



DEMOLITION OF FORMER MARKET HALL AND ASSOCIATED FEATURES, BLACKBURN, Lancashire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology North

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**CAPITA SYMONDS, ON BEHALF
OF BLACKBURN WITH
DARWEN COUNCIL**

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SUMMARY

Following proposals from Capita Symonds, on behalf of Blackburn with Darwen Council, regarding the redevelopment of Blackburn Market on the west side of Penny Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, the local planning authority required an archaeological desk-based assessment and site walkover survey, which were both completed by Minerva Heritage in 2009. The proposed scheme occupies land within an area between the junctions of Salford Street and Penny Street (SD 68848 28175), Penny Street and Brown Street (SD 68523 28295) and Brown Street and Ainsworth Street (SD 68383 28310). Although the study area was currently occupied by Blackburn Market, it was situated at the historic core of the town, and in an area identified as being of considerable archaeological potential.

To accompany the planning application, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken in 2012, for which Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) completed an assessment to determine the likely significant effects of the proposals on archaeology and cultural heritage as an environmental factor. A walkover survey was also undertaken by OA North in April 2012 in order to examine the current conditions within the proposed development area. Consequently, the planning officer at Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) advised that a condition was attached to the planning approval (planning ref: 10/12/0962) and that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken in relation to any subsequent below-ground development works, particularly when the concrete foundation slabs from the market building were lifted and removed.

The archaeological watching brief was conducted from July to September 2013. The concrete foundation pads were at a maximum depth of approximately 2m below ground level, and were surrounded by, and placed upon, demolition rubble or sand. It was not ascertained whether this was the natural geology or bedding sand due to health and safety limitations and the nature of the excavations. A culverted section of the River Blakewater (approximately 6m wide) ran on a north/south alignment across the site. The river first appeared to have been culverted on the 1848 Ordnance Survey map, and was extensively modified in the 1960s, when Blackburn market was constructed. As a result of this modification, no archaeological remains survived within 6m either side of the culvert.

In two areas across the site the excavation was deeper than the foundation pads as part of the routine investigations. In both areas, floor surfaces were observed. To the north of the site, a cobbled surface was situated at a depth of approximately 3m below ground level, and 0.5m below the nearest foundation pad. A second sandstone surface was observed at the south-western part of the site, 3-4m below ground level, and well-preserved. The full extent of each surface could not be seen due to the restricted size of the excavations.

The surfaces exposed were below the level of the concrete foundation pads from the demolished market building. This would suggest that the potential for well-preserved remains over the development area is high and, consequently, a watching brief is recommended on any construction work which has the potential to exceed the level of the made ground observed during this phase of watching brief.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Andrew Davies of Capita Symonds for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Doug Moir, the planning officer for archaeology at Lancashire County Council. Thanks are also due to Kevin Doyle and Gerard Sloyan of Sloyan Doyle Demolition for facilitating the groundworks.

Mike Birtles, Aidan Parker and Becky Wegiel undertook the watching brief. Becky Wegiel wrote the report, and the drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Capita Symonds, on behalf of their client Blackburn with Darwen Council, requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; *Appendix 1*) for a programme of archaeological watching brief associated with the demolition of the former market hall, together with the adjoining shops, public house, link bridge and rotunda, in Blackburn city centre, Lancashire.
- 1.1.2 The demolition proposals were submitted for planning approval (planning ref: 10/12/0962), together with an Environmental Statement. This identified that there was potential for disturbance during groundworks of surviving remains associated with eighteenth and nineteenth century development, and possibly a Roman road that is believed to have run through the site. Due to the probably already disturbed nature of the site from the construction of the market hall in the 1960s, the recommended mitigation was to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the demolition phase, specifically any ground disturbance, i.e. grubbing-up of wall foundations, breaking up and removal of floorslabs, levelling, landscaping, service trench excavation, and any general earth moving activities intruding into the deposits beneath current ground levels. The watching brief took place from July to September 2013.
- 1.1.3 The following report documents the results of the archaeological watching brief, and discusses them in their historical and archaeological context, and provides recommendations for any further work.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site occupies a parcel of land in the centre of the town of Blackburn (NGR centred SD 68430 28250), approximately 250m to the east of the town's historic and present centre. Current ground heights are 115m AOD. The surrounding landscape is entirely occupied by housing, shops and business premises, with wide roads and pavements around each block.
- 1.2.2 The soils located within the study area are freely draining sandy soils (landis.org.uk/soilscapes). The underlying solid geology comprises Lower Carboniferous Coal Measures (bgs.ac.uk), capped by sand and gravel drift geology (*ibid*).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The following section presents a summary of the historical and archaeological background of the general area. This is presented by historical period, and has been compiled in order to provide a wider archaeological context to the site. For a more detailed overview see the desk-based assessment (Minerva Heritage 2009).

