



56 Carlisle Road Brampton Carlisle Cumbria

Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology North

May 2013

Ian Simpson

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56 CARLISLE ROAD, BRAMPTON, CARLISLE, CUMBRIA: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A planning application (1/12/0645) was made by Ian Simpson for the construction of a small residential bungalow on a plot of land previously used as an orchard behind and adjacent to number 56 Carlisle road (Fig 1). Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) attached a condition to the planning application, stipulating that a archaeological watching brief should be conducted during intrusive ground works. These requirements were conveyed to Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) and a Written Scheme of Investigation was provided, see *Appendix 1*. OA North were subsequently commissioned to provide the watching brief.
- 1.2 The site lies within land that has, until recently, been used as an orchard, to the rear of cottages fronting onto the Carlisle Road. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1864 shows properties on approximately the same locations as presently, with orchards to their rear (north). The walls surrounding the largest orchard plot may be of some antiquity and the Heritage Environment Record records structural remains of a sixteenth-century building (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 140) preserved within the present-day walls. The existence of this building suggests archaeological evidence for domestic or backyard features may be preserved within the area of the orchard



Plate 1: The development area before the start of groundworks

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The watching brief was undertaken by Jon Onraet, in accordance with OA North standards (which in turn meet those of English Heritage and the Institute of Field Archaeologists) on the 8th of May 2013. The groundworks undertaken involved the excavation of a foundation trench 1.2m wide by 1.2m depth around the perimeter of the buildings T-shaped footprint using a 0.5 tonne 360° excavator with a toothed bucket.

3 RESULTS

- 3.1 The deposits across the plot consisted of a topsoil and subsoil overlying natural sands. The topsoil was a dark brownish grey, friable, humic silty sand. 0.15m to 0.25m depth. The subsoil was a slightly lighter greyish brown friable silty sand 0.10m to 0.15m depth, which overlaid very clean homogeneous fine and medium grained sands excavated up to a depth of 1m.
- 3.2 No finds or features of archaeological significance were encountered within any of the trenches. Low stone walls in the north-east of the application area (Plate 4), which were not impacted by the development, may have reused material that derived from an early post-medieval building that once stood nearby (J. Parsons pers comm). This latter building was not evident in the south-west corner of the site, however the contractor's cabin was located there and may have obscured any evidence for such.



Plate 2: Section of the foundation trench at the northern end of the plot



Plate 3: Continuation of foundation trench



Plate 4: Stone walls, in north-east of application area – reused masonry from early post medieval building?

REFERENCES

Perriam, D R and Robinson, J, 1998 *The medieval fortified buildings of Cumbria : an illustrated gazetteer and research guide*, Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Extra Series, **29**, Kendal

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

PLATES

Plate 1: The development area before the start of groundworks

Plate 2: Excavated trench looking north

Plate 3: Continuation of foundation trench

Plate 4: Stone walls, in north-east of application area – reused masonry from early post medieval building

