



# **SCEUGH FARM, CARLETON, PENRITH, CUMBRIA**

## **Archaeological Rapid Desk-Based Assessment and Watching Brief**



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## CONTENTS

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<b>SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>4</b>
1.1 Circumstances of the Project .....	4
1.2 Location, Topography and Geology .....	4
<b>2. METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>5</b>
2.1 Project Design.....	5
2.2 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment .....	5
2.3 Watching Brief.....	5
2.4 Archive .....	5
<b>3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND</b> .....	<b>6</b>
3.1 Introduction .....	6
3.2 Documentary Research .....	6
3.3 Map Regression and Aerial Photograph Analysis .....	7
<b>4. GAZETTEER OF SITES</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>5. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
5.1 Results .....	10
<b>6. CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>11</b>
6.1 Discussion .....	11
<b>7. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> .....	<b>12</b>
7.1 Primary Sources.....	12
7.2 Secondary Sources.....	12
<b>ILLUSTRATIONS</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN</b> .....	<b>16</b>

## SUMMARY

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Electricity North West to undertake a programme of works in association with a utility development near Sceugh Farm, Carleton, near Penrith, Cumbria (NGR NY 5452 2977). Development works at the site comprised the removal of an existing electricity pole and the laying of 80m of high-voltage electricity below-ground cable on the north side of the River Eamont. The site is located within the Eden Valley, an area of high archaeological potential, and, accordingly, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) produced a brief requesting a programme of archaeological works, comprising a rapid desk-based assessment and archaeological watching brief.

The historic research for the rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in July 2012 and comprised a search of both the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER) and the archives and library held at OA North. Historic mapping and aerial photographs were also consulted. Four sites, all thought to date to the Iron Age and/or Roman period, were identified within the study area. These are Sceugh Farm Settlement (**HER 1169; SM 388**), Sceugh Cropmarks (**HER 5996**), Frenchfields Milestone (**HER 41403**), and Brougham Enclosure (**HER 3829**). Of these, Brougham Enclosure lies to the south of the River Eamont, the Milestone is located within a boundary wall unaffected by the development, and Sceugh Cropmarks lie outwith the cable route to the north-east. Sceugh Farm Settlement (**HER 1169; SM 388**), however, lies immediately to the north of the cable route, extending into the development area. Although it was thus possible that elements of that potentially prehistoric or Roman site might have been recognised during the watching brief of the groundworks, no archaeological features or finds were identified during that process, which took place in April 2013.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Joanne Fisher of Electricity North West for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Jeremy Parsons at Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Services (CCCHES) for providing the brief, and to Joe Mackintosh at Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER) for her assistance.

The watching brief was undertaken by Mike Birtles, the rapid research was undertaken by Kelly Clapperton, and the illustrations were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The report was compiled by Kelly Clapperton and edited by Stephen Rowland, who also managed the project.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Electricity North West (ENW) to undertake a programme of works in association with a cable route near Sceugh Farm, Carleton near Penrith, Cumbria (NGR NY 5452 2977; Fig 1). The works comprise the removal of an existing electricity pole and the laying of 80m of high-voltage below-ground electricity cable. The site is located within the Eden Valley, an area of high archaeological potential and, accordingly, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) produced a brief (*Appendix 1*) requesting a programme of archaeological works, comprising a rapid desk-based assessment and an archaeological watching brief. OA North compiled a project design (*Appendix 2*) to meet the CCCHES brief, and the following report documents the results of the archaeological works. The rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in July 2012, in advance of groundworks. The watching brief was undertaken on 26th April 2013.

### 1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The proposed cable route is positioned to the immediate south-east of Sceugh Farm, 2km to the east of Penrith. The route runs south-east for 80m from the base of a scarp above the flood plain of the River Eamont, through a strip of woodland, and across the flood plain to the river's northern edge (Fig 2). The surrounding landscape of the Eden Valley comprises soft, undulating hills with mixed farmland and woodland, contrasting with the limestone ridge of the Pennines to the east, and the Cumbrian High Fells and Orton Fells to the west. Sceugh Farm is located on the southern edge of what is known as the 'transition zone', where the Eden Valley merges with the Solway Plain to the north-west (Countryside Commission 1998).

1.2.2 The geology of the Eden Valley consists of sandstones and mudstones of Permo-Triassic age, including relatively hard Penrith Sandstone that lies in a ridge to the north of Penrith, and to the north-west of Sceugh Farm (*ibid*). Along the eastern edge of the Eden Valley are volcanic rocks of Ordovician age, which form striking conical hills. The underlying geology is overlain by deposits of glacial till, sands and gravels, forming drumlins in places (*ibid*). These are all sealed by typical brown sands (Ordnance Survey 1983).

## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 The CCCHES-approved OA North project design (*Appendix 2*) was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* compiled by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2011), English Heritage guidelines (2006), and generally accepted best practice.

