Buxton and High Peak Trail

Proposals for linking Green Lane to Buxton Country Park and Ladmanlow



Picture of existing track in woods to be followed by proposed path

Appendix 3

Industrial archaeological report

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March 2012

ArcHeritage

MULTI-USER TRAIL, GRIN LOW WOODS, DERBYSHIRE: CULTURAL HERITAGE STATEMENT



by Mark Stenton

Report Number 2011/81.2

ArcHeritage

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Non-technical Summary

Archeritage were commissioned by Peak Cycle Links to produce an archaeological desk-based assessment and earthwork survey of the course of a proposed multi-user trail at Grin Low Woods, Buxton, Derbyshire (404467, 372692 to 404267, 372526). The report presents a synthesis of the archaeological and historical background of the proposal area and a 500m study area around the site; and the results of the earthwork survey. It provides an assessment of the affect of the proposed trail on the archaeological resource at Grinlow Woods. The route of the proposed trail has been revised and this report has been updated to take account of this change.

The trail's proposed course runs through a relict post-medieval lime burning landscape that has been identified by the English Heritage Monuments Protection as an area of 'exceptional national importance' worthy of designation as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Lime kilns and ash waste heaps are located along the course of the trail, while areas of associated quarrying and the site of two limehouses are located in fields immediately outside the wood.

The trail's course has been designed to minimise adverse impacts on the cultural heritage resource along the route; where the proposed course is likely to impact known archaeological features, recommendations have been made for mitigation. Recommendations have aklso been made for ways in which the site's cultural heritage assets can most effectively be presented to potential users of the trail.

Key Project Information

Project Name	Grin Low Woods, Derbyshire
ArcHeritage Project No.	5428
Report status	Final report for submission
Type of Project	Cultural Heritage Statement
NGR	404467, 372692 to 404267, 372526
Author	Mark Stenton
Illustrations & Plates	Mark Stenton, Tudur Davies
Editor	David Aspden
Report Number and Date	2011/81.2 – 28/11/11

1 INTRODUCTION

This report is an archaeological cultural heritage statement for the course of a proposed multi-user trail at Grin Low Woods, Buxton, Derbyshire. The report represents a synthesis of the archaeological and historical background of the proposal area and a 500m study area around the site; and the results of an archaeological earthwork survey along the proposed route of the trail. Significant sites or findspots situated just outside the search area which have a potential bearing on the archaeological context of the site are also listed. The aim is to establish the known cultural heritage resource within the site; to provide a context for the identification and understanding of any potential cultural heritage resource; to identify cultural heritage opportunities and constraints; to assess the effect of the proposed trail on the cultural heritage resource; and to identify ways in which the resource can be presented to the public. The report was commissioned by Peak Cycle Links. The original route of the proposed trail has been revised and this report has been updated to take account of this change.

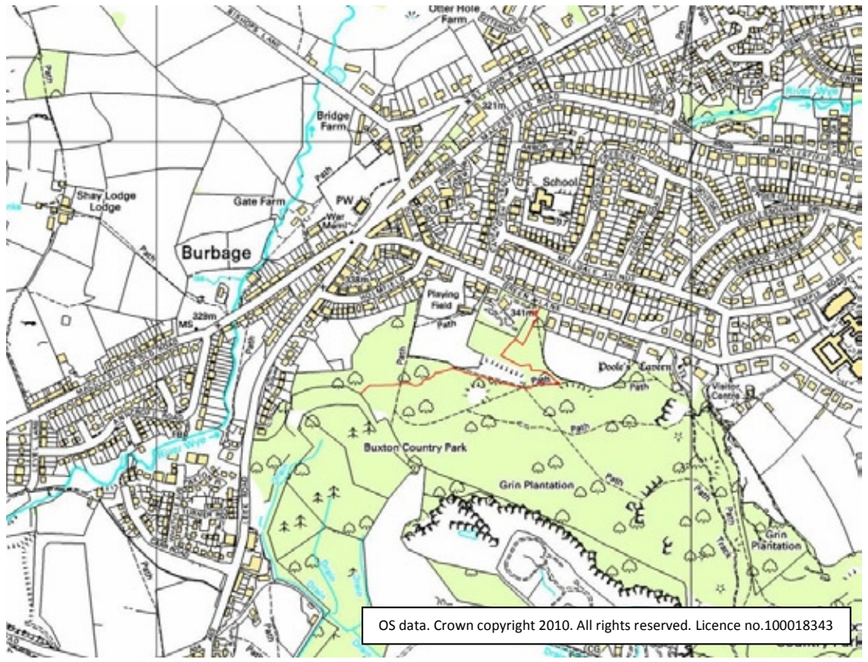

Figure 1: Location map

2 METHODOLOGY

Information was derived from Derbyshire Record Office, the Archaeology Data Service and aerial photographic information available online. A search of other relevant primary and secondary sources was carried out digitally and in the ArchHeritage library and archive.

