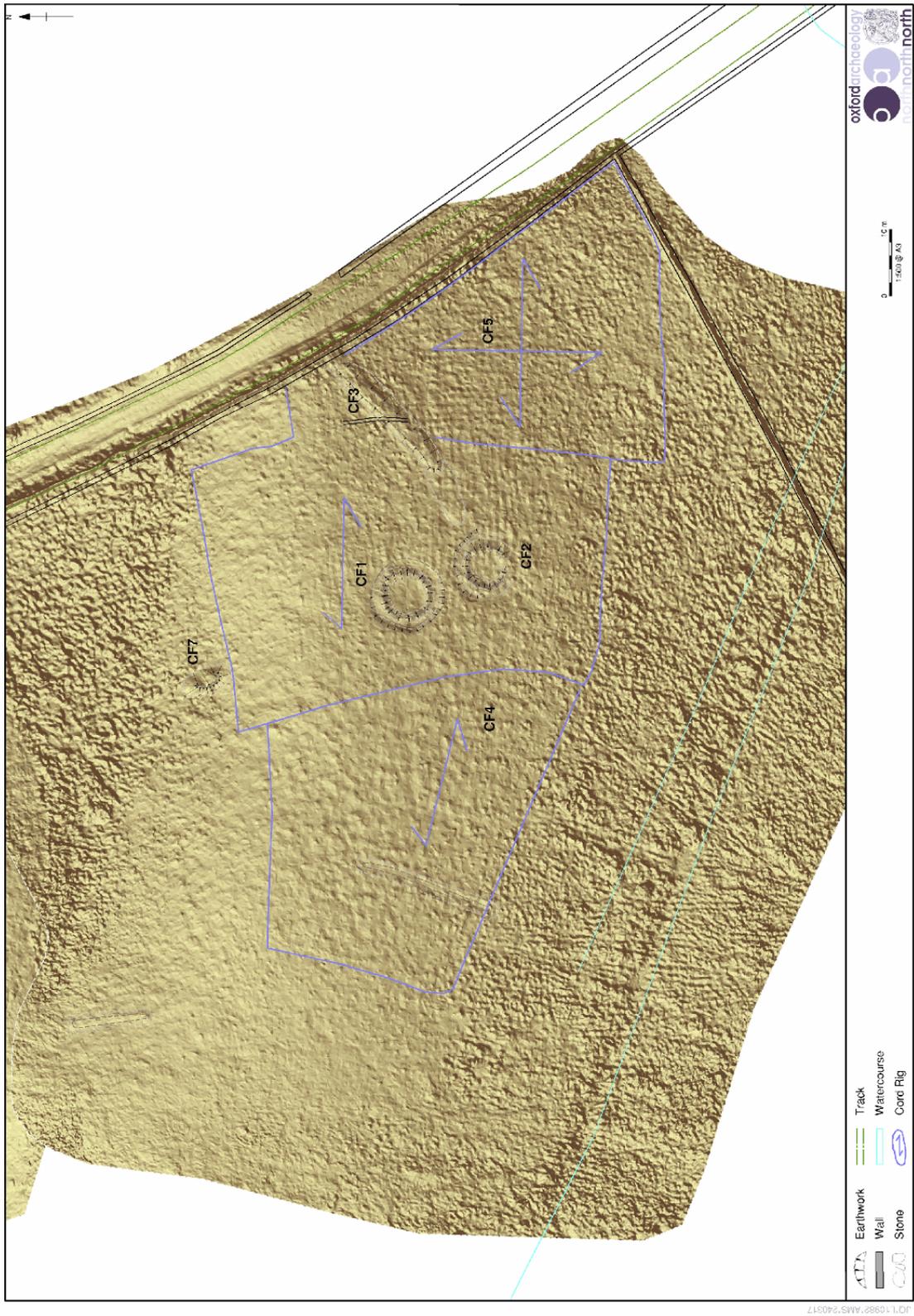


Figure 7: Earthworks CF101 - CF105

**Plan 7: Site 3, Ventners Hall South**

*NB: See Figure 26 caption for corrections to monument numbering.*



**Plan 8: Site 3, Ventners Hall South terrain model**  
 NB: See Figure 26 caption for corrections to monument numbering



Figure 9: Earthworks EG1 and EG2