### 2.2 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 A study area of 250m radius surrounding the cable easement was used for the rapid research (Fig 2) and the results of the research were collated into a gazetteer of sites (*Section 4*). The sources consulted included:

- ***Historic Environment Record (HER,) Kendal:*** the HER has an extensive database of all known sites of archaeological interest within Cumbria;
- [www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk): historic mapping was consulted online from Old Maps;
- ***Oxford Archaeology North:*** OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North, and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

### 2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

2.3.1 The watching brief monitored the mechanical excavation of the cable trench, which was *c* 80m long, 0.4m wide, and 0.9m deep. The work sought to assess the presence, extent, and survival of any surviving sub-surface archaeological remains, and to investigate and record them as necessary, utilising the methodology presented in *Appendix 2*.

### 2.4 ARCHIVE

2.4.1 The results of the investigation have been collated to form an archive, for deposition with the Cumbria Record Office (CRO), Carlisle, in accordance with *Appendix 2*. Copies of this report, will also be deposited with the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER), Kendal.

## 3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 This section presents the results of the documentary research and consultation of historic maps and aerial photographs in order to provide some historical context to the site. It is not intended to be a comprehensive review of the archaeology and history of the region, examples of which are readily available elsewhere. Full descriptions of HER sites mentioned in the text can be found in *Section 4*.

### 3.2 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

3.2.1 Sceugh Farm lies within an area that contains one of the highest concentrations of prehistoric and Roman settlement in rural Cumbria. Important sites dating to the Neolithic Period can be found to the south-west of the cable route at Eamont Bridge, Mayburgh Henge, and King Arthur's Round Table, whilst the route across Stainmore (the current A66) has been in use since pre-Roman times (OA North 2010).

3.2.2 During the Iron Age and Roman period a significant number of settlements, field systems, and trackways were established across the Eden Valley. Four such sites were identified in the study area (Fig 2). The largest comprised a series of cropmarks and earthworks forming a defended settlement, with a fieldsystem and trackway, and is a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (**HER 1169, SM 388**). It is thought that the settlement dates to the Iron Age and/or Roman Period, although no definite dates can be applied to the field system and trackway. To the west of the site, on the banks of the River Eamont, was the approximate find spot for a portion of Roman milestone dating to AD 223 (**HER 41403**). To the north-west, the study area clips the edge of another series of cropmarks (**HER 5996**) representing a dyke and trackway. Although of unknown date, they seem to relate to settlement site **HER 1169**. The fourth and final site is located to the south-west of the cable route, on the south side of the River Eamont (**HER 3829**). This comprises a circular enclosure and ditch thought to be of Roman date, though trial trenches excavated in the 1990s found no evidence of the settlement (LUAU 1993).

3.2.3 To the south and west of the study area several significant sites have been excavated in recent years. These include:

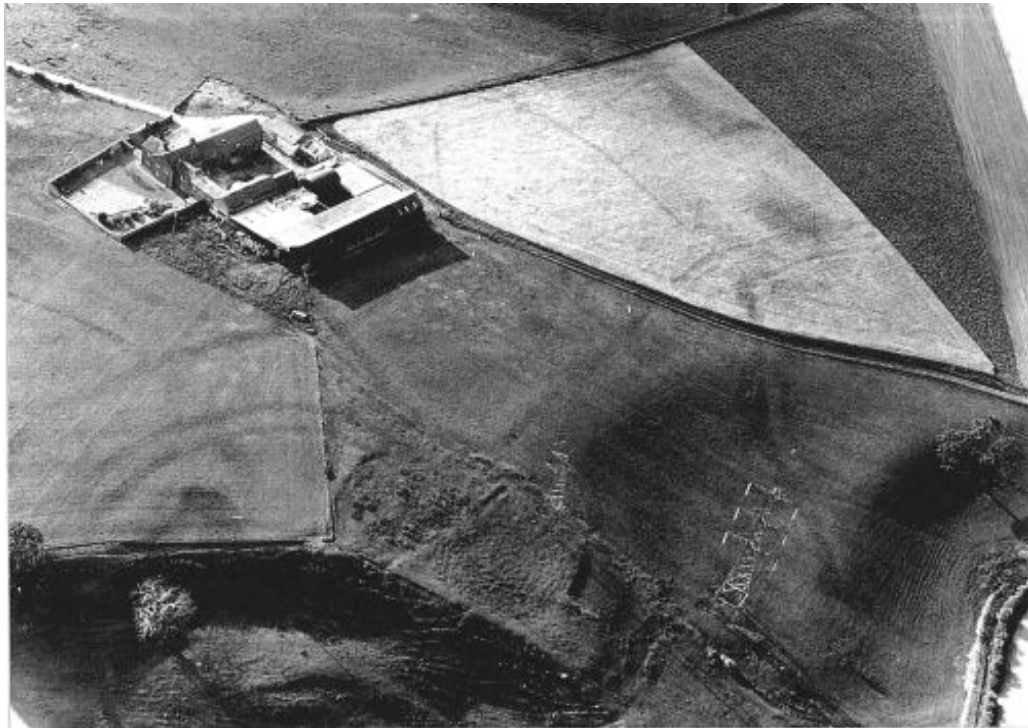
- A Romano-British field system near Whinfell Holm Sewerage Works (**HER 15272**, LUAU 1997);
- A Romano-British settlement at Frenchfields, less than 1km to the south-west of the cable route. Excavations encountered the remains of timber-framed buildings, cobbled lanes and associated features that may represent an extension of the extramural settlement associated with the Roman fort at Brougham (Martin 2001);
- Later excavations at Frenchfields identified features relating to Romano-British agriculture and livestock rearing (Gaskell 2008);