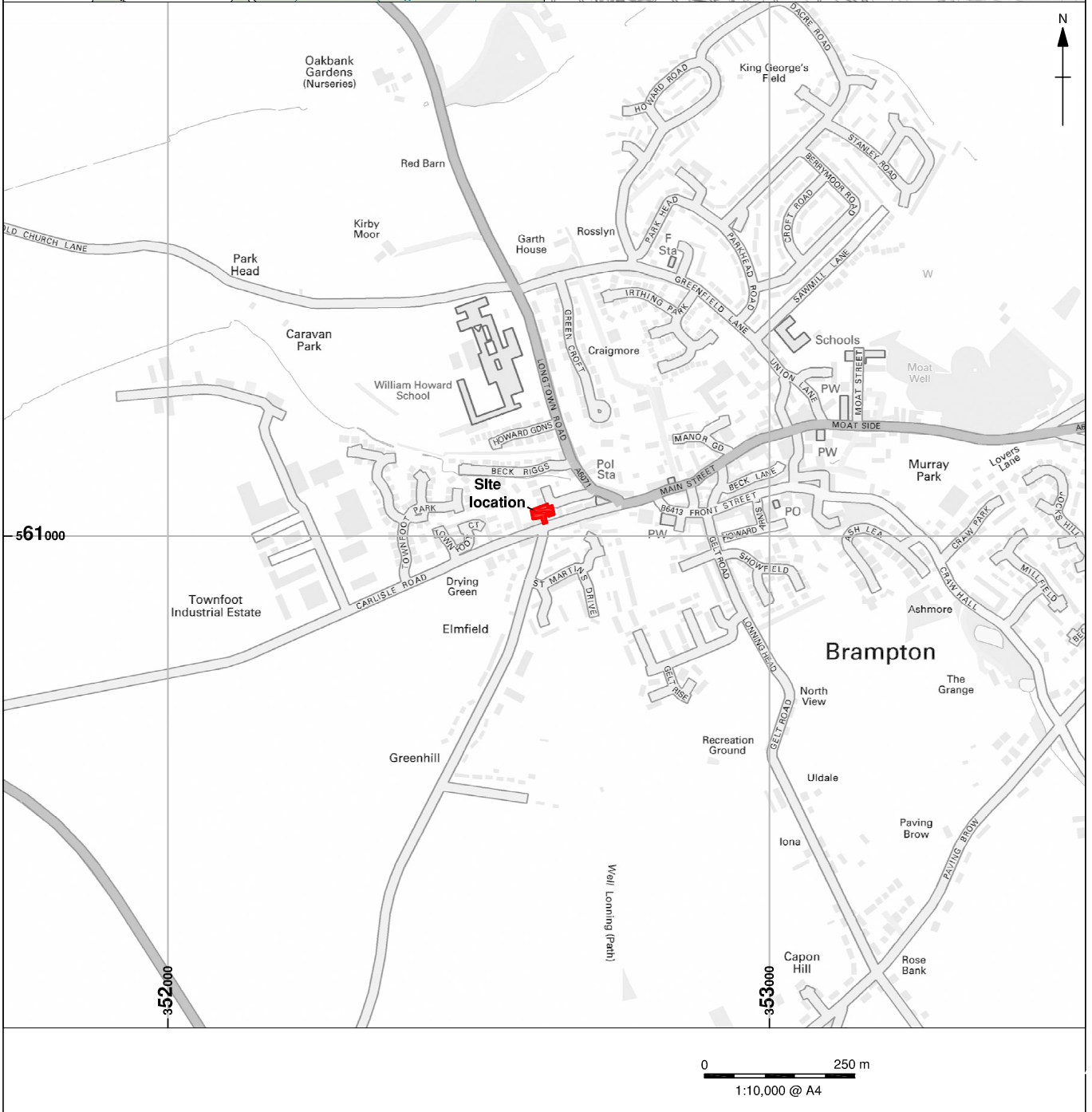
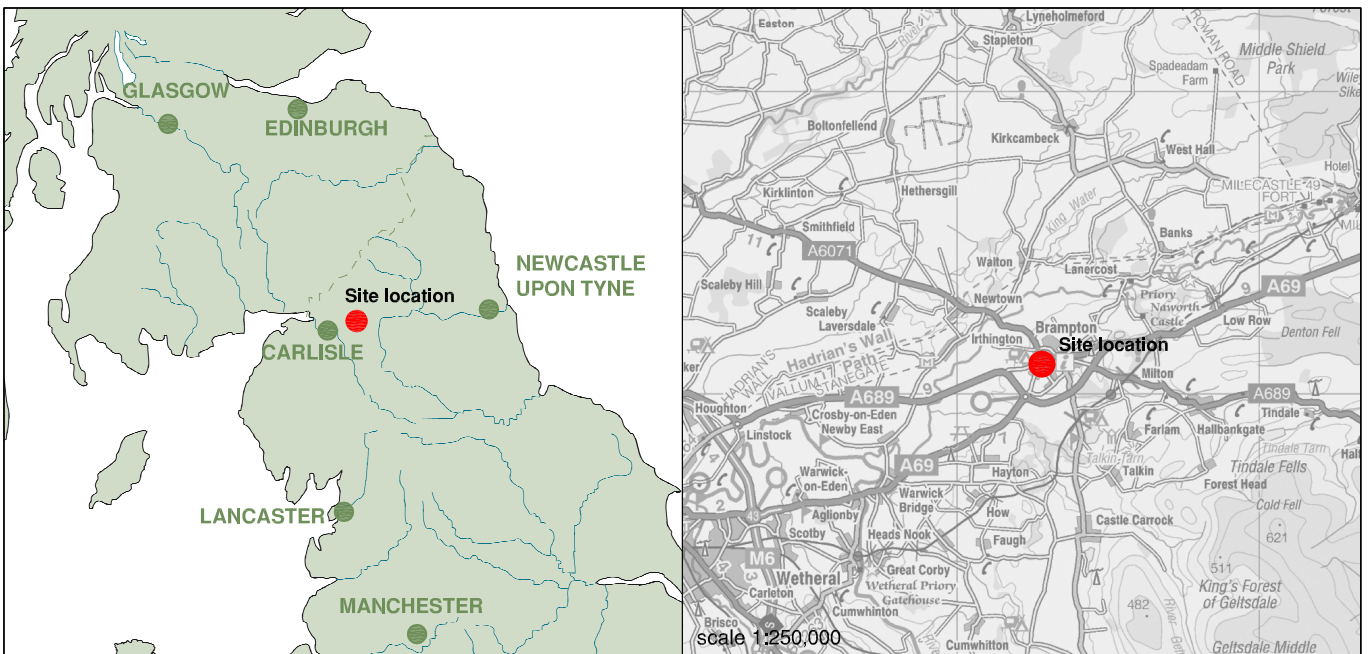