- 1.3.2 **Prehistoric Period:** following the retreat of glacial ice around 10,000 years ago, human groups re-appear in the archaeological record in northern England. The North West is poorly characterised in terms of settlement, economy, society and religion in the early prehistoric period (Hodgson and Brennand 2007, 31), although lithic scatters attest to human activity in the Pennines as early as the Mesolithic (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 27). A mixed arable-pastoral economy began to be adopted during the Neolithic (*op cit*, 31), although the scarcity of secure evidence precludes any confident assertions. The hills surrounding Blackburn are occupied by a number of round barrows and burial cairns (Lancashire County Council and Egerton Lea Consultancy 2005, 16); these have produced Bronze Age burial evidence. At Revidge, approximately 1km to the west of the study area, a Bronze Age cinerary urn was recovered which contained a cremation (*ibid*). No prehistoric sites, find-spots or features are known from the study area.
- 1.3.3 **Romano-British Period:** the modern town of Blackburn lies between the Roman forts at Castlefield, Manchester, and Ribchester, and over the course of the road from these forts (*ibid*). Parts of a Roman road were uncovered during sewer works in Blackburn in 1890, and these were so well-preserved that it was decided to re-route the sewer underneath the road so as to preserve it (Beattie 2007, 4; Lancashire County Council (LCC) and Egerton Lea Consultancy 2005, 16).
- 1.3.4 Although there is no direct evidence for Romano-British activity within the study area, connecting the two known positions of the Castlefield to Ribchester Roman Road (HER Nos. 15508 and 15509) by a straight line creates a hypothetical route which traverses the southern half of the study area. It has been suggested that some of the medieval land divisions around Blackburn may correspond to areas of tribal political control during the Romano-British, or perhaps even pre-Roman, periods (Beattie 2007, 10).
- 1.3.5 All Hallows Spring (PRN 978), approximately 100m south of the study area and just east of the projected line of the road from Castlefield to Ribchester, was reputedly excavated in 1634. An inscription records a possible temple site here, dedicated to Serapis by Claudius Hieronymus, a legate of *Legio VI Victrix* from York. The position of a Roman temple might suggest more archaeological evidence of Roman activity in the area.
- 1.3.6 **Early Medieval Period:** the centuries following the collapse of Imperial Roman administration in Britain saw the emergence of small tribal kingdoms in place of the *civitates* (Newman 2006, 91). The Romano-British population is thought to have been supplemented, or supplanted, by colonising immigrants of Anglian, and then Hiberno-Norse, origin (*op cit*, 91-3). These immigrant groups are thought to have respected at least some of the existing land divisions (Beattie 2007, 10). That the Blackburn Hundred sub-county political unit was referred to as Blackburnshire during the medieval period has been taken to imply a degree of its antiquity by the time of the Norman Conquest (*ibid*). Blackburnshire was probably one of the administrative units within the Northumbrian kingdom of the seventh and eighth centuries (LCC and Egerton Lea Consultancy 2005, 17).

- 1.3.7 The place-name ‘Blackburn’ comprises two elements: *Black*, referring to the peaty appearance of the river Blakewater, and *Burn*, a word of Old English origin (*-burna*, meaning stream or river). This form reflects the Northumbrian form, rather than the Scandinavian *beck* or the Midland English *brook* or *stream* (*op cit*, 5). Caution should be exercised, however, when attempting to draw political boundaries or to determine the racial or cultural composition of an area from component place-names (Edwards 1998, 5). Place-name evidence from the study area seems to indicate that moorland was being at least partly improved for cultivation or pasture prior to the medieval period.
- 1.3.8 The place-name ‘Eccleshill’, one of six such in Lancashire containing the element *eccles*, derived via Old Welsh *egles* from the Latin *ecclesia* for church, itself derived from the Greek *ekklesia* for assembly, suggests a native British Christian population (Beattie 2007, 7). The implication is that a native church pre-dated St Mary’s Church, which was presumably built on a site preferable to the Anglo-Saxon settlers (*ibid*). The parish of Blackburn in the subsequent medieval period was very large, in common with the parishes of Whalley, Preston and Lancaster, and its “*evident high status*” marked it as a mother church, an essential unit within the political organisation of the pre-Conquest church (*op cit*, 6). Furthermore, a temple dedicated to Serapis has been tentatively identified in Romano-British Blackburn, and the name All Hallows’ Spring suggests that an existing pagan holy well had been Christianised (LCC and Egerton Lea 2005, 16).
- 1.3.9 **Medieval Period:** following the Norman Conquest, William the First bestowed much of north-western England on Roger de Poitou, who in turn gave the entire hundred of Blackburn to Roger de Bully and Albert Greslet (*Domesday Folio 270 V*, in Martin 1992). The town of Blackburn and the Church of St Mary are referred to by Domesday Book in 1086 (*ibid*). By the twelfth century the manor had come into the ownership of the de Blackburn family, and in 1180 Henry de Blackburn split the manor between his two sons, Richard and Adam (Beattie 2007, 11). Adam’s half of the manor was sold by his son Roger to John de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln. As patrons of Stanlaw Abbey, the family granted the land to the monastery of Stanlaw, and the monks retained ownership when they uprooted to Whalley in 1296 (*ibid*). These lands were seized by Henry VIII on its Dissolution, and he later granted them to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who leased them to the Talbot family (*ibid*).
- 1.3.10 Richard’s half of the manor passed via marriage into the Hulton family, then the Radcliffes and the Bartons, and then via marriage again to the first Viscount Fauconberg (*ibid*). The fourth Viscount sold his Blackburn estates to a group of three yeoman landowners in 1721 (*ibid*).
- 1.3.11 The settlement of Blackburn is poorly documented during the medieval period. Little can be stated confidently other than that the church probably continued to define it as a central place (LCC and Egerton Lea Consultancy 2005, 18). Blackburn emerged as a market town in obscure circumstances, seemingly lacking a market charter (Beattie 2007, 13). It appears to have been a ‘*customary*’ market created casually and governed by custom, appearing thus in 1498 (LCC and Egerton Lea Consultancy 2005, 18). In 1526 it is referred to as ‘*the King’s Market in Blakeburn*’ in the court rolls of Clitheroe (Beattie 2007,

