



# 27 CASTLE HILL, LANCASTER

## Archaeological Watching Brief



**Oxford Archaeology North**

**June 2009**

**Norman Jackson  
Contractors**

Issue No: 2009-10/616  
OA North Job No: L9782  
NGR: SD 474 617

**Document Title:** 27 CASTLE HILL, LANCASTER  
**Document Type:** Archaeological Watching Brief  
**Client Name:** Norman Jackson Contractors


**Issue Number:** 2009-10/616  
**OA North Job Number:** L9782  
**Site Code:** CAH06  
**National Grid Reference:** SD 474 617

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## SUMMARY

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In 2003 Norman Jackson Contractors submitted proposals for the redevelopment of the site formerly occupied by 27 Castle Hill, Lancaster (NGR SD 474 617). An archaeological evaluation by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in 2003 identified that significant archaeological stratigraphy was preserved on the site. Together with the remains of post-medieval habitation, this included a putative rampart, within which was incorporated second-century refuse, and which may have been associated with the poorly understood eastern rampart of Lancaster's rebuilt second-century fort. Accordingly, Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS), the county council's body responsible for advising on heritage matters, requested that a programme of archaeological mitigation should be undertaken as a condition of any planning permission for the development of the site. Subsequently, OA North was commissioned by Norman Jackson Contractors to undertake a watching brief during negative groundworks in November 2006.

The watching brief comprised the observation of the excavation of four deep, narrow foundation trenches and a pipe trench. The proximity of the foundation trenches to the adjacent existing buildings meant that these excavations were staggered, in eleven separate digs. This, and other health and safety considerations, meant that archaeological features were generally observed in section, and that recording had to be conducted from the top of the trench, with little interaction with the deposits.

Further evidence of the north/south-aligned putative rampart was identified across the southern half of the site, indicating that it was at least 8m wide, and was likely to have been metalled. The rampart, and later levelling deposits, some likely to be third to fourth century in date, were cut by several features. The oldest was a narrow ditch from which unabraded medieval pottery was recovered, and was likely to have been a burgage boundary for a plot running from China Street, to the east. Several postholes may have marked the location of an early post-medieval timber-framed structure in this area.

These features were sealed by the construction of an eighteenth-century house, with evidence of internal walls and floors identified within several of the foundation trenches. Archaeological remains appear to have been well-preserved across much of the central portion of the site, with some disturbance around the periphery pertaining to construction trenches for the exterior walls of the Georgian houses at Nos 25-29 Castle Hill. The upper deposits comprised debris relating to the demolition of No 27 in the later twentieth century.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to express its thanks to Roy Jackson and his team of architects and engineers for commissioning the work and for their assistance on site. OA North is also grateful to Peter Iles and Doug Moir of Lancashire County Archaeology Service for their advice and assistance throughout the project.

The archaeological watching brief was carried out by Steve Clarke and Kathryn Levey and reported upon by Paul Clark and Steve Clarke. The finds assemblage was assessed by Rebekah Pressler, Ian Miller and Chris Howard-Davis, and the drawings compiled by Emma Carter and Marie Rowland. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In 2003 Norman Jackson Contractors submitted proposals for the redevelopment of the site formerly occupied by 27 Castle Hill, Lancaster (NGR SD 474 617; Fig 1). An archaeological evaluation (OA North 2004) identified that significant archaeological stratigraphy was preserved on the site and, accordingly, Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS), the county council's body responsible for advising on heritage matters, requested that a programme of archaeological mitigation should be undertaken as a condition of any planning permission for the development of the site. Following LCAS approval of a project design for a watching brief to be undertaken during negative groundworks (*Appendix 1*), Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Norman Jackson Contractors to undertake the archaeological works in November 2006.
- 1.1.2 The watching brief monitored the excavation of four foundation trenches and a pipe trench for the block of flats to be constructed on the site (Fig 2). This document outlines briefly the results of the programme of works in the form of a short report.