Figure 1: Site location

APPENDIX 1: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Oxford Archaeology North

March 2013

56 CARLISLE ROAD

BRAMPTON,

**CARLISLE,
CUMBRIA**

CA3 8QG

Written Scheme of Investigation for:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a verbal brief for a proposed archaeological watching brief at 56 Carlisle Road, Brampton issued by Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service.

BACKGROUND

CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) have produced the following Written Scheme of Investigations for an archaeological Watching Brief on construction work for a new-build residential dwelling at 56 Carlisle Road, Brampton, Carlisle, CA3 8QG (Fig 1). Specifically, it proposes monitoring all activities, which will result in a below-ground-level impact, where there is significant potential for disturbing any archaeological deposits that may be present. This document has been produced at the request of Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) and is in accordance with a stipulation in the Application for Planning Permission Notice of Approval (Application Number 12/0645), which states:

An archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist during the course of the ground works of the permitted development. The archaeological watching brief shall be in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority in advance of the permitted development. Within 3 months of the completion of the permitted development, 3 copies of the report shall be furnished to the Local Planning Authority.

The purposes of the watching brief are specified as being in order to afford a reasonable opportunity for an examination to be made to determine the existence of any remains of archaeological interest within the site and for the investigation and recording of such remains in accordance with Policy LE6 of the Carlisle District Local Plan 2001-16.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within land that has, until recently, been used as an orchard, to the rear of cottages fronting onto the Carlisle Road. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1864 shows properties on approximately the same locations as presently, with orchards to their rear (north). The walls surrounding the largest orchard plot may be of some antiquity and the Heritage Environment Record records structural remains of a sixteenth-century building preserved within the present-day walls. The existence of this building suggests archaeological evidence for domestic or backyard features may be preserved within the area of the orchard.

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH (OA NORTH)

OA North has considerable experience of the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England, including Cumbria, during the past 35 years. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct. A rigorous approach is taken towards health and safety and our staff are CSCS accredited. OA North are insured for third party liability and carry Public, Employers and Professional indemnity.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

PROJECT AIMS

The watching brief will monitor all construction works that will result in a below-ground-level impact and where there is significant potential for disturbing any archaeological remains that may be present. For example all excavations for foundations, services, areas for stockpiling or hard-standing. This will be with the intention of identifying and appropriately characterising and recording any archaeological features or deposits present within the impacted zone. This information will be used to inform a decision regarding whether such archaeological remains can be preserved *in situ* or whether there is a requirement to excavate them and preserve them by record. In the event of the latter, archaeological work will be undertaken so as to ensure that an accurate record of the archaeological remains is made and that, as far as is possible, they are understood.

REPORT AND ARCHIVE PRODUCTION

If the results of the watching brief are negative, a very brief report to this effect will be produced for the client and will be supplied to CCCHES. If any significant archaeology is identified a suitable level of analysis/reporting will be agreed with the client and CCCHES. Such a report will as a minimum include:

- A site location plan, related to the national grid;
- A front cover/frontispiece which includes the planning application number and the national grid reference of the site;
- The dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken;
- A concise, non-technical summary of the results;
- An explanation of any agreed variations to the brief, including justification for any analyses not undertaken;
- A description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and the results obtained;
- Plans and sections at an appropriate scale, showing the location and position of deposits and finds located, and absolute heights above Ordnance Datum;
- A list of, and dates for, any finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified;
- A description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained.

Three copies of the report will be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record (CHER) within a reasonable period following the completion of fieldwork. This will be on the understanding that the report will be made available as a public document through the CHER.