- 13). The market is believed to be much older, and if a hypothetical association with the church is correct then it may even pre-date the Conquest (*ibid*).
- 1.3.12 The Lancashire Historic Towns Survey Programme identified several medieval routes into the medieval centre of Blackburn (LCC and Egerton Lea Consultancy 2005). Two of these, tracing lines occupied by modern Salford Street and Penny Street, pass through the study area.
- 1.3.13 **Post-medieval Period:** during the sixteenth century the number of Flemish immigrants into England greatly increased, due in part to the Tudor ‘open door policy’. In addition to Dissenting Protestantism, they brought with them a series of ‘new draperies’ into England. The change within Blackburn of religious inclinations from Catholicism to Puritanism within one hundred years of Henry VIII’s Dissolution of the Monasteries is a curiously dramatic and unexplained phenomenon (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 237), and it may be that a sizeable group of Flemish Protestants had settled in this area.
- 1.3.14 Although rural families had probably spun thread and cloth for sale over their own personal use since the late medieval period, in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the south-eastern parts of Lancashire “*began to specialise in woollen cloths*” (Beattie 2007, 21). Blackburn, Burnley and Colne “*began to function as the commercial centres within an expanding trade*” (*ibid*). A 1566 Act of Parliament designated Blackburn as one of a series of towns where inspectors of cloth were to be located; and by the mid-seventeenth century the output comprised “*mixed-fibre cloths and those which included cotton*”, including the Blackburn Checks and Blackburn Greys for which the town later became famous (*op cit*, 22). Blackburn was described by William Camden in 1603 as a market town (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 235).
- 1.3.15 It is currently thought that population growth may have freed up more time between productive agricultural duties and that this time was then put to use in the production of textiles to bring in extra revenue (Schwarz 1995, 82-3). The ‘putting out’ system, where merchants bought the raw cotton and cottagers spun it and wove it for them on a piece-rate basis (Beattie 2007, 23), shows that there were both positive incentives for textile production - profit for employers and good wages for weavers - as well as more concrete and compelling motives such as poverty (*ibid*). The parish records of Blackburn hundred reveal that by the early eighteenth century the number of weaving families represented approximately 50% of the population (Beattie 2007, 22). Blackburn therefore had a large skilled workforce and a trade network maintained by merchants operating in markets which were becoming increasingly international (McNeil and Newman 2007, 162-3) well before the Industrial Period. In the seventeenth century some of the textiles from Manchester and the surrounding network of production centres were being exported to western and southern parts of Europe (Hartwell 2001, 8-9).
- 1.3.16 **Industrial Period:** towards the end of the eighteenth century “*interrelated developments in agriculture, trade, and transport, and the localized change in Blackburn hundred reflect the gradual shift towards a more integrated and specialized national economy*” (Schwarz 1995, 83).

- 1.3.17 Blackburn was a market and production centre which was part of an international trade network based on textiles which had its core in Manchester, or ‘Cottonopolis’ (McNeil and Newman 2006, 174). The increasing prosperity of the local mercantile class during the eighteenth century found an outlet in the appearance of modern urban housing in the centre of Blackburn (LCC and Egerton Lea 2005, 26-7), built from local bricks and intended to be fashionable, as opposed to the vernacular building style (*ibid*). The irregular arrangement of the town centre contrasts with the grid-iron pattern visible in the mill colonies further afield, and this has been ascribed to the division of town lands in the medieval period and their continued piecemeal apartheid as glebe and non-glebe lands in the post-medieval period (LCC and Egerton Lea 2005, 29). The rapid late eighteenth century growth of the town was noted by Aikin in 1795 who stated that ‘*it has long been known as a manufacturing place, but within the memory of man the population was very inconsiderable to what it has been lately*’ (Aikin 1795, 270). It is not possible to identify a single cause for this, but the growth of the calico trade from 1775 has been identified as one potential factor (LCC and Egerton Lea 2005, 30), as has the release of land for building by landowners who retained ground rent (*op cit*, 26). It is likely that the improvement of arterial routes from 1755 onwards created the means by which Blackburn and its hinterland were securely bound to wider developments, such as the expansion of the port of Liverpool and the growth of Manchester and the canal network. The importance of waterways and other transport routes to the development of Blackburn can be seen in the spread of mills, factories and workshops along these routes away from the town centre (Beattie 2007, 102). The junction between Penny Street, the Whalley Road Turnpike and Salford Street, the Burnley Road Turnpike, which had been improved by Turnpike Trust in 1776 and 1755 respectively (*op cit*, 46-7), seems to have provided an additional focus for development.
- 1.3.18 The first purpose-built spinning mill was constructed in Blackburn in 1797, at Wensley Fold (Beattie 2007, 23). Steam-powered spinning “*produced enormous quantities of yarn*”, all of which had to be spun by domestic looms (*op cit*, 24). As a result, the handloom weavers demanded “*exceptionally high rates of pay*” (*op cit*, 25), and between 1780 and 1830 handloom weaving enjoyed a golden age. Handloom weaving had become the “*dominant element in the urban and rural economies in mid-Lancashire. Handloom weavers in and around Blackburn in the eighteenth century had worked under what was known locally as the ‘fested’ system, living in small communities as much as six miles from the town, in areas such as Little Harwood, Whitebirk, Stanhill and Knuzden. Each weaver signed up with a local cotton merchant, such as Robert Hopwood or George Briggs*” (*op cit*, 25). Salford Street has been identified as a possible example of such a handloom weavers colony (LCC and Egerton Lea 2005, 25 and 27), although there is little supporting evidence within the area of the eighteenth century town.
- 1.3.19 Five tailors and eight milliners and dressmakers are listed in the study area by Slater’s 1848 Directory, which perhaps provides evidence of some home industries surviving, albeit in altered states. Shopkeepers appear as an emergent group (the ‘shopocracy’) in the early nineteenth century, born of the interface between the working class and lower middle class, who wielded considerable