Site visits were conducted by David Aspden on 2nd September 2010 and by David Aspden, John Grimshaw and Steve Baker on 29th September 2011. The aim of the visit was to assess the general aspect, character, condition and setting of the site and to identify any potential archaeological features and impacts not evident from secondary sources.

The earthwork survey was carried out during October 2011 using a total station. The survey located archaeological earthworks in relation to the proposed route of the trail. The archaeological earthwork survey extended to 20m to either side of the proposed trail where archaeological earthworks were identified (Figures 5 and 6).

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The proposed multi-user trail snakes for approximately 800m through the north-west part of Grin Low Wood, a SSSI which forms part of Buxton Country Park. The route commences at NGR 404725, 372690 and snakes south-west to terminate at NGR 4043667, 327527. The site is located approximately 0.20km south of Burbage and 1.8km to the south-west of Buxton, Derbyshire. The solid geology of the site is limestone.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric

There are no recorded prehistoric sites or findspots within the 500m search area, although three sites from this period are located within 1km of the site. Prehistoric settlement at Lismore Fields, 0.66km to the north-east is demonstrated by a Mesolithic timber round house and flint implements along with Neolithic long houses, ceramic and flints. These deposits extended beyond the excavated area but it is not known if they extended towards Grin Low Woods.

A mound, 45ft in diameter and 6ft in height and surrounded by a ditch, approximately 0.60km to the north-east of the site, has been identified as a possible long cairn. This feature is no longer extant.

Poole's Cavern, approximately 0.54km to the east of the site, has produced prehistoric flint and pottery.

4.2 Roman

There are no recorded Roman sites or findspots within the 500m search area, although two sites from this period are located within 1km of the site. Poole's Cavern, approximately 0.54km to the east of the site, has produced has produced numerous Roman artefacts, including brooches, bracelets, rings, pins, tools, ceramic, animal remains and metalworking waste. The cave appears to have been an occupied domestic and metalworking site that may have incorporated a shrine. Coin evidence suggests that the cave may have been occupied from the second to the early third century.

A possible Roman ceramic jar was found at Green Lane, Buxton, approximately 0.88m to the south-east.

4.3 Medieval

There are no known medieval sites within the 500m search area, although Poole's Cavern contains a possible medieval inhumation. Several Henry V silver pennies (1413-1422) that were found in the cave may have been associated with the burial. The cave was formerly known as 'Poole's Hole' and derives its name from a traditional association as the lair of the late 15th-century outlaw, Poole (Hope Moncrieff 1898).

4.4 Post-medieval

There are no recorded 16th- to 18th-century sites or findspots within the 500m search area, although Poole's Cavern was a 'show cave' during this period and appears to have been visited by Mary, Queen of Scots, during the period in which she was held in captivity in Sheffield by Francis Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury.

Grin Hill or Low, to the south-east of the site, was the site of extensive limeworking. The hill was located within the manor of Hartington during this period and the high quality lime produced at 'Grin' was used as an agricultural fertiliser, in mortar, and as whitewash. The earliest documentary evidence for lime-working in the area dates from the late 17th century but states that 'for time out of mind before ' that period it had been customary for people living in Hartington to process limestone in order to make lime for their own use (quoted in Leach 1996, 103).

John Barnatt's survey of archaeological features associated with the Grin Low lime industry indicated that the kilns and ash waste dumps in the north-west part of the area dated from the 17th and 18th centuries (Leach 1996). This is supported by the site's location to the south of Burbage, a village whose 'origin lies with the beginning of lime burning at Grin', during the mid-17th century (Forster 1961, 8).

A 17th-century date suggests that the majority of lime kilns within the proposal area and its immediate vicinity are likely to have been small to medium-sized pye, or 'pudding pie' kilns that were used by individual local farmers, rather than the larger 'landsale' kilns that were leased from major landowners for commercial lime production.

Barnatt identified six lime kilns within the proposal area, along with at least ten ash waste heaps (Figure 3). Three small areas of quarrying were present in the field at the north-west of the wood (Leach 1996). The size of the quarries and kilns supports the suggestion that, although the lime-working in this area may have become intensified over time, the site was principally used for localised, rather than commercial, lime production.

Pye kilns were in use only intermittently, as and when lime was required (Bunting 2006). Kilns were constructed from earth or stone and fuelled with wood, furze, peat or coal. Alternating layers of fuel and limestone were stacked within the kiln and lit from an opening at the base of the structure. The burning process took several days to reduce the limestone to lime, followed by a shorter period of cooling (Bunter 2006).