- Large-scale excavations adjacent to Brougham Roman fort, *c* 1km to the south of the cable route, in 2008 revealed extensive extra mural settlement associated with the fort, and a Romano-British field system (OA North 2010).
- 3.2.4 Although no known sites dating to the early medieval period were identified in the study area, the nearby sites of Fremington and Whinfell Holm Sewerage Works (Oliver *et al* 1996; Heawood and Howard-Davis 2002) encountered sunken-floored buildings, a putative pottery kiln, and post-built structures, all of which most likely dated to this period.
- 3.2.5 There is no evidence for later medieval activity in the study area; however, the thirteenth-century castle of Brougham and associated deserted medieval village, are located *c* 1km to the south-west (OA North 2010). Penrith town centre lies just 3km to the west, where recent excavations have identified medieval ditches, buildings and cobbled surfaces (OA North 2011).
- 3.2.6 No post-medieval sites were identified in the study area during the search of the HER. Nevertheless, the development of Sceugh Farm probably took place during the latter part of this era, and was most likely established during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries, around the time when much of the area was being enclosed under the parliamentary enclosure act (Sowerby and Gaskell 2007).

### **3.3 MAP REGRESSION AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH ANALYSIS**

- 3.3.1 Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, from the first edition (1861) to the 1989 edition, were analysed to trace any changes or development on the site. Comparison of the maps suggests that very few alterations have occurred on and around the cable route. Some extension of Sceugh Farm took place in the later nineteenth century (OS 1899), and the mid-twentieth century (OS 1967), whilst the Whinfell Holm Sewerage Works was first shown on the 1916 OS map. A rifle range is annotated on the 1899 edition, situated on the flood plain of the River Eamont, and within the cable route, although it is out of use by the 1925 edition. The range is likely to have left few archaeological traces, although there is potential for the presence of small arms munitions. By the 1967 edition the pylons and electricity cables had been erected, and the defensive settlement site (**HER 1169**) has been illustrated on the 1989 edition.
- 3.3.2 Several aerial photographs of the study area were consulted in the Kendal HER. Photograph CCC 2519,9 (Plate 1) clearly shows the three concentric ditches of enclosure **HER 1169** encircling the scarp to the north of the cable route, while the trackway and dyke of **HER 5996** can be identified to the north-east, the trackway running directly towards the enclosure. This is also illustrated in photograph CCC 2518,3. Aerial photographs CCC 2519,8 (Plate 2) and STJ DO 074 depict the relationship of the enclosure to the scarp, indicating that the settlement utilised the steep scarp to the south in place of manmade defences.



*Plate 1: Near-vertical aerial photograph of defensive settlement (HER 1169) and trackway and dyke (HER 5996). Looking north-west*



*Plate 2: Oblique aerial photograph showing the relationship between the defensive settlement and the scarp to the south. Looking north*

#### 4. GAZETTEER OF SITES

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<b>Site</b>	<b>Sceugh Farm Settlement, Langwathby</b>
<b>HER number</b>	<b>1169</b>
<b>NGR</b>	354400 529900
<b>Statutory Designation</b>	Scheduled Ancient Monument <b>388</b>
<b>Period</b>	Iron Age/Roman/Unknown
<b>Source</b>	HER
<b>Description</b>	Cropmarks of an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement site discovered through aerial photography. A double-ditched rectangular enclosure, clear to the north but lost in rough pasture to the south. Parts are visible on the ground as a stone bank with an external ditch. To the south there is a putative retaining wall on the bank. Evaluation trenches excavated nearby found no outlying features associated with the site.
<b>Assessment</b>	Although outside the proposed cable route, the development lies immediately below the settlement and there is potential for further associated remains.

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<b>Site</b>	<b>Sceugh Cropmarks, Langwathby</b>
<b>HER number</b>	<b>5996</b>
<b>NGR</b>	354800 530100
<b>Period</b>	Unknown
<b>Source</b>	HER
<b>Description</b>	Trackways and dykes appearing as cropmarks, identified through aerial photography. Comprising an east/west trackway, running in line with <b>HER 1169</b> to the west, and with diffuse cropmarks to the north.
<b>Assessment</b>	The site is positioned to the north-east of the study area, and lies outside direct contact with the cable route.

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<b>Site</b>	<b>Frenchfields Milestone Langwathby</b>
<b>HER number</b>	<b>41403</b>
<b>NGR</b>	354400 529700
<b>Period</b>	Roman
<b>Source</b>	HER
<b>Description</b>	Top portion of a milestone dated AD 223, found 'somewhere near Frenchfield' and is now built into a farm boundary wall.
<b>Assessment</b>	The site is located to the west of the cable route, and lies outside its direct contact.

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<b>Site</b>	<b>Brougham Enclosure</b>
<b>HER number</b>	<b>3829</b>
<b>NGR</b>	354500 529500
<b>Period</b>	Romano-British
<b>Source</b>	HER
<b>Description</b>	A north/south dyke located at Brougham and associated with a circular enclosure. Trial trenches dug in the 1990s encountered no archaeological features or finds.
<b>Assessment</b>	The site is positioned to the south of the study area, to the south of the River Eamont. It thus lies outside direct contact with the cable route.