### 1.2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The plot of 27 Castle Hill lies just to the south-east of Lancaster Castle and occupies an area of approximately 200m<sup>2</sup>, with a street frontage of 8m. Castle Hill rises to a maximum height of 25m above the River Lune, dropping down to a riverside bluff, which was the focus for an extramural settlement in the Roman period and, later, the medieval town. This elevation made an ideal position for defensive fortifications and its view of the Lune was of primary strategic importance. It is contended that Roman military engineers may have enhanced the defensive topography, and it is known that narrow terraces were built along the north-eastern slopes of Castle Hill in the eighteenth century (Potter *et al* 1988, 31). Possible evidence for such terracing within the eastern part of the current development area was identified by the evaluation in 2003 (OA North 2004).
- 1.2.2 The solid geology of Lancaster consists predominantly of Silesian (Upper Carboniferous) grey-brown or reddened, medium to coarse-grained sandstones of the Pendle Grit Formation, which is part of the Millstone Grit Group (British Geological Survey 1992). These sandstones are thickly bedded with thin siltstone partings but with mixed sandstone/siltstone units near the top. The drift geology for the site has been mapped as glaciofluvial sheet deposits of clayey sands and gravels.

### 1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 **Introduction:** the following section is intended only to provide a brief context for the results of the present watching brief. Many, exhaustive, accounts of the

archaeology and history of Lancaster are readily available elsewhere for consultation if required.

- 1.3.2 ***Prehistoric and Roman period:*** Castle Hill lies at the core of Roman and medieval Lancaster, a major historic centre in northern England. Although no concentrated prehistoric settlement has been identified in the locale, prehistoric finds have been recovered from the area of the surrounding town, including Neolithic flint tools and a Mortlake bowl, and several Bronze Age cremation urns (White 1988, 207). Castle Hill may have had some significance to the local prehistoric communities, as indicated by the antiquarian discovery of a Bronze Age palstave (*ibid*). The available evidence indicates that the hill was settled initially towards the end of the first century AD, with the establishment of an auxiliary fort in a strategic position above the lowest fording point of the River Lune (Jones and Shotter 1988). Modifications to the fort during the early to mid-second century included a conversion to stone-revetted ramparts and an enlargement of the fortified area. Within and around the present study area, centuries of concentrated development has masked many elements of the fort, although understanding is growing. The position of the fort's eastern gate, to the north of the study area, was established by rescue work in the 1970s (Jones and Shotter 1988); present-day Church Street leads east from this gate, retracing the route of a Roman road. Whilst the line of the southern rampart of the fort is conjectural, deposits discovered under the Storey Institute could denote activity alongside a road leading from the fort's southern gate (Penny 1981). When considered together, these findings suggest that the area occupied by 27 Castle Hill is either within the south-east corner of the fort, or just outside it, in the extramural settlement.
- 1.3.2 During the mid-fourth century, the fort was reoriented and rebuilt, incorporating a substantial circuit wall, known as the Wery Wall (Edwards 1988, 21-2). It is presumed that these works were part of a programme of coastal defences, and may be viewed as a northern version of the Saxon Shore Fort tradition, perhaps indicating that Lancaster acted as a supply base for an Irish Sea fleet (*ibid*).
- 1.3.3 ***Early medieval period:*** the evidence for the immediate post-Roman period is slight, based largely upon isolated chance finds, but it is likely that settlement persisted in the vicinity of, and most probably within, the defences of the Roman fort. A substantial piece of a seventh-century Anglian runic cross from the adjacent Priory may indicate the presence of a contemporary monastic foundation on Castle Hill, continued use of which is evidenced by several fragments of carved stone crosses with a more Scandinavian influence. A hoard of ninth-century Northumbrian *stycas* from Vicarage Field are again likely to relate to such a period of activity on the site (Penney 1981, 13). It seems likely that any occupation of the hill would have utilised extant elements of the Roman fortifications, together with the reuse of materials from unwanted structures. If Castle Hill was a religious focus, it may be one of a network of early Christian sites located along the lower Lune Valley, with similar sites at Halton, Hornby, Gressingham, Melling and, of course, the chapel and rock-cut graves at Heysham Head (Newman 1996). As such, an

early predecessor of Lancaster's Priory church, is likely to be that mentioned in Domesday Book (Faull and Stinson 1986).