The results of the watching brief will be made available for inclusion in a summary report to a suitable regional or national archaeological publication if further archaeological fieldwork is expected.

An archive will be prepared in accordance with the recommendations in Brown (2007). Arrangements will be made for its long term storage and deposition with an appropriate repository. A copy shall also be offered to the National Monuments Record.

In the event that any finds are recovered, the transfer of the ownership of finds will be made to a local or relevant specialist museum, assuming the landowner gives their approval. The County Historic Environment Service will be notified of the arrangements made.

Cumbria HER is taking part in the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/> will, therefore, also be completed as part of the project. This will be on the understanding that information on projects undertaken in Cumbria will be made available through the above website, unless otherwise agreed.

METHOD STATEMENT

FIELDWORK

All aspects of the evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2009).

The archaeological techniques will be selected to cause the minimum amount of destruction. Work will proceed in such a manner as to avoid any unnecessary delays to construction and will comply with all

relevant health and safety regulations. All of those working on site will be made aware of the significance and history of the site.

An archaeologist will attend the site, on the request of the client or their representative, to monitor any below-ground works which will have a significant potential of disturbing any archaeological remains that might be present. It is anticipated that this will include all mechanical stripping of topsoil *etc* and/or deeper excavation, for example, site clearance, foundations, drains or service trenches or areas for storage or hardstanding. In addition to the monitoring works on excavations, record photographs will be taken of the remains of the sixteenth-century building preserved within the orchard walls.

If archaeological features or deposits are encountered during excavation, measures will be taken to safeguard them, and the client and CCCHES will be informed, as soon as is practicable. If the archaeological remains are of limited significance and/or extent, it may be possible to mitigate them during the course of the watching brief. In the event of more significant remains being discovered, a decision will be reached, through discussion with the client and CCCHES, as to whether the archaeology can be preserved *in situ* or whether it should be excavated and preserved by record. In the case of *in situ* preservation, an explicit methodology will need to be determined to ensure that the archaeological remains are not compromised. If excavation is preferred, a methodology for this will be agreed with the contractor that allows sufficient time for the archaeology to be excavated and recorded, and which causes the minimal amount of disruption to the construction works.

Any human remains found will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will normally proceed beyond that necessary to establish the date and character of the burial, and the CCCHES and the local Coroner will be informed immediately if a burial is discovered. If removal is essential, the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Ministry of Justice licence, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. The removal of human remains will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations.

All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system, adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage. Results of all field investigations will be recorded on OA North's *pro forma* context sheets. All features and deposits will be planned at an appropriate scale and representative trench sections will be drawn. Digital photographs will record the trenches and illustrate individual features. The elevation of the underlying natural deposits will be recorded as will the elevation of any archaeological horizons. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.

Finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with current best practice (following IfA and other specialist guidelines). All artefacts and ecofacts will be treated in accordance with OA North standard practice, which is cognisant of IfA and UKIC Guidelines. In general, this will mean that (where appropriate and 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 a case guidance and/or expertise will be sought from a suitably qualified conservator. OA North will assess the finds for conservation after fieldwork has been completed, but the cost of conservation must be born by the client.

Samples will be collected for artefact retrieval should this prove necessary, for example, in the case of deposits associated with metalworking being identified.

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, 1996/7.

The field team will be advised and supported by Oxford Archaeology's in-house environmental specialists. An agreed sampling strategy will be defined through discussions with CCCHES, if archaeologically sensitive features or deposits are encountered during the watching brief.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

OA North recognises its responsibilities with regard to health and safety, and will establish safe working practices in accordance with current legislation. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Health and 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 (1991) and OA North's own health and safety guidance documentation. OA North's site staff are CSCS accredited and senior staff are qualified First Aiders. All staff are issued with Personal Protective Equipment and each team with a telephone and a first aid kit. OA North will liaise with all parties to ensure all site specific health and safety regulations are met. A risk assessment will be completed in advance of any on-site works, which will be made available with our method statement.

OA North staff will work under the supervision of the principle contractor, with regards to site health and safety procedures and legislation. Site access will be well regulated and notification of hazards such as services and contaminated ground will be obtained from the principle contractor. It will be the principal contractor's responsibility to alert OA North of any such.

RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

STAFF AND TIMETABLE PROPOSALS

The overall management of the project will be undertaken by **Fraser Brown** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

The watching brief will be undertaken by a competent archaeologist. The duration of the work will be dependent on the principle contractor's programme.