**Plan 9: Site 1, Edges Green (SW section)**  
*EG1 and EG2 are given in the gazetteer as EG003 and EG002*

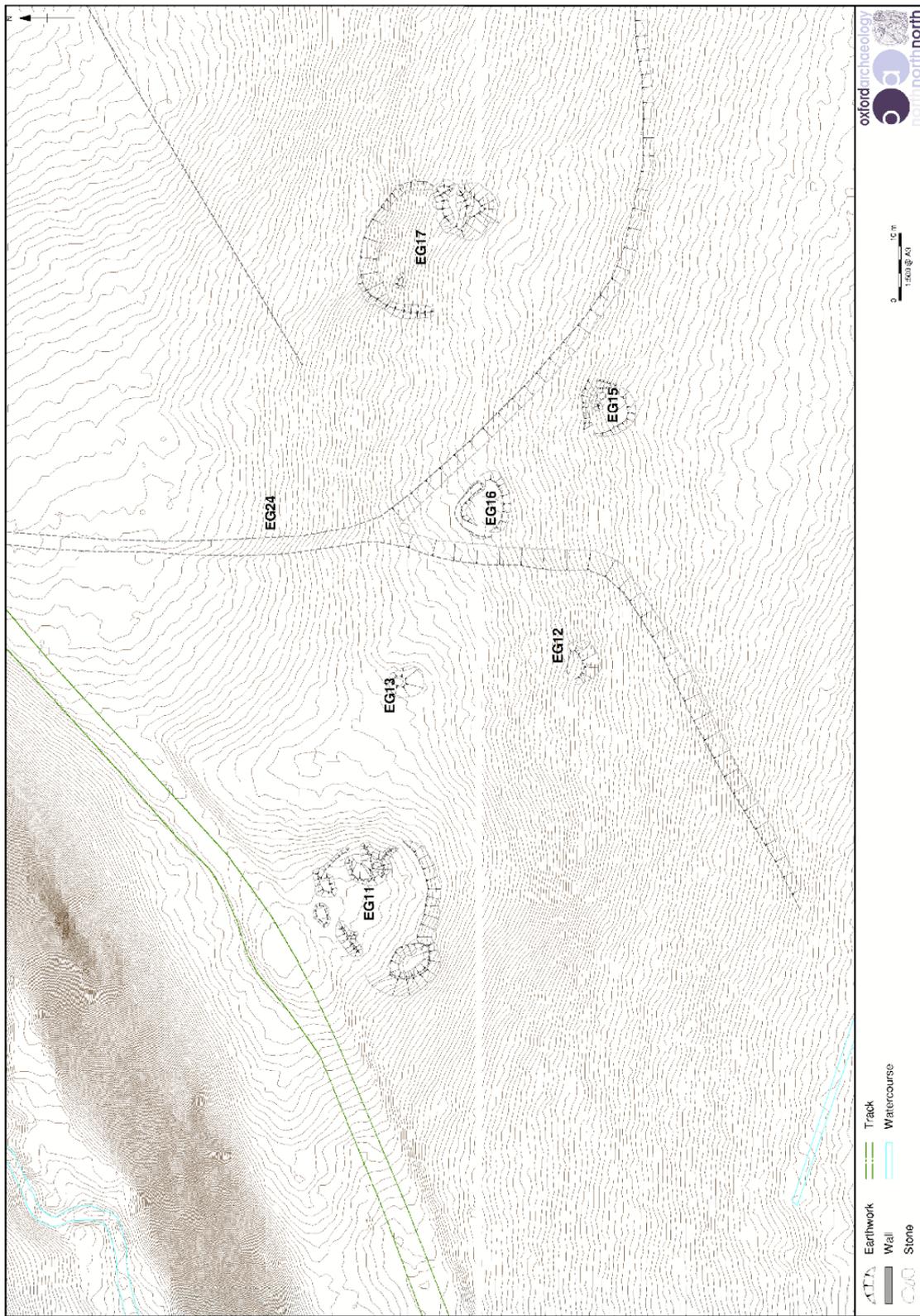


Figure 10: Earthworks EG11 - EG15, EG16, EG17, and EG24

**Plan 10: Site 1, Edges Green (western section)**

*NB: EG11, EG12, EG13, EG15, EG16, EG17, and EG24 are given in the gazetteer as EG011, EG012, EG013, EG015, EG016, EG017, and EG021*