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## 5. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

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### 5.1 RESULTS

- 5.1.1 The cable trench (plate 3) was excavated through deposits comprising a 0.05m-thick topsoil layer (*101*) and 0.85m into the underlying alluvium (*102*). No finds or features of archaeological interest were revealed.



*Plate 3: Excavation of cable trench recorded during the watching brief*

## 6. CONCLUSION

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### 6.1 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 Four sites, all dating to the Iron Age and/or Roman period, were identified within the study area. These were Sceugh Farm Settlement (**HER 1169**), Sceugh Cropmarks (**HER 5996**), Frenchfields Milestone (**HER 41403**) and Brougham Enclosure (**HER 3829**). Of these sites, Brougham Enclosure lies to the south of the River Eamont, the Milestone is located within a boundary wall unaffected by the development, and Sceugh Cropmarks lie outwith the cable route to the north-east. Sceugh Farm Settlement (**HER 1169**; **SM 388**) lies immediately to the north of the cable route, and, although not directly affected by it, it was considered that there was some potential for associated archaeological remains to extend into the development site.
- 6.1.2 Despite this potential, no such features or finds were identified during the course of the watching brief. The negative findings may relate to the possibility that the prehistoric and Roman activity did not extend into the area of the cable route. However, it should be considered that the cable trench was a very narrow intervention, and it may simply not have contacted archaeological remains. Thus, the presence of archaeological deposits within the vicinity cannot be completely discounted on the basis of this piece of work.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### 7.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

Cumbria HER, Aerial Photograph CCC 2518,3, NY5430/N

Cumbria HER, Aerial Photograph CCC 2519,8, NY5429/X

Cumbria HER, Aerial Photograph CCC 2519,9, NY5429/Y

Cumbria HER, Aerial Photograph STJ DO 074, NY5429/U

Ordnance Survey first edition 1861, *Cumberland*, 1:25”

Ordnance Survey first edition 1899, *Westmorland*, 1:25”

Ordnance Survey 1916 edition, *Westmorland*, 1:25”

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### 7.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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### FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites

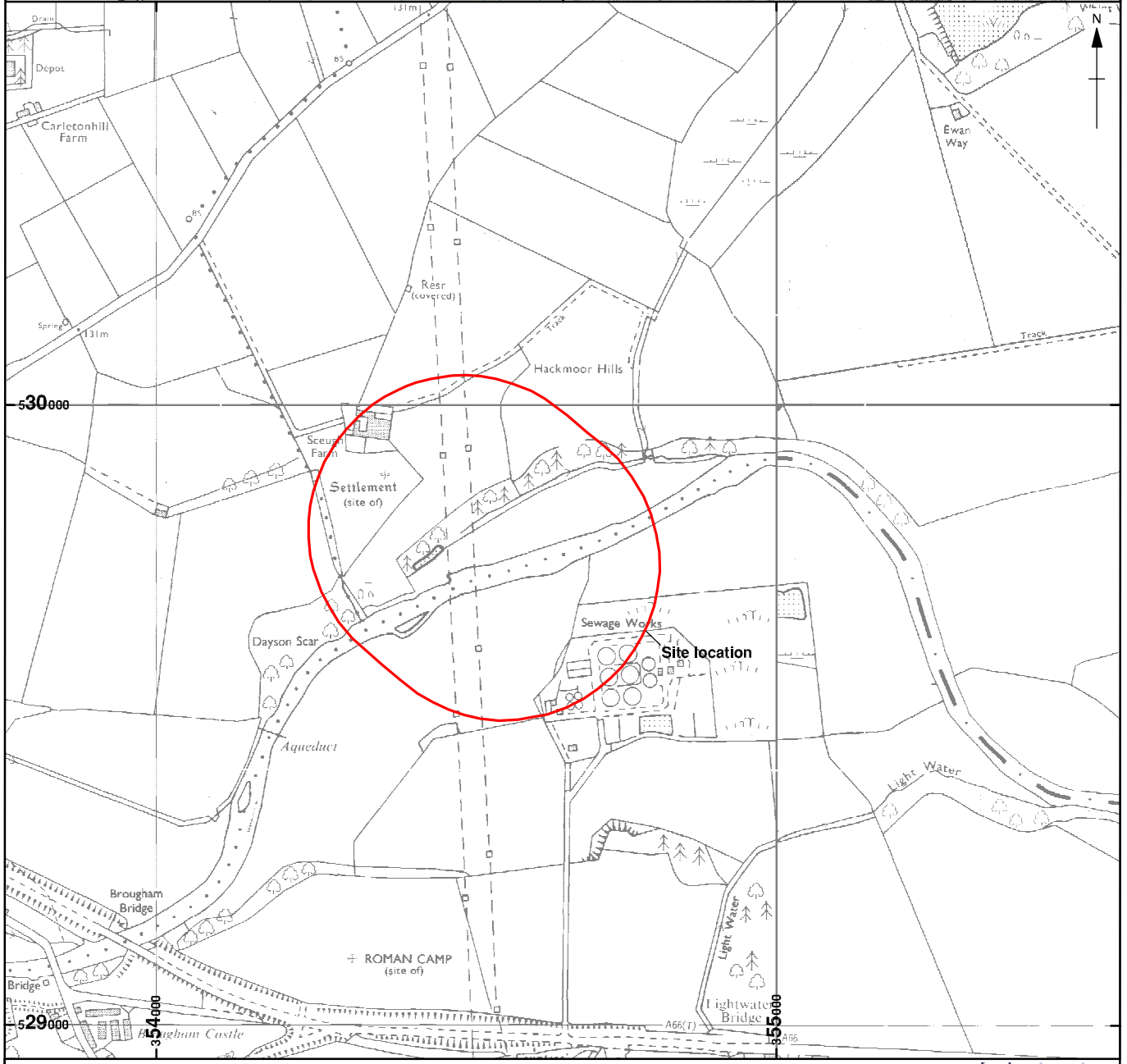
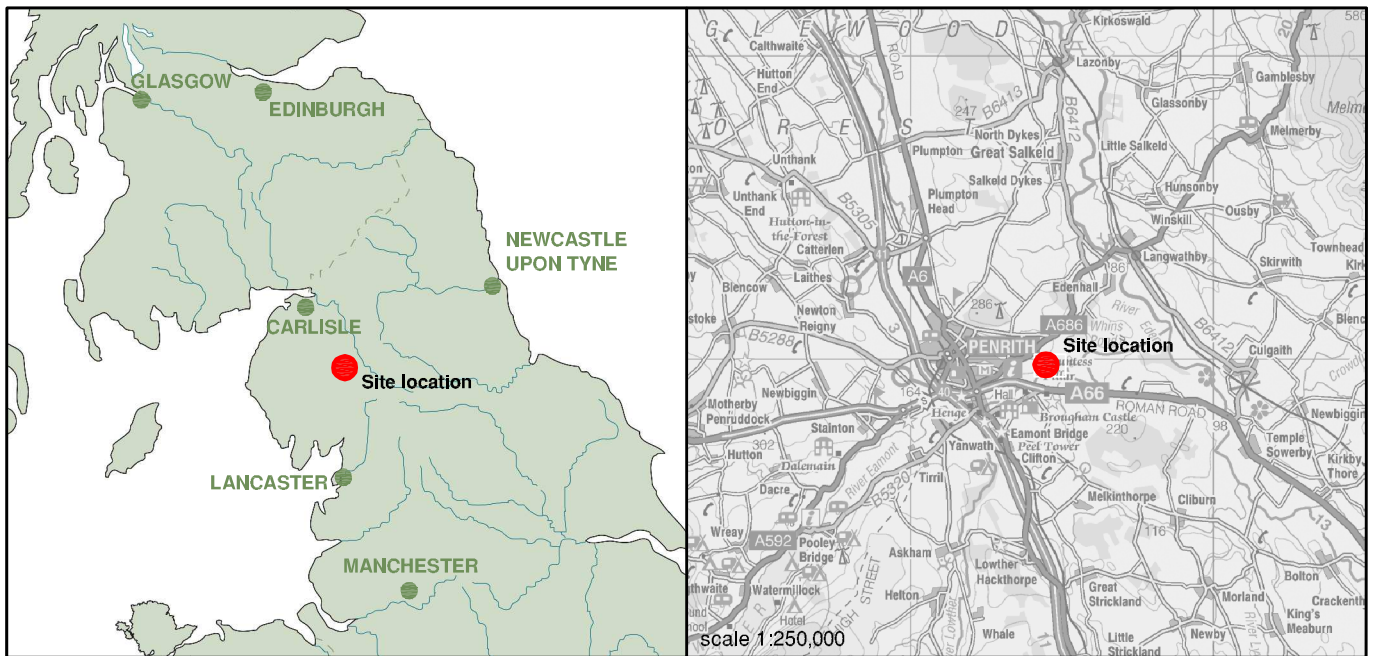
### PLATES

Plate 1: Near-vertical aerial photograph of defensive settlement (**HER 1169**) and trackway and dyke (**HER 5996**). Looking north-west

Plate 2: Oblique aerial photograph showing the relationship between the defensive settlement and the scarp to the south. Looking north

Plate 3: Trench excavated during the watching brief.





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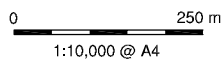