William Nicolson, bishop of Carlisle, visited the Buxton area in 1704 and noted that Grin Low was 'cover'd with Lime Kilns' at that date (quoted in Leach 1996, 103). The most substantial of these were worked by the Brock family who, from the late 17th century, had paid an annual

rent to the dukes of Devonshire for the 'Liberty to make other kilns and to get stone and burn and make Lime to sell' (quoted in Leach 1996, 103). The Brock kilns appear to have been located on the eastern side of the hill, as do those established in 1738 by John Dickenson, the manorial lord of Taxal in Cheshire (Leach 1996). This suggests that the proposal area was not affected significantly by the expansion of the area's commercial lime production, in which 120 'horse-loads' of lime were produced every day from each of Brock's eight kilns (Pilkington 1789, 292).

Due to its high quality, Grin Hill lime was supplied to 'the hither parts of Cheshire' by 1704, and to Lancashire and North Derbyshire by 1734, which indicates good transportation links prior to the construction of turnpike roads later in the century (quoted in Leach 1996, 103). Throughout this period, lime from the Buxton area was transported 'chiefly on the backs of small horses' along a series of tracks and packhorse routes (quoted in Leach 1996, 104).

Barnatt's survey identified the course of a former road in the central part of the proposal area that may have originated as a track for lime distribution. Sections of the present-day footpath to the north-east and south-west may also have been part of the former road. The course of this route suggests that it may have been used to bring coal supplies into the site from the pits on the 'Grand Ridge' at the top of Grin Low and may also have led to the turnpikes that were established at the south-west in 1759, 1767 and 1821 (Leach 1996).

In 1784, Barthelemy Faujas Saint-Fond observed the lime kilns on the east side of Grin Low and 'looked in vain for the habitations of the labourers and their numerous families, without being able to see as much as one cottage' before realising that 'the whole tribe, like so many moles, had formed their residence under ground' (Saint-Fond 1799, 282). Lime workers and their families had excavated permanent shelters in the ash waste from the kilns, which had hardened due to carbonation. These 'enormous heaps...covering many acres of ground' dominated Grin Low during this period, and the lime workers and their families had excavated permanent shelters 'in the midst of heaps of cinders and refuse of lime' (Farey 1813, 414; Saint Fond 1799, 282).

Saint-Fond, 'felt much pleasure in visiting the residence of these troglodytes', noted that the majority of the limehouses were located 'immediately contiguous to the lime-kilns which communicate to them a comfortable degree of warmth' (Saint-Fond 1799, 283). The houses had 'three or four rooms, almost all of a round form' and were 'lighted by the side, when the position is such to admit it; or merely by the chimney, which is nothing else than a round hole pierced through the middle of the roof' (Saint-Fond 1799, 283). Additional light was acquired through apertures that were carved next to the entrances. Several limehouses had roofs that were 'partially covered with turf and heath, and not infrequently a cow or an ass takes a station near the chimney...amongst tufts of fern and thistles' (Rhodes 1824, 93).

Although Saint-Fond described limehouses that were situated in the vicinity of Poole's Cavern, on the east side of Grin Low, there were numerous examples at Burbage (Forster 1961). Barnatt's survey identified two limehouses in fields immediately adjacent to the proposal area (Leach 1996). One of these was situated in the south-west corner of the field to the east of the wood, with the other situated in the sub-rectangular field at the south-west of the wood.

The date at which the limehouses adjacent to the site were constructed is not known. However, such features are unlikely to have been constructed in an area where kilns were being used only intermittently, by individual farmers manufacturing lime for their own needs. This suggests that lime production in the site's immediate area may have intensified for a period, with the limehouses being constructed and occupied by people who were working at the kilns at that time. This may be supported by Saint-Fond's observation that limehouses were constructed next to working kilns in order to benefit from the heat involved in the limeburning process (Saint-Fond 1799).

4.5 Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Devonshire estate documents dating from 1805 named five kilns on Grin Low: Old Spy Kiln', 'New Spy Kiln, 'Cotton Shop Kiln', 'Red Bull Kiln' and 'Boson Hole Kiln' (Leach 1996). The location of these kilns is unclear but is likely to have been on the east side of the hill. The pye kilns within the proposal area are unlikely to have been named formally.

The 1807 Hartington enclosure map, which cannot be reproduced due to archive restrictions, showed several structures within the site. The largest of these was a rectangular feature with a small, square projection on its west face, which stood in what is now the north-west part of the wood. Two rectangular features were located to the south of this feature, while two smaller rectangular features stood at the north-east of the wood. Each of these features was situated in close proximity to lime kilns or areas of quarrying that were identified at these locations by John Barnatt (Leach 1996). This suggests that, despite their regular, linear appearance, the features shown on the 1807 enclosure map were intended to represent limeworking sites.