political influence despite lacking the prestige of mill-owners (Hilton 2008, 161). Slater's Directory for 1848 identifies itinerant salesmen and shopkeepers as two of the largest groups occupying properties within the study area. A large number of industrial works, textiles businesses or manufacturing sites are also recorded in the study area by the contemporary trades' directories. They generally portray this quarter of the town as economically vibrant, although by the late 1860s the effects of the Cotton Famine (1861-5) on the Lancashire textile industry are probably reflected in the small number of businesses involved.

- 1.3.20 In terms of houses belonging to, built by, or for the gentry, Pigot's Directory of 1849 lists a number. This shows that the study area was a touch gentrified as well as massively industrious during the middle of the nineteenth century. This is supported by the appearance throughout the nineteenth century directories of numerous legal and surgical practices on Ainsworth Street, Union Street and Old Chapel Street, as well as Ralph Railton, Millwright and Engineer, on Back Union Street (*ibid*).
- 1.3.21 The 1894 Ordnance Survey illustration for the study area shows two Inns along Penny Street, one of which still stands as the *Fleece Inn*; *The Waterloo Inn* was formerly located opposite the Fleece Inn. The only other Inn inside the study area stands on the turn of Cable Street, called the *Spread Eagle Inn*. Trade directories name the three Hotels shown on the 1894 map as the *Bay Horse* and the *Lord Nelson*, which occupy the junction of Salford and Penny Street. Slater's Directory of 1848 indicates that there had also been establishments at 46, 77 and 108 Penny Street (the *Bell*, the *Plough Inn* and the *Britannia* respectively), at 26 Union Street (the *Saint John*), and at an unspecified location on Ainsworth Street (the *Hay Market*) which may correspond to the Hotel later shown on the 1894 Ordnance Survey map at the corner of Ainsworth Street and Cort Street. The availability of beer from licensed premises known as beershops in the study area becomes more apparent as the nineteenth century progresses. Entries in the trade directories number nine in 1855 (Mannex) compared to none in 1848 (Slater); by 1868 (Mannex) this figure has risen to 20.
- 1.3.22 During this period, the River Blakewater was culverted.
- 1.3.23 **Modern Period:** by the close of the nineteenth century the cotton industry itself was beginning to experience terminal decline. Those industries that survived had either evolved or diversified away from their former reliance on cotton-based activities. The 'Merchant Street Mill' continued to trade, although they appear to have become Larkhill Metallics Ltd, and works on Holme Street had become Fosters Fireplaces, fireplace manufacturers by 1951. The properties are recorded as having been subject to demolition, perhaps by 1952 (<http://www.cottontown.org/page.cfm?language=eng&pageID=2919>), or as late as the 1960s.
- 1.3.24 A photograph (reproduced in Baggoley 1996, 19) of the Union Street bridge in 1952 shows the blocks of two- and three-storey buildings side-by-side, with balconies overhanging the dried-up river (which has been neatly but substantially paved and fitted with a central drainage channel). The sides of a

number of the buildings seem to have been painted to roof height with a mixture of portraits and scenes. Some of the surviving buildings shown are nineteenth century, perhaps even very late eighteenth century, in their outward appearance. The study area was one of the few quarters of Blackburn to be bombed during the Second World War, with 34 Ainsworth Street hit by a bomb shortly on 31 August 1940 (*op cit*, 96).

- 1.3.25 The programme of slum clearance, which had been initiated by the council from the 1960s onwards, precipitated massive redevelopment of the study area and the creation of a new market. Although the Fleece Inn on the corner of Penny Street and Starkie Street continues to operate, any of the above-ground structures relating to other gazetteer sites noted in the archaeological assessment for the EIA were removed by the clearance of the new market site in the early 1960s. The final service at the James' Street Chapel was held on 27th August 1961 (Cotton Town 2009b).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North in response to a verbal brief from the planning officer for archaeology from LCAS. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant IfA and English Heritage guidelines (Institute for Archaeologists 2008, 2012; English Heritage 2006).

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 A permanent archaeological presence was maintained during groundworks. The purpose was to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains encountered.

2.2.2 A daily record of the nature, extent and depths of groundworks was maintained throughout the duration of the project. All archaeological contexts were recorded on OA North's *pro-forma* sheets, using a system based on that of the English Heritage former Centre for Archaeology. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout.

2.3 ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2006). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record on completion of the project.

3. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains encountered during the groundworks for the demolition, and the following is a summary of the findings. The area of the watching brief is plotted in Figure 2.

3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 The buildings within the outlined area had been demolished to the level of the concrete floor slab prior to the commencement of the watching brief. Below the floor slab, a thick (minimum 2m thick) layer of demolition rubble was removed around the concrete foundation pads (Plate 1). The rubble had a mix of bricks, dressed sandstone and concrete, and it was unclear from where it had originated. As the foundation pads were removed (Plate 2), it was observed that they were placed on top of the same demolition rubble, or sand. It was not clear whether the sand was the natural geology or a bedding layer.



Plate1: Section through the demolition rubble under the concrete floor slab



Plate 2: Removal of one of the foundation pads



Plate 3: North-facing view of cobbled surface to the north of the site

3.2.2 During routine investigations to assess the type of ground conditions below the foundation pads, two floor surfaces were observed. At the northern end of the site, a cobbled surface, possibly part of a road, was observed (Figure 2, Plate 3), at approximately 2.5m below present ground level. The full extent of the

cobbles was not seen due to the limited nature of the excavations. The surface was left *in situ*.

- 3.2.3 The second buried surface (Fig 2, Plate 2) was situated in the south-western part of the site, approximately 3-4m below ground level (precise depth was unobtainable due to the preclusion of being able to enter the excavated area due to health and safety reasons). This was constructed of sandstone, and was probably an outdoor surface, perhaps a yard, associated with housing.



Plate 4: South-west facing view of sandstone surface at the south-west end of the site

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 In the course of the watching brief, over 200 concrete foundation pads were removed, reducing the level of the ground to approximately 2m below the current ground level. The deposits around the foundation pads were demolition rubble, perhaps associated with the buildings that had been there prior to the 1960s development, or had been brought in as a levelling layer.
- 4.1.2 Two archaeological features were observed in the course of the archaeological watching brief. The surfaces were relatively deep at 2.5m and 3-4m below ground level, below the foundation pads, and it is not known at this stage the extent of the surviving remains. The remains appeared to be well-preserved, and were left *in situ*.

4.2 IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.2.1 The presence of well-preserved archaeological remains has been established at both the north and south-western ends of the site. Any intrusive construction work for the proposed redevelopment of the site has the potential to impact greatly on the remains. It is therefore recommended that further archaeological watching brief be conducted on all intrusive associated groundworks for the next phase.

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5.3 WEB SOURCES

cottontown.org/page.cfm?language=eng&pageID=2919 CottonTown 2009

6. ILLUSTRATIONS

6.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Location of features observed in the watching brief

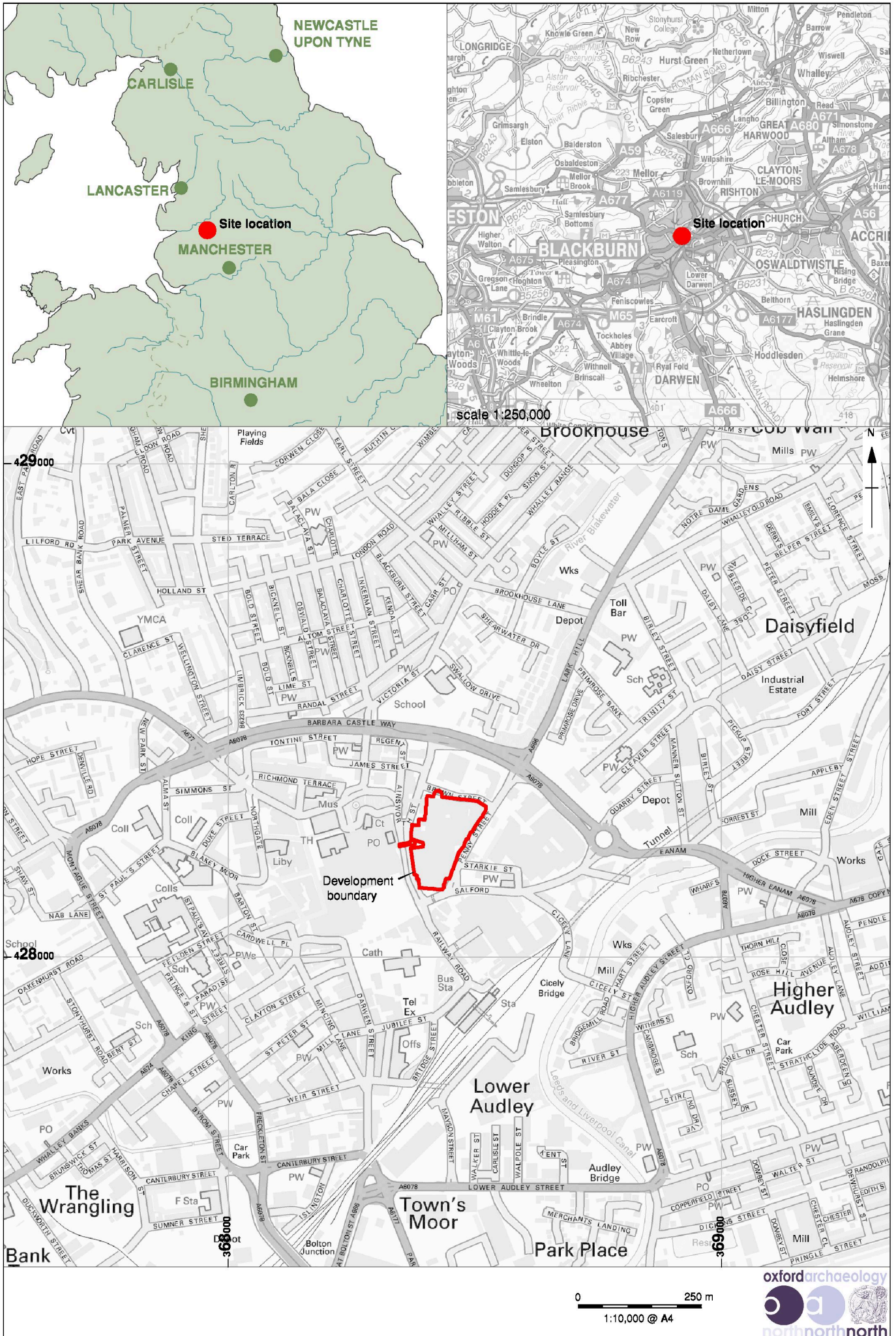
6.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Section through the demolition rubble under the concrete floor slab