Figure 1: Site location

SR\*L10511\*AKH\*09/07/2012

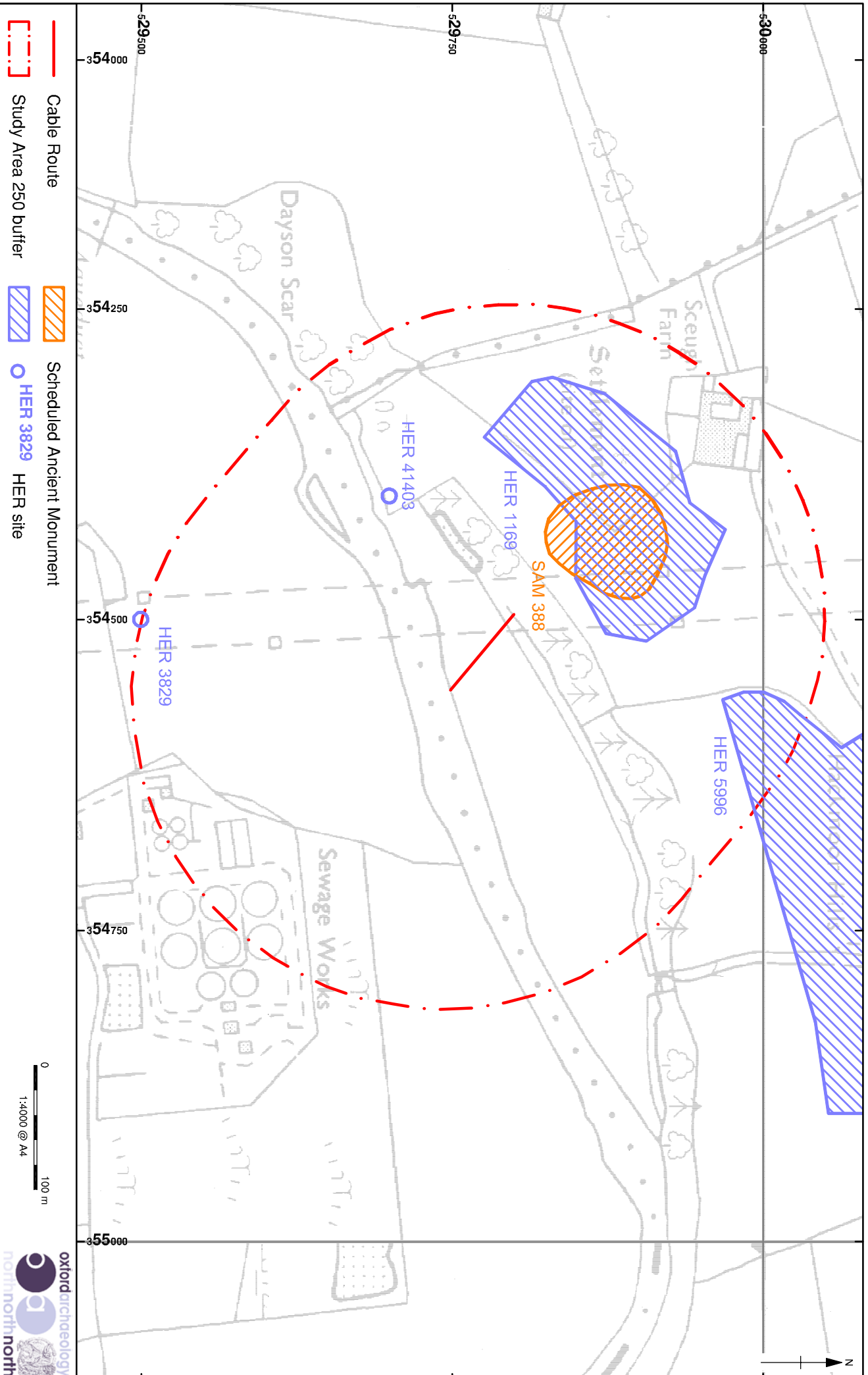


Figure 2: Plan of study area and archaeological sites

## APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

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**BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT SCEUGH FARM, CARLETON, PENRITH, CUMBRIA**

Issued by the

**County Historic Environment Service**

Environment Unit



**Date of Brief: 11 April 2012**

This Design Brief is only valid for 1 year after the above date. After this period the County Historic Environment Service should be contacted. Any specification resulting from this Brief will only be considered for the same period.

## 1. SITE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATION

**Site:** Sceugh Farm, Carleton, Penrith

**Grid Reference:** NY 5452 2977

**Scope of Development:** 80m long underground electricity cable

1.1 Detailed proposals and tenders are invited from appropriately resourced, qualified and experienced archaeological contractors to undertake the archaeological project outlined by this Brief and to produce a report on that work. The work should be under the direct management of either an Associate or Member of the Institute for Archaeologists, or equivalent. Any response to this Brief should follow IFA *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 2008* and be in line with recommendations outlined in English Heritage (1991). The specification must include:

- ❖ A description of the methods of observation and recording system to be used
- ❖ A description of the finds and environmental sampling strategies to be used
- ❖ A description of the post excavation and reporting work that will be undertaken
- ❖ Details of key project staff, including the names of the project manager, site supervisor, finds and environmental specialists and any other specialist sub-contractors to be employed
- ❖ Details of on site staffing, e.g. the number of people to be employed on site per day
- ❖ A projected timetable for all site work and post excavation work (through to final publication of results)

1.2 Any significant variations to the specification must be agreed by Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) in advance. No fieldwork may commence until the specification has been approved by CCCHES.

## 2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

2.1 CCCHES has been consulted by Electricity North West regarding the proposed undergrounding of an 80 metre section of high voltage overhead electricity line close to Sceugh Farm, Carleton, Penrith.

2.2 The scheme affects an area of archaeological potential and so an archaeological mitigation scheme is required, comprising an archaeological watching brief to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains disturbed during the course of the ground works of the development.

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site of the proposed cable is located in a part of the Eden valley that is rich in prehistoric and Roman remains. The remains of a Romano-British settlement, which is legally protected as a Scheduled Monument, lie 50 metres from the proposed cable and numerous other prehistoric features are shown on aerial photos in close proximity. Brougham Roman fort is located 1km to the south.