It is not clear if the features shown in 1807 were the only kilns within the site that were active at that date, with the other known kilns being disused, or if the latter were established after 1807. Names associated with limeworking were evident on both the 1807 map and in the accompanying Hartington enclosure award, with a 'Lime Road', a 'Lime Kiln Close' and a 'Kiln Close' located in the wider area. None of the plots or features within the site or its immediate vicinity are named. Place-name evidence cannot help to determine the status of the kilns within the site at this date.

By 1813, Grin Hill was 'almost entirely covered by the Ash-heaps of former and present Lime-kilns' which were visible from 'almost every part of the vicinity' (Farey 1813, 424). John Farey suggested that 'the disgusting desolation of Grin Hill...might perhaps be removed, by planting it with Ash, &c.' (Farey 1813, 424). William Cavendish, duke of Devonshire, subsequently undertook an extensive plantation programme around Buxton, in order to screen the lime ash waste heaps from sight. By 1819, Grin Low was 'very thickly planted, but the trees at present are so very small that they are scarcely perceivable' (Moore 1819, 23). By 1854, the hill was masked by extensive woodland known locally as 'Grin Plantations' (Robertson 1854). In 1868, the waste heaps were said to be 'covered by a thriving plantation of firs' (Croston 1868, 391).

Although lime kilns and quarries were marked on the 1842 First Series Ordnance Survey map, these were shown to the south and south-east of the proposal area. Kilns were not shown within the site on the 1868 Burbage ecclesiastical district plan. However, the 'most distant

extremity' of Grin Hill remained the site of 'extensive' lime kilns when viewed from the south-east in 1854 (Robertson 1854, 25). This suggests that limeworking continued in the vicinity of the proposal area during the mid-19th century, although it need not have occurred within the site itself. This is supported by an 1891 description of 'white clouds of smoke from the lime-kilns at Burbage' (Bradbury 1891, 15), at a date when the kilns within the site appear to have been disused for at least several decades.

Lime production at Grin Low declined throughout the early 19th century, until the creation of the Buxton Lime Company in 1857, when production became heavily industrialised and led to the expansion of the Grin Lime Works, a large quarry to the south of the proposal area (Leach 1996).

The proposal area was depicted in detail on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3). None of the lime kilns or waste heaps that Barnatt identified within the site were marked on the 1880 map. This may suggest that the woodland was not surveyed extensively, although this is unlikely as numerous paths were marked throughout the woods. The majority of the new trail's course would have been through an area of evergreen trees in 1880, with only the final section through an area of mixed woodland. Areas of rough grassland were shown throughout the wood at this date.

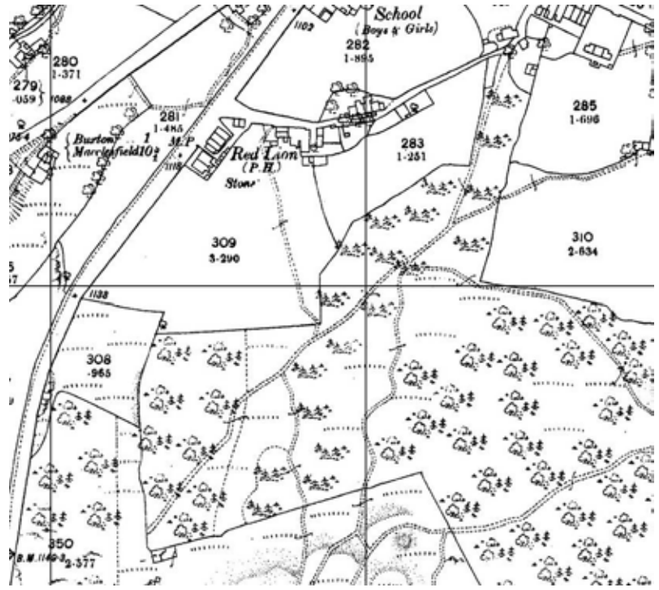

Figure 2: 1880 Ordnance Survey map

A footpath led into the wood from a road that partially occupied the course of the present-day Holmefield Road. This ran south to the beginning of the proposed route, where it joined a larger path that followed a linear course to the south-west. The central section of this path was identified by Barnatt as the course of a former road or substantial track (Leach 1996), although it was not differentiated from any of the other paths within the wood on the 1880 map. The south-west part of the wood abutted a sub-rectangular field of rough grassland, but

the northern escarpment of the Grin Works quarry had not been excavated at this date and the new route's southern terminus was not marked by any features in 1880.