Plate 2: Removal of one of the foundation pads

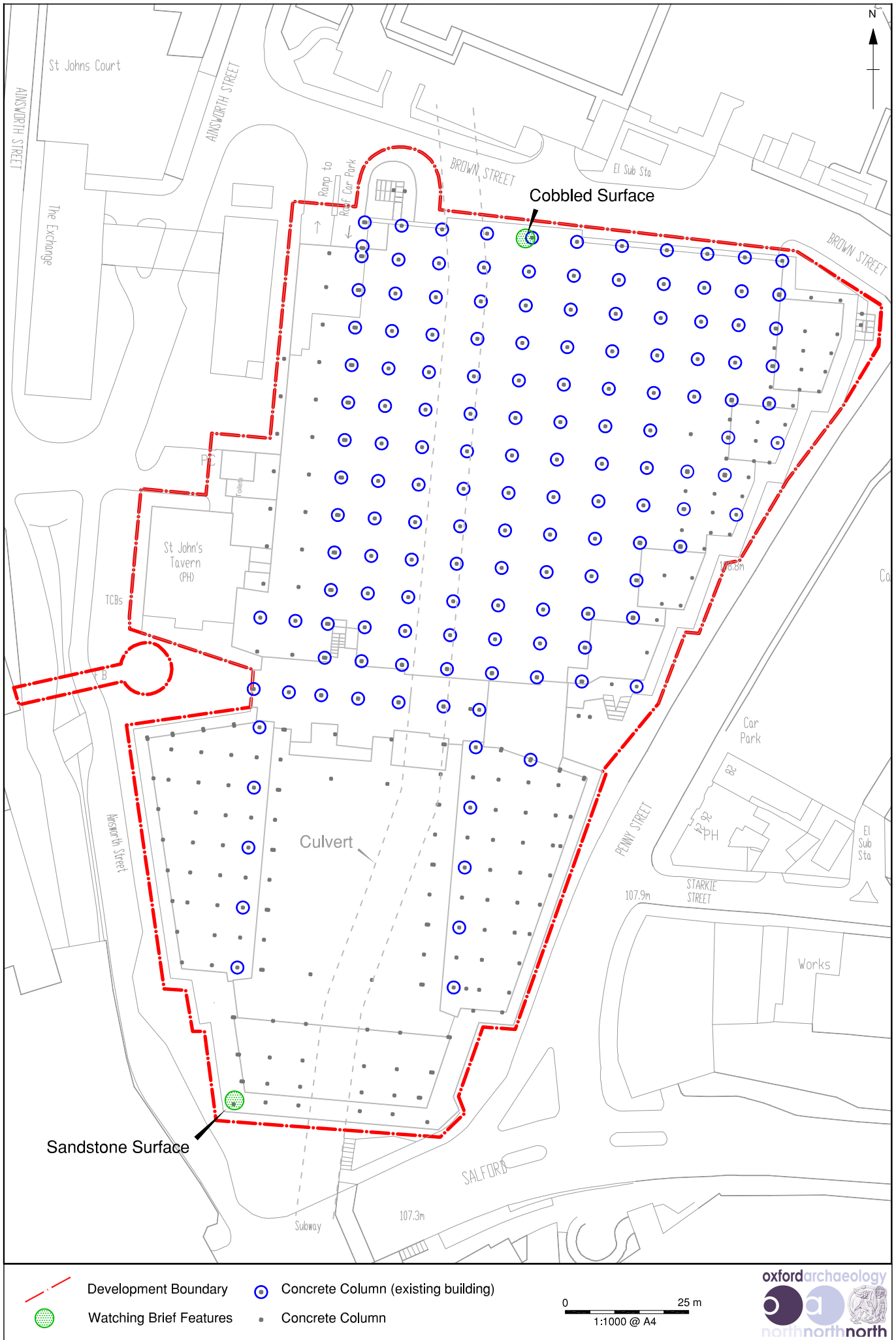
Plate 3: North-facing view of cobbled surface to the north of the site

Plate 4: South-west-facing view of sandstone surface at the south-west end of the site