If finds or deposits are encountered that require specialist input, OA North will use Oxford Archaeology's in-house specialists out of preference, but external specialists may also be commissioned, subject to the agreement of the CCCHES, should no in house expertise be available.

Normally OA North staff work a 7.5 hour day, Monday to Friday, though adjustments to hours may be made to maximise daylight working time in winter and to meet travel requirements

PROJECT MONITORING

PROCEDURE

Fieldwork will be monitored by the Historic Environment Officer on behalf of the local planning authority. CCCHES will be given prior notification, detailing when the watching brief is going to take place, and will be afforded access to the site at reasonable notice.

The involvement of CCCHES will be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

REFERENCES

Brown, DH, 2007 *Archaeological Archives A Guide To Best Practice In Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum

English Heritage, 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed, Swindon

Institute for Archaeologists, 2009 *By Laws: Code of Conduct*, Reading

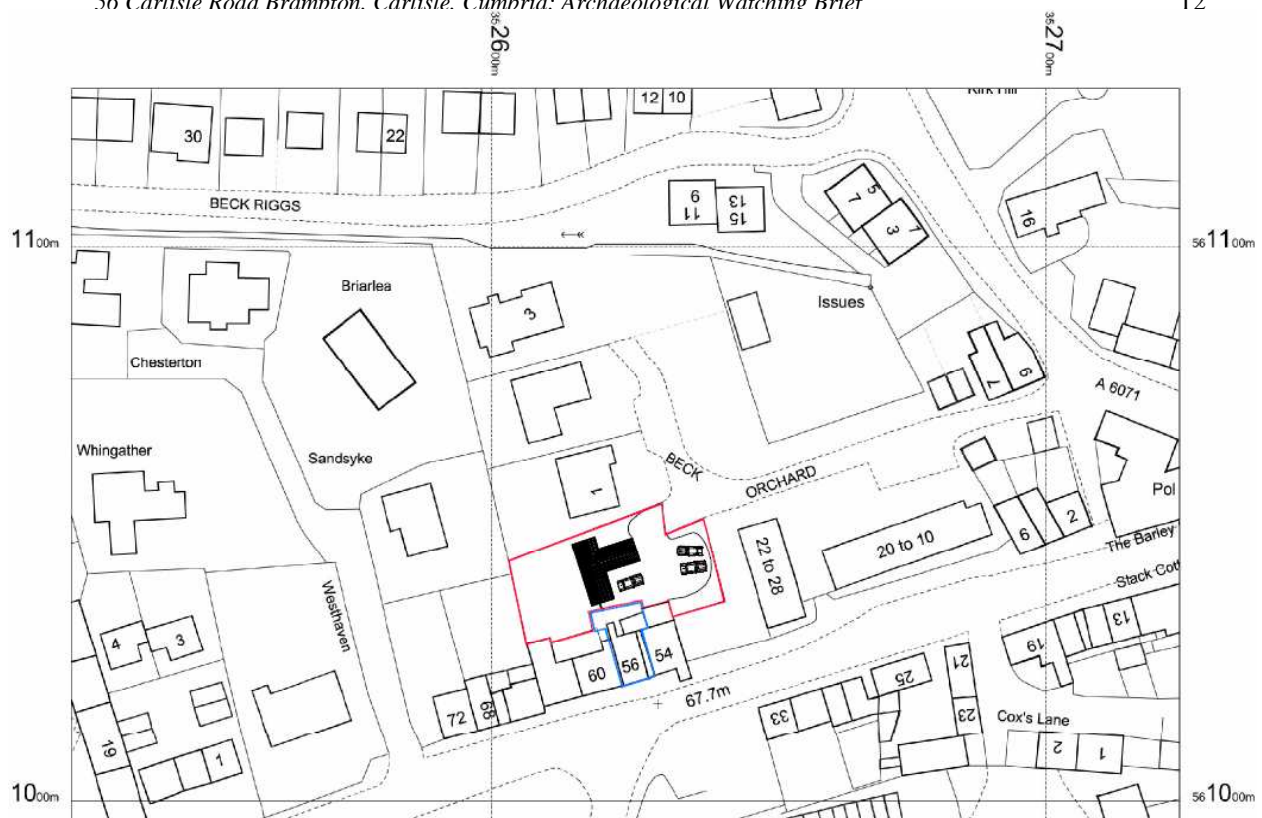


Figure 1: Location of the watching brief (application area within red box)