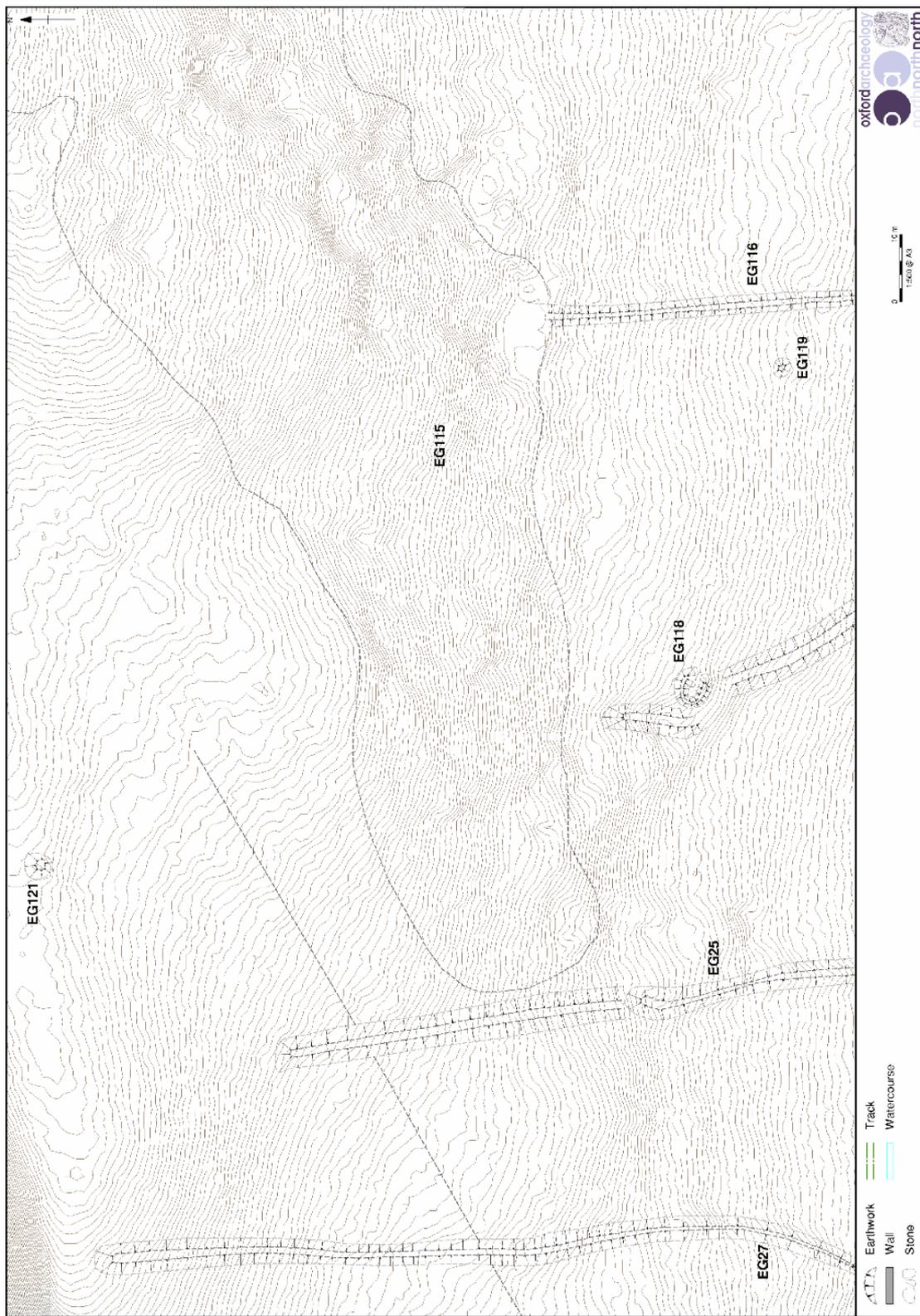


Figure 11: Earthworks EG115 - EG116, EG118 - EG119, EG121, EG25, and EG27

**Plan 11: Site 1, Edges Green (west middle section)**  
 NB: EG25 and EG27 