Trees were shown in only the west and south-west parts of the site on the 1898 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4), with the remainder of the site being shown as rough grassland. The accuracy of this depiction is not clear; however, trees continued to be shown throughout the majority of Grin Low Wood, which suggests that they may indeed have been cleared from the majority of the proposal area by this date. This may be supported by the absence of evergreens from those areas of the site that were shown as wooded. Fir trees had covered the site in 1868 (Croston 1868), had been shown on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map and continued to be shown in other parts of Grin Low Wood on the 1898 map. This suggests that evergreens had in fact been removed from the site by this date.

The site's present-day southern boundary had been formed by the extension into the woodland of the Grin Works quarry. With the exception of small sections of footpath that had become established or disused, no further changes were shown within the proposal area in 1898.

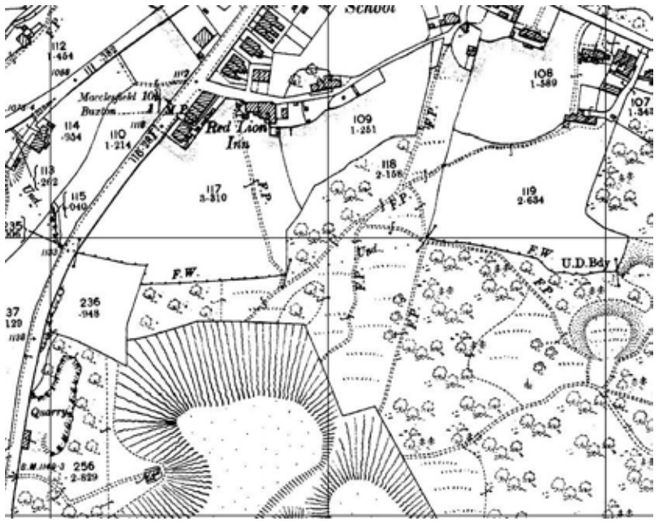

Figure 3: 1898 Ordnance Survey map

No changes were shown within the site on the 1922, 1938 or 1954 Ordnance Survey maps, with the exception of evergreen trees that were marked to the west of the route on the 1922 map. Limeburning ended on Grin Hill in 1952, although the quarry remained in use until 1972.

The 1973 Ordnance Survey map depicted the northern part of the site as a wooded area; this was the first OS map since 1880 to show this area as woodland. Assuming this representation to be accurate, this suggests that at least the majority of the woods to the east and south east of the route date from the early to mid-20th century and are not part of the 1820 plantation. Grin Works quarry was acquired by Derbyshire County Council and the area was landscaped between 1979 and 1980. By 1989 (Figure 5) the site formed part of Buxton Country Park.

Martin Trueman surveyed Grin Low Woods in 1996 as part of the English Heritage Monuments Protection Programme. Trueman concluded that the area represented a 'relict post-medieval lime burning landscape' of 'exceptional national importance' and recommended that 'the whole site' should be designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Trueman 1996).

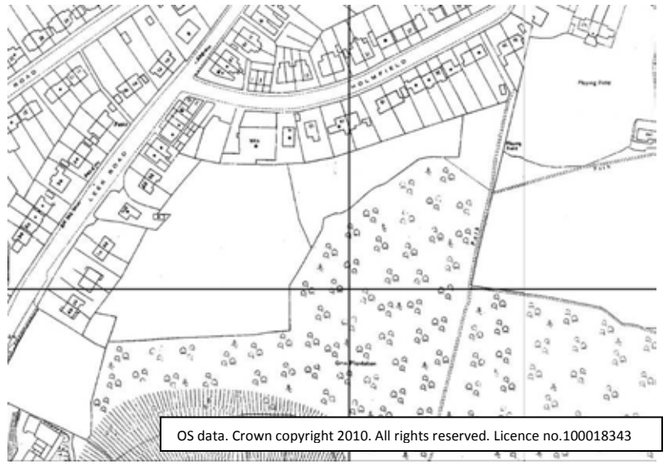
OS data. Crown copyright 2010. All rights reserved. Licence no.100018343

Figure 4: 1989 Ordnance Survey map

5 SITE VISIT

A site visit was conducted by David Aspden on 2nd September 2010. The main purpose of the visit was to assess the general aspect, character, condition and setting of the proposal area and to identify any potential archaeological features and impacts not evident from secondary sources. Ground level varies throughout the site, which is principally woodland, with several open areas of vegetation overgrowth.

A second site visit was conducted by David Aspden, John Grimshaw and Steve Baker along a revised route for the trail on 29th September 2011. The visit provided the opportunity for discussion of the route of the trail and the approach and scope of the archaeological earthwork survey carried out for this report.