- 1.3.4 **Medieval period:** the Domesday Survey of 1080-86 records two independent villas of the manor of Halton, 'Loncastre' and 'Chercaloncastre', the latter being in the area of the castle (Penney 1981, 13). Since the late eleventh century, the hill has been dominated by the Norman castle and the Priory, which was originally established c 1094, presumably in the area of the earlier church (Jones and Shotter 1988). The Norman castle was situated within the presumed southern boundary of the earlier two phases of Roman fort, but failed to reference the reoriented ground plan of the fourth-century fort, despite the fact that elements of this later installation were still standing.
- 1.3.5 The medieval town seems to have developed rapidly after the granting of a borough charter in 1193, which encouraged the establishment of full urban functions, including a weekly market. There is some evidence to suggest that the medieval town was founded on the plan of the Roman extramural settlement and directly influenced by it. Specifically, medieval Church Street was structured by the earlier Roman layout (Penny 1981, 12), inferring some continuity of settlement and, significantly, town planning. As is typical of many towns of the period, the land flanking the streets was subdivided into individual burgage plots (Jones and Shotter 1988) and some of these, in the older parts of town, may also have had Roman origins.
- 1.3.6 **Post-medieval period:** during the post-medieval period, the hillside to the north of the study area was divided into three terraces as a result of a landscaping programme (Jones and Shotter 1988). The degree of landscaping on the site during the medieval and early post-medieval periods is at present unknown, but a recent watching brief of a trial hole against the western boundary wall of the Judges' Lodgings suggests that this terracing did not extend as far south as the present development area (OA North 2004). Speed's map (1610) and Docton's reconstructed map of Lancaster in 1684, show the development area to be vacant (Docton 1957), though by 1778, as illustrated by Mackreth's map, the front of the property had been built upon. The site was occupied continuously into the later twentieth century period, and photographs from the late 1950s show a house set back from the current street frontage (OA North 2004).
- 1.3.7 **The 2003 evaluation:** the evaluation undertaken on this site (OA North 2004) comprised the excavation of a single east/west-aligned trench, 12m long and 3m wide. The evaluation trench established the lack of any cellar on the site, and it was clear that the Roman stratigraphy underlying the eighteenth-century levels was intact and had been subject to little medieval or post-medieval truncation. The Roman deposits at the eastern end of the trench lay deeper than those at the west. At least two distinct phases of Roman activity could be identified, one apparently dating to the fourth century, the other to the second century. The evaluation was unable to verify that the site was indeed within the south-eastern part of the fort, although certain deposits, associated with second-century pottery, might possibly have constituted the surviving remains of the eastern rampart.



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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 The LCAS-approved OA North project design (*Appendix 1*) was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

### 2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 Close liaison was maintained between OA North staff and the site contractors during the watching brief. The groundworks were carried out by a mechanical excavator using a 0.8m wide toothless bucket and comprised the excavation of four foundation trenches and a pipe trench (Fig 2). The proximity of the foundation trenches to the adjacent existing buildings meant that these excavations were staggered, in eleven separate digs. Trench 1 was excavated in six separate lengths, Trench 3 in three lengths and Trenches 2 and 4 in a single dig. These trenches were dug to depths of 1.4m and, given their narrowness, could not be entered safely for the purposes of investigation and recording. All observations were thus made from the modern ground surface.
- 2.2.2 The programme of field observation accurately recorded the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features. This work comprised observation during the groundworks, the examination of any horizons exposed, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and any artefacts found during the excavations. All observations were recorded stratigraphically on *pro-forma* sheets using a system devised from that used by the Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage. The archive includes both an indexed photographic record in monochrome and colour slide formats and accurate plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:10 and 1:20).

### 2.3 FINDS

- 2.3.1 **Artefacts:** all finds recovered were bagged and recorded by context number, processed and stored according to current standard practice based on guidelines set by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. An assessment of the finds is presented in *Section 4.3*, and a complete catalogue in *Appendix 3*.

### 2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and with IFA and English Heritage (1991) guidelines. On completion of the project, the paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Lancashire Record Office, Preston, and a copy of the report and summary of the archive (*Appendix 4*) will be submitted to the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, also in Preston. Those finds that are to be retained from the works will be deposited with the Lancaster Museum.

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### 3. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

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#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The following section provides a brief summary of the results of the watching brief, with individual context descriptions included as *Appendix 2*. Although generally the foundation trenches were excavated within a series of short segments, the results below have been synthesised to avoid repetition. The methodology employed during the excavation of the trenches meant that no archaeology was observed in plan; all the information recovered was obtained from the examination of the trench sections following excavation of each separate segment.