appear in the gazetteer as EG025 and EG027

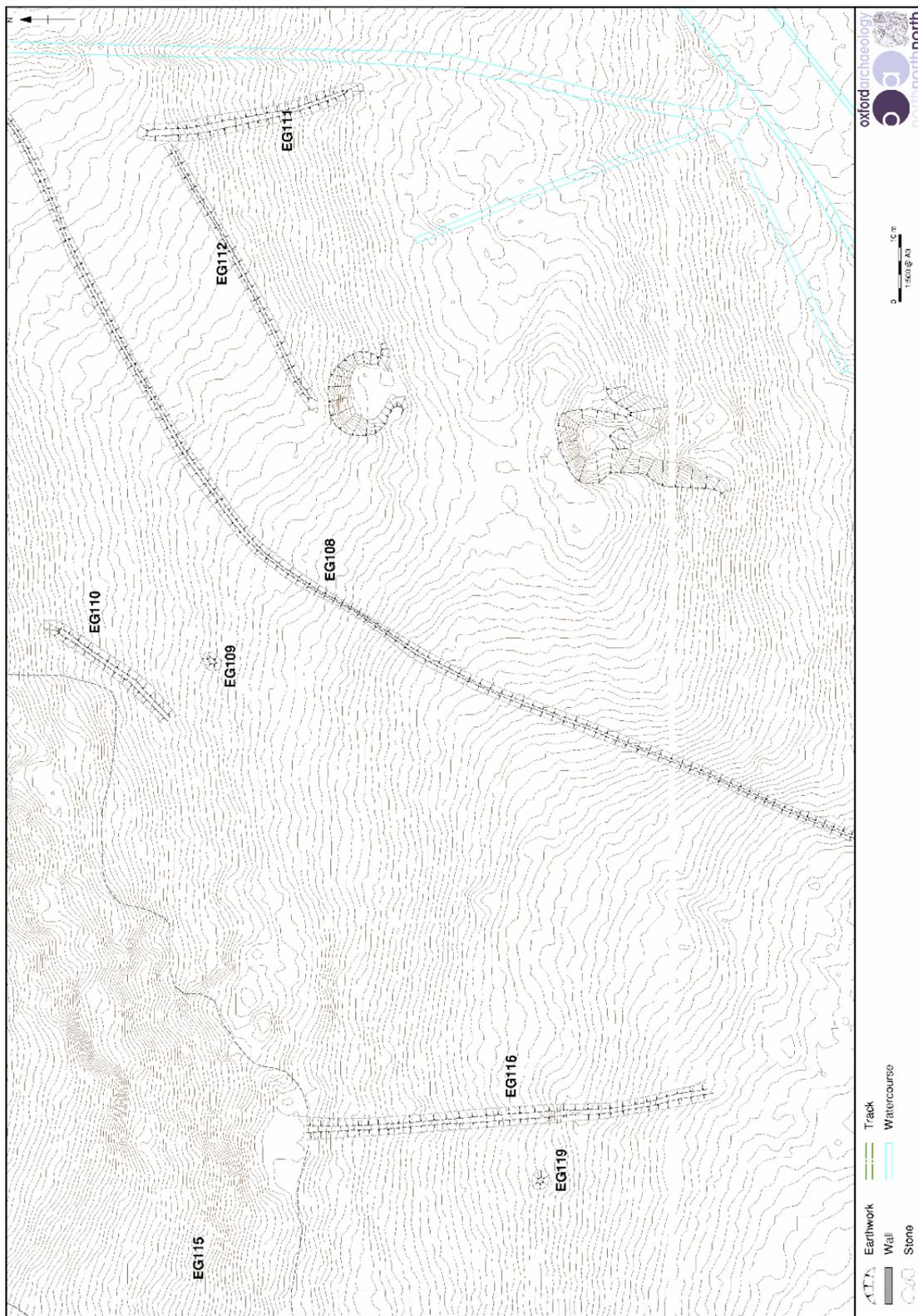


Figure 12: Earthworks EG108 - EG112 - EG116, and EG119

Plan 12: Site 1, Edges Green (east middle section)