## 4. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

### Objectives

4.1 To identify, investigate and record any surviving archaeological remains revealed during the course of the excavation of the cable trench.

### Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

4.2 Before any on site work commences the County Historic Environment Record should be consulted and a rapid desk-based survey of the existing resource undertaken. This should include an assessment of

those primary and secondary sources and any relevant aerial photographs referenced in the County Historic Environment Record.

### **Fieldwork**

- 4.3 All topsoil stripping and trench cutting must be carried out under archaeological supervision. Any putative archaeological features must then be cleaned by hand and if possible a stratigraphic record made. Finds and environmental samples should be retrieved as appropriate. A reasonable period of uninterrupted access should be allowed to the archaeologist for all necessary archaeological recording.

### **Reporting**

- 4.4 The archaeological work must result in a report which should include as a minimum:
- ❖ 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
  - ❖ A concise, non-technical summary of the results
  - ❖ A date when the project was undertaken and by whom
  - ❖ A description of the methodology employed and work undertaken
  - ❖ The results of the rapid desk-based assessment
  - ❖ Plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of deposits and finds located
  - ❖ A brief photographic record of the site must be included, showing any features of archaeological interest. Where the results of the project revealed no significant archaeological remains a single photograph showing an indicative section of trench will suffice
  - ❖ A description and interpretation of the archaeological deposits identified
  - ❖ A list of, and dates for, any finds recovered
  - ❖ A description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained
- 4.5 Two copies of the report should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record (HER) within six months of completion of fieldwork. This will be on the understanding that the report will be made available as a public document through the HER.

### **Publication**

- 4.6 A summary report should be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. If archaeological remains of significance are identified, one or more full reports should also be submitted to a suitable journal or other publication in due course.
- 4.7 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/> must therefore also be completed as part of the project. Information on projects undertaken in Cumbria will be made available through the above website, unless otherwise agreed.

### **Archive**

- 4.8 An archive must be prepared in accordance with the recommendations in Brown (2007). Arrangements must be made for its long term storage and deposition with an appropriate repository.
- 4.9 The landowner should be encouraged to transfer the ownership of finds to a local or relevant specialist museum. The museum's requirements for the transfer and storage of finds should be discussed before the project commences.
- 4.10 CCCHEs must be notified of the arrangements made.

## 5. PROJECT MONITORING

- 5.1 One weeks notice must be given to CCCHES prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

## 6. FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to establish safe working practices in terms of current health and safety legislation, to ensure site access and to obtain notification of hazards (eg. services, contaminated ground, etc.). **The County Historic Environment Service bears no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief or subsequent specification.**
- 6.2 The Institute for Archaeologists' *The Code of Conduct* (2009) must be followed.
- 6.3 Care must be taken in dealing with human remains and the appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations followed. CCCHES and the local Coroner must be informed immediately human remains are discovered.
- 6.4 The involvement of CCCHES should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Swindon

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Reading

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

## 8. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding this Brief, contact

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## APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

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# **SCEUGH FARM, CARLETON, PENRITH, CUMBRIA**

**Archaeological Rapid  
Desk-Based  
Assessment and  
Watching Brief Project  
Design**



**Oxford Archaeology North**

May 2012

**Electricity North West**

NGR: NY 5452 2977



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Electricity North West (ENW, hereafter ‘the Client’), has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken during alterations to the overhead system of powerlines close to Sceugh Farm, Carleton, Penrith, Cumbria (NGR NY 5452 2977). The works will comprise the removal of an existing pole and the laying below ground of an 80m-section of high-voltage electricity cable. The development site is located within an area of archaeological potential and, accordingly, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) requested that a programme of archaeological works should be undertaken. This should comprise a rapid desk-based assessment and a watching brief be conducted during ground-disturbing activities.
- 1.1.2 The following document represents a project design to carry out the above programme of work and has been prepared in accordance with standard CCCHES, English Heritage (EH) and Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) standards and requirements.

### 1.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 The study area is located within the Eden Valley, an important communication route throughout history and a fertile area that hosted many sites of the prehistoric and Roman periods. One such Romano-British settlement, lies within 50m of the proposed cable route, and is a scheduled ancient monument. Aerial photographs show numerous other features in close proximity, whilst Brougham Roman fort is located 1km to the south.

### 1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.3.1 OA North has considerable experience of excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 25 years. Evaluations, desk-based assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. 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

- 2.1.1 The following programme has been designed to assess the potential for preserved archaeological remains and to record the archaeological deposits affected by the proposed development of the site, in order to determine their extent, nature and significance. To this end, the following programme has been designed, in accordance with CCCHES, to provide a rapid desk-based assessment, and watching brief. The results of the rapid desk-based assessment will provide important information on the nature of any archaeological remains uncovered during the watching brief. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

**Rapid Desk-Based Assessment:** To undertake a rapid desk-based assessment of the existing resource, including primary and secondary sources.

**Archaeological Watching Brief:** to undertake a programme of observation and recording during any ground disturbance to determine the presence, quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains on the site.

**Report and Archive:** A report will be produced for the Client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990).

### 3. METHOD STATEMENT

#### 3.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

3.1.1 A rapid desk-based study will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material, and will seek to cover a 250m radius around and either side of the proposed cable route. The level of such work will be dictated by the timescale of the project.