EM*L10485*MAT*Sept 2013

Figure 1: Site location



EM*L10489*MAT*Nov2013

Figure 2: Location of features observed during the watching brief

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Capita Symonds (hereafter the 'client'), on behalf of their client Blackburn with Darwen Council, has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of archaeological watching brief associated with the demolition of the former market hall, together with the adjoining shops, public house, link bridge and rotunda, in Blackburn city centre, Lancashire (NGR centred SD 68430 28250).
- 1.1.2 The proposals have been submitted for planning approval (planning ref: 10/12/0962), together with an Environmental Statement, for which OA North undertook an assessment of the archaeology and heritage earlier this year (2012). This identified that there is potential for disturbance of surviving remains associated with eighteenth and nineteenth century development (Sites 2, 8, 10, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22) and possibly the Roman road (Site 12) that is believed to have run through the site. Due to the probably already disturbed nature of the site from the construction of the market hall, the recommended mitigation was to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the demolition phase, specifically any ground disturbance, i.e. grubbing-up of wall foundations, breaking up and removal of floor slabs, levelling, landscaping, service trench excavation, and any general earth moving activities intruding into the deposits beneath current ground levels. This way, an archaeologist will be present to observe the works and any discovery of archaeological deposits or features can then be dealt with appropriately and recorded.
- 1.1.3 Consequently, the Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) has recommended that a condition be attached to the planning permission requesting that an archaeological watching brief is required during excavation works. This WSI has been prepared in accordance with this advice.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 OA North has considerable experience of fieldwork and post-excavation, having undertaken a great number of small and large-scale projects during the past 30 years. Such projects have taken place to fulfil the requirements of the clients to rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IfA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to identify any archaeological deposits or features that may be present during groundworks. It will be undertaken in order to mitigate the impact by means of preservation by record of any such archaeological features or deposits in line with planning guidance (NPPF 2012). The work will be carried out in line with current English Heritage (1991) and IfA guidelines (2008), and in line with the IfA *Code of Conduct* (2010).
- 2.2 **Archaeological Watching Brief:** to maintain a permanent archaeological presence during groundworks. The purpose is to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains that may be encountered. Where such remains cannot be adequately recorded under watching brief conditions it may be necessary to undertake consultation with all interested parties to determine and implement the appropriate mitigation.

2.3 **Report:** the results of the fieldwork and any post-excavation assessment will culminate in a final report to be submitted within six to eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork (subject to any specialist reports outstanding).

2.4 **Archive:** a site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (1991). The information will be finally disseminated through the deposition of the archive at a local museum, and report at the County Historic Environment Record (HER) Office in Preston.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY

3.1.1 **Risk assessment:** OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Company Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). OA North will liaise with the client to ensure all health and safety regulations are met.

3.1.2 **Contamination:** any contamination issues must also be made known to OA North in order that adequate PPE can be supplied prior to commencement. Should any presently unknown contamination be discovered during excavation, it may be necessary to halt the works and reassess the risk assessment. Any specialist safety requirements may be costed as a variation.

3.1.3 **Staff Issues:** all project staff will be CSCS qualified, proof of which can be provided in the form of CSCS cards.

3.1.4 It is assumed that staff will be able to use the site contractors' welfare facilities.

3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

3.2.1 **Introduction:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits during the ground disturbance associated with the demolition of the market hall and associated features, including any earthmoving activities, such as landscaping and levelling, or breaking up and lifting of floor slabs and foundations.

3.2.2 **Methodology:** the work will comprise archaeological observation during the ground intrusion, to include the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified.

3.2.3 Discovery of archaeological remains will require stoppage of the excavation. Areas of potential archaeological remains will require fencing-off from any demolition works, preferably with netlon-type fencing, to allow the OA North archaeologist sufficient time to undertake adequate recording under safe conditions. This will be carried out as efficiently as possible in order to minimise disruption. Depending on the deposits revealed, it is anticipated that the average time for the suspension of works will be approximately 2-4 hours.

3.2.4 Clearance will be given for demolition to proceed once the archaeologist is satisfied that either no remains are present, or that they have been adequately recorded, or that the level of impact will not disturb any deeper remains that can be preserved *in situ*.

3.2.5 **Complex or extensive remains:** should the remains be too complex or extensive to be investigated under watching brief conditions then the area will be fenced-off and the client will be immediately contacted in order to determine the requirements for further investigation. All further demolition works within the marked area will cease until clearance is given to proceed. All further works would be subject to a variation to this WSI.

- 3.2.6 **Investigation and recording:** putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (i.e. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 3.2.7 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale digital plan to be provided by the client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.2.8 Levels will be recorded and reduced to their OD heights, with all benchmark and TBMS to be shown. The location of all features excavated will be recorded by Total Station with appropriate spot heights and tied into the OS grid. Altitude information will be established with respect to OS Datum. The location of the remains within the areas of construction will be based on site plans provided by the client containing OS information.
- 3.2.9 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced.