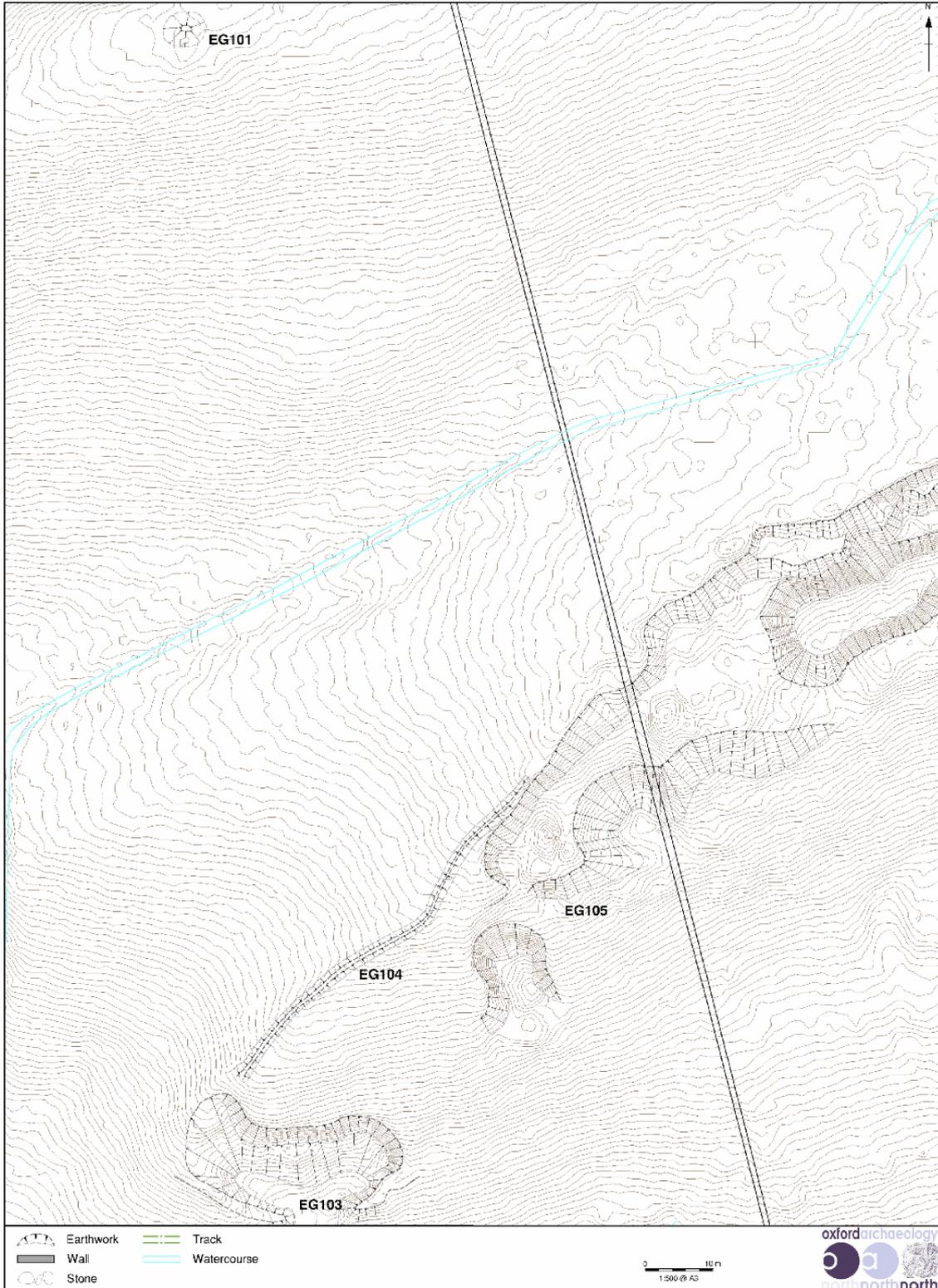


Figure 13: Earthworks EG101 and EG103 -105

### Plan 13: Site 1, Edges Green (eastern section)

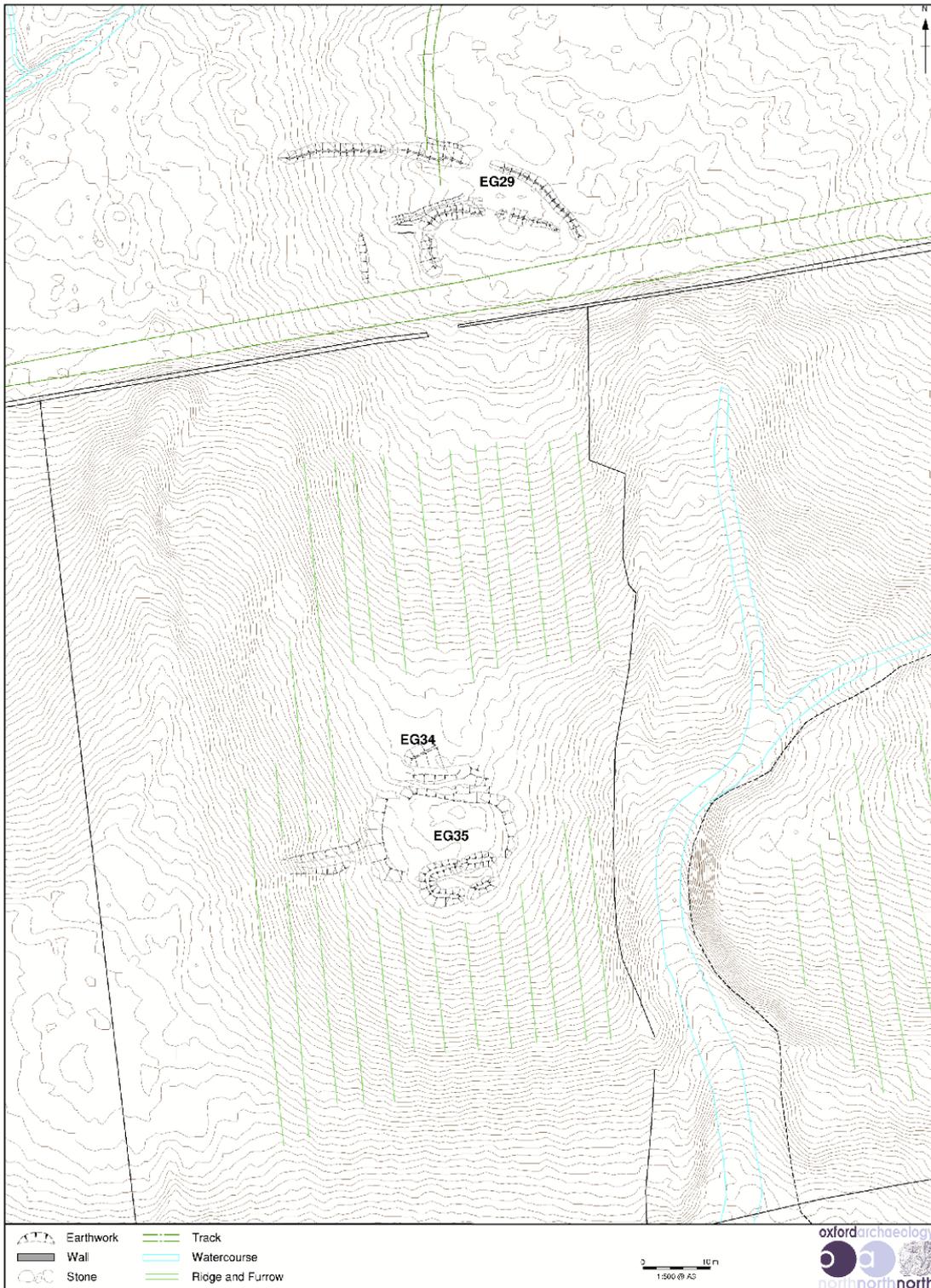


Figure 14: Earthworks EG29 and EG34 -35

**Plan 14: Site 5, East Edges Green (central section)**

*NB EG35 and EG34 appears in the gazetteer grouped as EG034. The holloway to the west of EG034 is EG035*