3.1.2 **Documentary and cartographic material:** this work will consult the range of potential sources of information, both primary and secondary, along with any relevant aerial photographs, referenced in the Cumbria Historic Environment Record, Kendal, including OS First Edition maps (both 6" to 1 mile and 25" to 1 mile). Any published documentary sources and unpublished documents will also be examined where relevant and time allows. Relevant, available aerial photographs will be examined. The sites, referred to by their CHER numbers, will be described within a historical background to the watching brief report, although further details of relevance extracted directly from the HER, and with minimal modification, may be presented within a gazetteer of individual sites. For ease of reference, the locations of these sites will be plotted onto a map, identified by their CHER number. Through this research, the document will assess the potential for the remains from each specific period to appear within the development area and its associated working easement.

#### 3.2 WATCHING BRIEF

3.2.1 **Methodology:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the whole area of the proposed ground disturbance. This work will comprise observation during all ground reduction and excavations for the proposed development, 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 during observation.

3.2.2 The watching brief will cover the whole of the area to be disturbed by the development including, topsoil and subsoil stripping and any other groundworks which would expose archaeological horizons and/or the natural drift geology.

3.2.3 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified during the observation of groundworks, 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 (*ie* 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).

3.2.4 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 plan provided by the Client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.

3.2.5 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.

- 3.2.6 **Treatment of finds:** all finds 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 recipient museum's guidelines.
- 3.2.7 **Treasure:** 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.
- 3.2.8 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 3.2.9 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered 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. CCCHES 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. The removal of human remains will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations.
- 3.2.10 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Planning Archaeologist or his representative, as to the extent of further works to be carried out. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design. In the event of environmental/organic deposits being present on site, it would be necessary to discuss and agree a programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling and or dating with the Planning Archaeologist.

### **3.3 REPORT AND ARCHIVE**

- 3.3.1 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further three copies submitted to the Cumbria HER within eight weeks of completion. Copies of the desk-based assessment, and interim statements on the results of the watching brief can be issued within three weeks of the completion of these elements. The report will include:
- a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR
  - a site location plan, related to the national grid
  - the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken
  - a concise, non-technical summary of the results
  - a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained
  - plans and sections at an appropriate scale, showing the location of features
  - other illustrations and photographic plates showing, as appropriate, features of interest or to demonstrate the absence of archaeological features.
  - a description of any environmental, finds, or other specialist work undertaken, and the results obtained
  - the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.
  - a copy of this project design in the appendices, and indications of any agreed departure from that design
- 3.3.2 This report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on CD, if required.
- 3.3.3 **Archive:** 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, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context.

All artefacts will be processed to MAP2 standards and will be assessed by our in-house finds specialists.

- 3.3.4 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct. OA North conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Cumbria HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects with the County Record Office, Kendal. The material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) will be deposited with an appropriate museum following agreement with the client.
- 3.3.5 **Collation of data:** the data generated will be collated and analysed in order to provide an assessment of the nature and significance of the known surface and subsurface remains within the designated area. It will also serve as a guide to the archaeological potential of the area to be investigated, and the basis for the formulation of any detailed field programme and associated sampling strategy, should these be required in the future.
- 3.3.6 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database project Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.
- 3.3.7 **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. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

## 4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1.1 OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit 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). A risk assessment will be completed in advance of any on-site works and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

## 5. WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1.1 **Archaeological Watching Brief:** the duration of this element is dependant upon the duration of any ground disturbing activities on the site.
- 5.1.2 **Report and Archive:** an evaluation report will be submitted within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. However, should an interim statement be required this can be issued within two weeks but instruction must be received from the client prior to completion of the fieldwork.
- 5.1.3 **Written Instruction:** OA North can execute projects at very short notice once written confirmation of commission has been received from the Client. One weeks notice would be sufficient to allow the necessary arrangements to be made to commence the task and inform CCCHES.

## 6. PROJECT MONITORING

- 6.1.1 **Access:** liaison for site access during the evaluation will be arranged with the client unless otherwise instructed prior to commencement of the archaeological investigation.
- 6.1.2 Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the County Archaeologist will be kept fully informed of the work and its results, and will be notified a week in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with CCCHEs in consultation with the Client.

## 7. STAFFING PROPOSALS

- 7.1.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Stephen Rowland** (OA North project manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 7.1.2 All elements of the archaeological investigation will be supervised by either an OA North project officer or supervisor experienced in this type of project. Due to scheduling requirements it is not possible to provide these details at the present time. All OA North project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.
- 7.1.3 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken under the auspices of OA North's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis BA MIFA** (OA North project officer). Christine has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England. However, she has specialist knowledge regarding glass, metalwork, and leather, the recording and management of waterlogged wood, and most aspects of wetland and environmental archaeology.
- 7.1.4 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples which may be taken will be undertaken by **Elizabeth Huckerby MSc** (OA North project officer). Elizabeth has extensive knowledge of the palaeoecology of the North West through her work on the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey. Assessment of any faunal material will be undertaken by **Andrew Bates MSc** (OA North Supervisor).

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 1992, *Guidelines for data collection*

SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers), 1997, *Health and Safety Manual*, Poole

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of archives for long-term storage*, London

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