Plate 1: Floor of disused quarry looking southeast

The proposed route commences from Green Lane at approximately NGR 404725, 372690. It runs south from Green Lane into Grinlow Woods and the floor of a small disused quarry (Plate 1) where it runs on embankment and then cutting to further expose the quarry face. Passing the face of the quarry (Plate 2) to the west in cutting it turns east to start climbing the slope of Grin Low (Plate 3) on embankment where it crosses a second quarry face (Plate 4). Above the quarry face it passes through an ash waste heap in cutting before turning west on embankment to continue up the slope of Grin Low.

Moving west it passes between two ash waste heaps in cutting (Plate 5). Continuing west it runs parallel to the line of an existing footpath, again moving between two ash waste heaps in cutting. The proposed route then holds a generally westerly line running on embankment where it passes over two further areas of ash waste heaps. The proposed route then exits the site onto the slope created by the landscaping of the former Grin Works quarry (Plate 6) at approximately NGR: 4043667, 327527.



Plate 2: Quarry face to west of proposed route



Plate 3: Disused quarry floor looking southeast along proposed route



Plate 4: Quarry face crossed by proposed route



Plate 5: Ash waste heaps looking east



Plate 6: Landscaped slope of Grin Works quarry

6 RESULTS

6.1 Archaeological Potential

The proposed multi-user trail is located within an area that contains extensive archaeological sites associated with 17th- and 18th-century lime production. Grin Low Wood was created as a plantation in 1820 and further trees appear to have been established in the eastern part of the site from the mid-20th century. Trees occupy many of the ash waste heaps observed in the vicinity of the route and the kiln sites are likely to be affected similarly. Any associated sub-surface archaeological deposits and features are likely to have been impacted by root action.

A late 20th-century survey of the area identified the sites of the known kilns and waste heaps. Given the extent of the woodland, there is a moderate potential for the presence of further, previously unknown, archaeological features associated with past lime production. The earthwork survey identified a number of ash waste heaps relating to the 17th and 18th century lime production. The results of the earthwork survey in relation to the proposed route of the trail are presented on figures 5 and 6.

7 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECT OF TRAIL ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

Martin Trueman's report for the English Heritage Monument Protection Programme concluded that the Grin Low Woods 'relict post-medieval lime burning landscape' is of 'exceptional national importance' and is worthy of designation as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Trueman 1996).

The earthwork survey carried out to inform this statement is provided on figures 5 and 6. For much of its course the trail will be constructed over the present ground surface or on embankment, thus preserving *in situ* archaeological remains below it. The Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council has been consulted on the route of the trail and the effect it would have on archaeological earthworks.

The construction of the proposed trail will remove the majority of an ash waste heap A as it runs east (Figure 5) and rises from a small disused quarry floor off Green Lane. The trail then turns back west to climb further where it will run in cutting having a minor effect on two waste heaps B and C (Figure 5). Similarly, as it continues east it runs in cutting between ash waste heaps D and E, again with a minor impact. No other archaeological earthworks will be affected by the proposed route of the trail.

It is possible that the introduction of the multi-user trail will focus movement through the landscape reducing footfall over much of the area surrounding the trail. This would in turn reduce the risk of erosion of archaeological assets due to repeated foot fall and the wearing of paths.

The proposed multi-user trail will therefore remove one ash waste heap during its construction and have a minor effect on four others. The archaeological landscape at Grinlow Woods is extensive and displays considerable coherence. It has been assessed as having National Significance. Due to the large area covered by the remains the landscape can absorb some minor localised change. The trail will therefore have only a minor effect on the archaeological landscape at Grinlow Woods as a whole. It is possible that the introduction of the multi-user trail will focus movement through the landscape reducing footfall over much of the area surrounding the trail. This would in turn reduce the risk of erosion of archaeological features due to repeated footfall and the wearing of paths. The introduction of the trail may therefore also have a minor beneficial effect on the archaeological remains at Grinlow Woods.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Archaeological mitigation

Where impacts are unavoidable a watching brief may be required to ensure that any archaeological deposits affected are recorded during their removal. Care should be taken during the construction of the trail to ensure that other archaeological earthworks are not affected by construction works. The Development Control Archaeologist for Derbyshire County Council should be consulted on any requirements for archaeological works to mitigate the effects of the proposed multi-user trail.

8.2 Presenting the Cultural Heritage Resource

The proposed course of the multi-user trail through Grin Low Wood provides opportunities to present key aspects of this cultural heritage resource to the public. The simplest and most effective way of achieving this would be the siting of a series of information boards at significant locations along the route. The boards could contain a short overview of the cultural heritage resource within the site, along with a focused description of the particular historic or archaeological feature present in the immediate area; historic photographs or illustrations of the type of features referenced in the text; historic maps showing the course of the route, along with details of the particular area that contains the board. The boards could also include a map showing the locations of lime kilns, limehouses, quarrying and ash waste heaps that were identified by John Barnatt within the route's immediate vicinity (Leach 1996).