3.3 GENERAL PROCEDURES

- 3.3.1 **Environmental Sampling:** samples (bulk samples of 40 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). Monolith samples will be collected from freshly exposed sections through all buried soils/old ground surfaces by trained staff. These will be returned to OA North's offices for processing.
- 3.3.2 Deposits of particular interest may incur additional sampling, on advice from the appropriate in-house specialist.
- 3.3.3 The location of all samples will be recorded on drawings and sections with heights OD etc.
- 3.3.4 Between 50%-100% of bulk samples shall be selected for processing, based on the advice from OA North's in-house environmental manager. An assessment of the environmental potential would include soil pollen analysis and the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features. In addition, the samples would be assessed for plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits.
- 3.3.5 If suitable material is retrieved, it may be possible to obtain dating evidence through radiocarbon dating, dendrochronological or other such techniques. This would only be undertaken in consultation with the client.
- 3.3.6 **Human Remains:** previous work has not produced any evidence for the potential for human remains. However, should any be discovered they will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. The client, LCAS planning officer and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Home Office license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations. Any delays caused by unforeseen and complex excavation of inhumations may be subject to a variation to the cost of the contract and will be agreed with the client.
- 3.3.7 **Finds:** all finds recovered during the evaluation investigation (metal detecting and trial trenching) will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance

with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the Museum of Lancashire's guidelines.

- 3.3.8 Finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (current IfA guidelines) and subject to expert advice. OA has close contact with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs in-house artefact and palaeoecology specialists, with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation, and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC). Emergency access to conservation facilities is maintained by OA North with the Department of Archaeology, the University of Durham.
- 3.3.9 Neither artefacts nor ecofacts will be collected systematically during the mechanical excavation of the topsoil unless significant deposits, for example clay pipe waster dumps, are encountered. In such an eventuality, material will be sampled in such a manner as to provide data to enhance present knowledge of the production and dating of such artefacts, although any ensuing studies will not be regarded as a major element in any post-excavation analysis of the site. Other finds recovered during the removal of overburden will be retained only if of significance to the dating and/or interpretation of the site. It is not anticipated that ecofacts (e.g. unmodified animal bone) will be collected during this procedure.
- 3.3.10 Otherwise, artefacts and ecofacts will be collected and handled as per specification. All material will be collected and identified by stratigraphic unit during the evaluation trenching process. Hand collection by stratigraphic unit will be the principal method of collection, but targeted on-site sieving could serve as a check on recovery levels. Objects deemed to be of potential significance to the understanding, interpretation and dating of individual features, or of the site as a whole, will be recorded as individual items, and their location plotted in 3-D. This may include, for instance, material recovered from datable medieval pit groups.
- 3.3.11 All finds will be treated in accordance with OA standard practice, which is cognisant of IfA and UKIC Guidelines. In general this will mean that (where appropriate or safe to do so) finds are washed, dried, marked, bagged and packed in stable conditions; no attempt at conservation will be made unless special circumstances require prompt action. In such cases, guidance will be sought from OA North's consultant conservator.
- 3.3.12 All waterlogged finds will be treated as appropriate. In the case of large deposits of waterlogged environmental material (e.g. unmodified wood), advice will be sought with the OA North consultant with regard to an appropriate sampling strategy.
- 3.3.13 Where possible, spot dates will be obtained on pottery and other finds recovered from the site. Artefacts will be examined and commented upon by OA North in-house specialists. Initial artefact dating shall be integrated into the site matrix.
- 3.3.14 Any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.

3.4 REPORT

- 3.4.1 **Final Report:** a digital copy of the report will be submitted to the client within six to eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork, unless an alternative deadline is agreed with the client beforehand. A hardcopy of the report can be supplied if required. A pdf version will also be submitted to the Lancashire HER for reference purposes. The report will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above in order to come to as full an understanding as possible of the archaeology of the development area. The report will include;

- a front cover to include the NGR,

- a concise, non-technical summary of the results,
 - the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken,
 - description of the methodology, including the sources consulted,
 - a summary of the historical background of the study area,
 - a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the impact,
 - a copy of this WSI, and indications of any agreed departure from that design,
 - the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted,
 - a site location plan related to the national grid,
 - appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located,
 - plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds,
 - illustrative photographs as appropriate.
- 3.4.2 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

3.5 ARCHIVE

- 3.5.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, Appendix 3, 2nd edition, 1991). The archive will contain site matrices, and summary reports of the artefact record, context records, and any other records or materials recovered.
- 3.5.2 This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Lancashire HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North will deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media), and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche), together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum, which is likely to be the Museum of Lancashire.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.1 **Archaeological Watching Brief:** the duration of the archaeological presence for the watching brief will be dictated by the client's schedule of works and is anticipated to commence in February 2013.
- 4.2 **Report:** the client report will be completed within approximately six to eight weeks following completion of all fieldwork elements, subject to any outstanding specialist reports.
- 4.3 **Archive:** the archive will be deposited within six months following completion of the site work.

5. STAFFING

- 5.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc MIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

- 5.2 The fieldwork will be undertaken by an OA North supervisor or assistant supervisor experienced in this type of project, who will be responsible for liaison with the site contractors and the client, and other relevant interested parties with regards to on-site work and procedures. The attending archaeologist will be supported by specialist staff based both on site and in the office in Lancaster.
- 5.3 Finds management will be undertaken by **Christine Howard-Davis** (OA North Finds Manager) who will also provide specialist input on certain finds categories.
- 5.4 Environmental management will be undertaken by **Elizabeth Huckerby** (OA North Environmental Manager) who has unparalleled experience of the palaeoecology of the North West through her work on the English Heritage funded North West Wetlands Survey. Elizabeth will be assisted by **Denise Druce**, both of whom will provide specialist input on charred remains and pollen, and will advise on site sampling procedures and co-ordinate the processing of samples and organise internal and external specialist input as required.

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