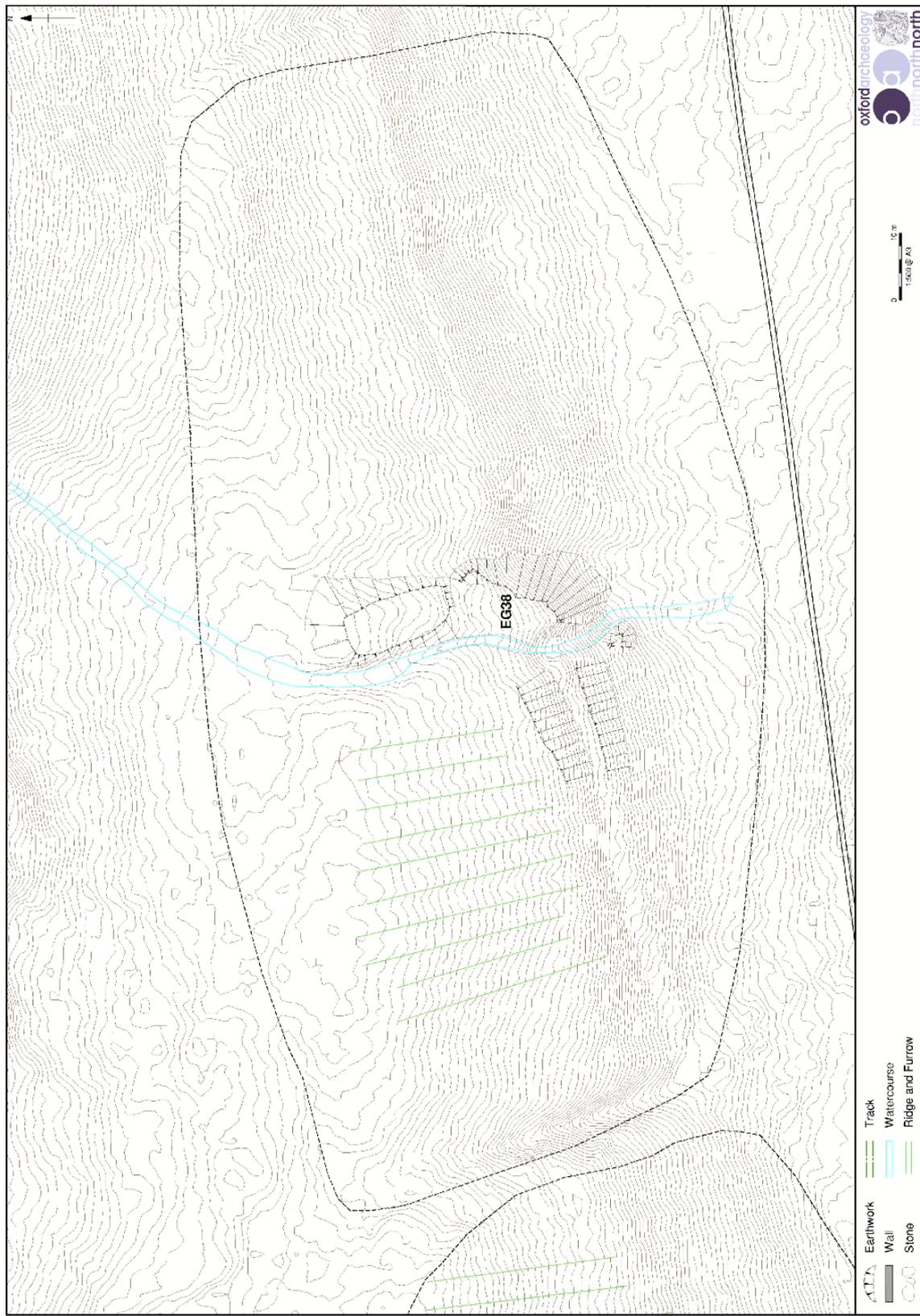


Figure 15: Earthwork EG38

Plan 15: Site 5, East Edges Green (eastern section)