An overview of the cultural heritage resource within the site should detail the history and development of limeworking on Grin Low, perhaps with quotations from historic textual sources describing the nature and extent of the practice, and the type of features associated with the industry. The majority of the historic accounts are out of copyright and can be referenced freely. The overview would also detail the plantation of Grin Low Woods by the duke of Devonshire *c.*1819, with the intention of masking the extensive ash waste heaps produced by the Grin Low lime industry.

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Historic maps

1807 Hartington enclosure map (Derbyshire Record Office Q/RIc 32)

1868 plan of Proposed Burbage Ecclesiastical District (Derbyshire Record Office 470E/P3)

1880 Ordnance Survey map 1:2,500

1898 Ordnance Survey map 1:10,000

1922 Ordnance Survey map 1:10,000

1938 Ordnance Survey map 1:10,000

1954 Ordnance Survey map 1:10,000

1973 Ordnance Survey map 1:10,000

1977 Ordnance Survey map 1:10,000

1989 Ordnance Survey map 1:10,500

Documents

1807 Hartington enclosure award (Derbyshire Record Office Q/RIc 32a)

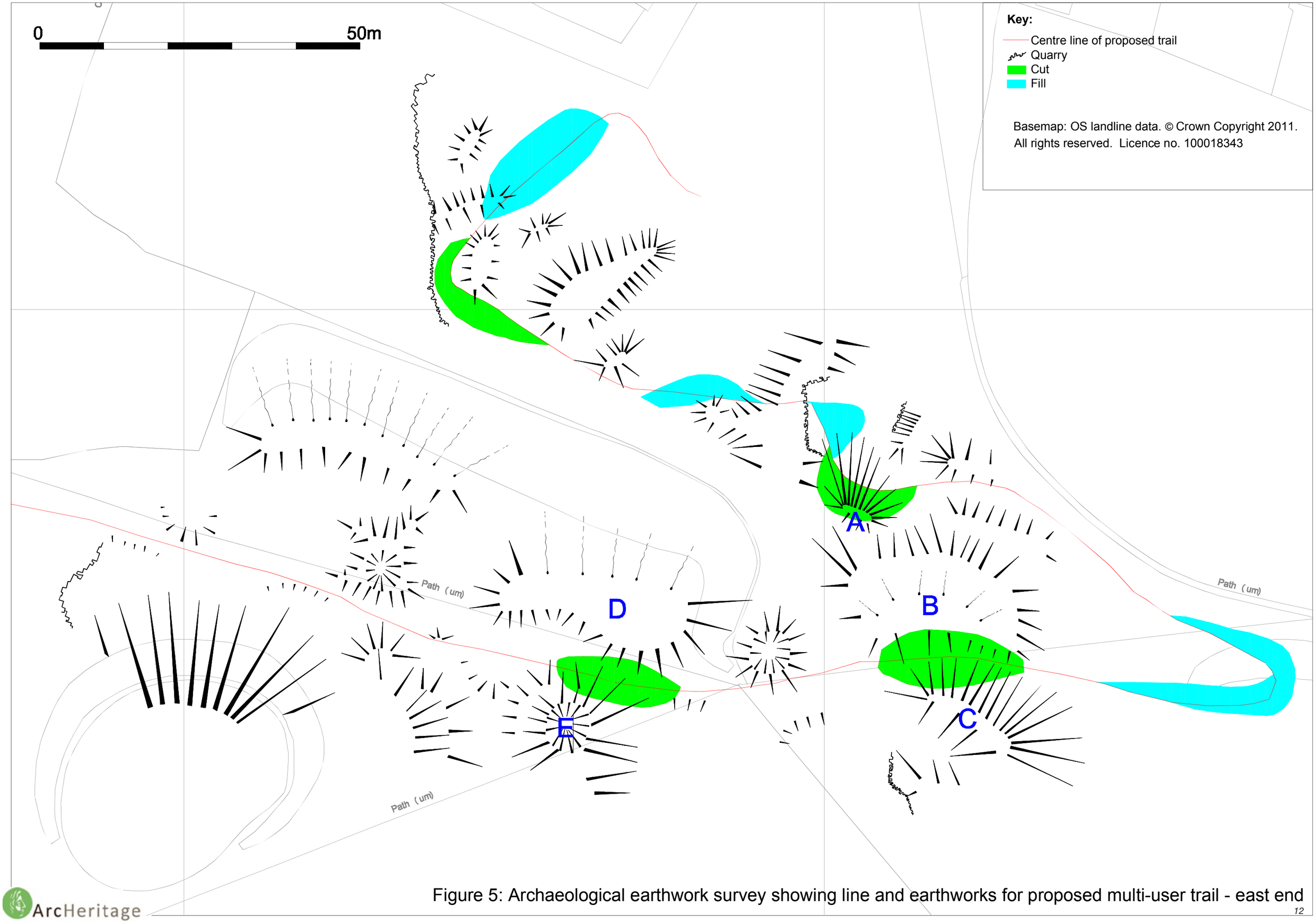

Figure 5: Archaeological earthwork survey showing line and earthworks for proposed multi-user trail - east end

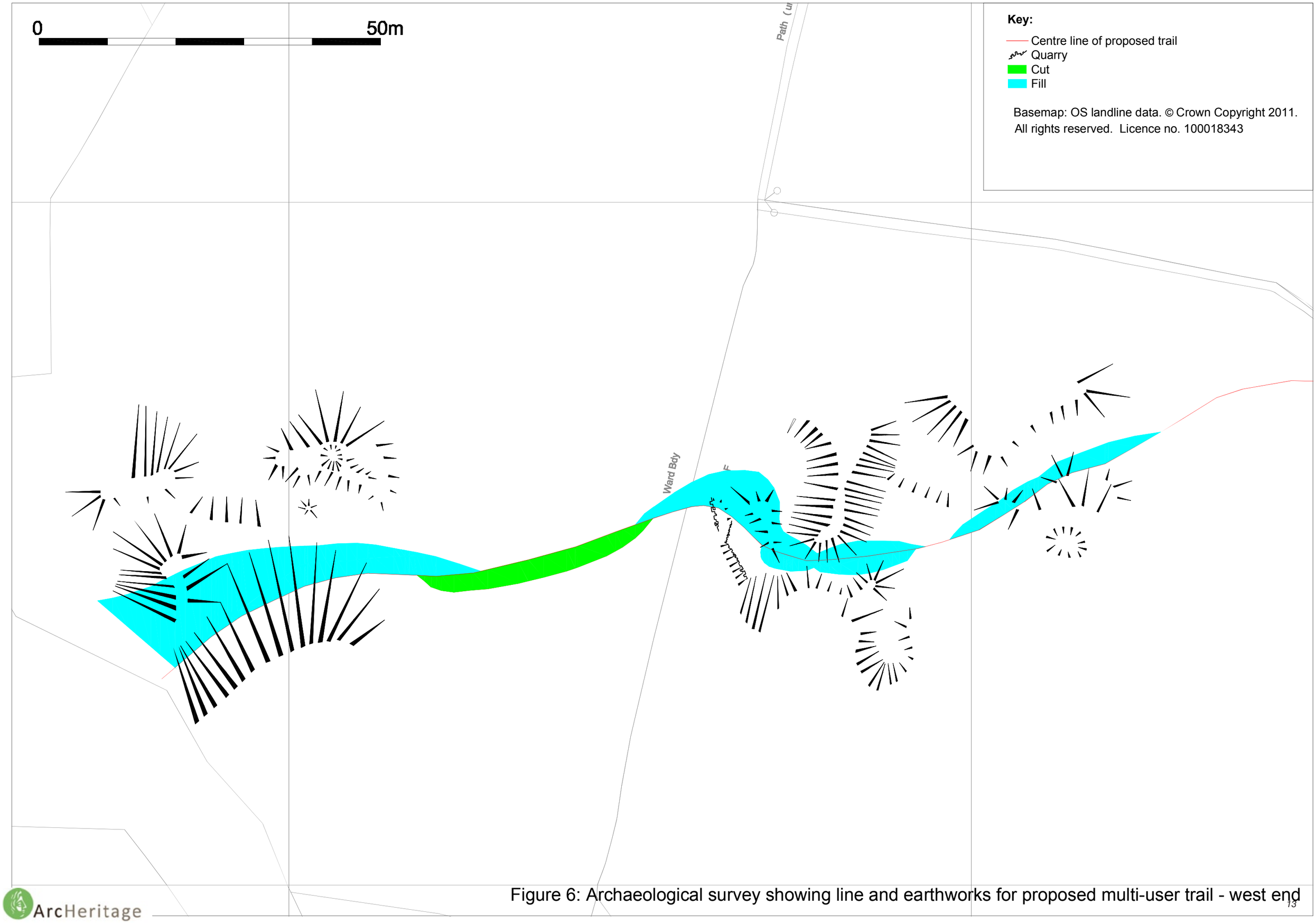

Figure 6: Archaeological survey showing line and earthworks for proposed multi-user trail - west end