#### 3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 **Trench 1:** this was the northern foundation trench for the development, and was 15.3m long by 0.85m wide, excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m against the southern wall of No 25 Castle Hill (Fig 3). The stratigraphy revealed in this trench comprised an uppermost layer of demolition debris, **101**, which extended from the western end of the site, to 6.6m from the eastern end. Below this layer was another similar demolition layer **102**, which was much darker in appearance and which was present along the full length of the trench. Beneath layer **102** a layer of redeposited natural sandy clay, **103**, was revealed abutting sandstone and mortar wall, **105** (Plate 1) and deposited upon charcoal-rich sandy clay layer **104**. Wall **105** measured 0.72m in width and survived to a height of 0.49m, running at right angles to, and keyed into, the southern wall of No 25 Castle Hill. Given their juxtaposition, there is a slight possibility that layer **103** represents a floor surface contemporary with wall **105**. The relationship between wall **105** and deposit **104** was not revealed within the extent of the foundation trench, but it is possible that this deposit could represent an earlier floor.

3.2.2 **Trench 2:** this trench lay at the centre of the site, its location coinciding closely with the evaluation trench excavated in 2003 (OA North 2004). However, Foundation Trench 2 extended right to the western street frontage, 3.2m further than the evaluation trench, but was only 0.9m wide. This meant that the majority of the length of Trench 2 lay within the backfill of its predecessor and, with the exception of the 3.2m extension to the west, no further archaeological evidence was revealed. The new information has been superimposed onto the section recorded during the evaluation (Fig 3).

3.2.3 The uppermost deposit encountered within this trench, **201**, comprised a make-up deposit, which sealed an east/west-aligned eighteenth-century wall, **202**. This wall, seen only in the north-facing section, was likely to be that recorded during the evaluation (wall 3; OA North 2004). Wall **202** had been constructed into a subsoil horizon, **203** (recorded as **25** during the evaluation; *ibid*), which in turn sealed a number of features, **205**, **207** and **209** (Plate 4). Feature **209**, traversing the trench on a north/south alignment, appeared to be a ditch or gully, 0.67m wide and 0.45m deep. The single fill, **208**, produced two

pieces of medieval pottery. Features **205** and **207** appeared to be pits or postholes, as they were only observed in the north-facing section of the foundation trench; no finds were recovered from the fills of either feature. Both truncated layer **215**, which appeared to be the continuation of layer **18**, identified in the evaluation trench. Layer **18** had produced predominantly Roman finds, although a post-medieval pin retrieved cast doubt on the age of this layer (OA North 2004). No finds were retrieved from layer **215** during the watching brief to further this discussion.

- 3.2.4 Ditch **209** truncated a sequence of layers (successively **212**, **211**, **214** and **213**), none of which produced any finds. The lowest of these layers, **213**, comprised a single layer of stones; it remained unclear whether these had been placed as a surface, a levelling deposit, or merely represented the disposal of unwanted material. Layers **213** and **215** both overlay redeposited natural sandy clay **210=216**, the extent of which continued beyond the excavated depth of the trench. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this layer, which may equate with deposit **23**, identified in the evaluation, and which was believed to possibly form part of a rampart (OA North 2004).
- 3.2.5 **Trench 3:** this trench (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 5) measured 7.4m by 2m in plan, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 3m within the western half of the site against the southern boundary, formed by the wall of No 29 Castle Hill. The uppermost layer encountered, **301**, comprised demolition debris, which sealed a succession of sandy clay layers, **302-4**, which dipped eastward, matching the profile of the natural clay, **305**. Eighteenth-century finds were recovered from upper layers **301** and **302**.
- 4.2.6 **Trench 4:** this trench was 2m long by 1.8m wide, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.9m. The trench was adjacent to the southern site boundary and to the east of Trench 3 (Fig 2). The uppermost layer encountered, demolition layer **401**, overlay a layer of sandy clay, **402**, which itself overlay a layer of redeposited natural sandy clay **403**. This layer extended below the excavated depth of the foundation trench.
- 4.2.7 **Pipe Trench:** this trench was located in the north-eastern corner of the site (Fig 2) and was approximately 3.5m long. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m in wet conditions, which lead to the trench being highly unstable. The trench appeared to cut through deposits of demolition debris, although the conditions under which this work was undertaken made it impossible to be ascertain whether or not any archaeology was present.

### 3.3 FINDS

- 3.3.1 **Introduction:** In total, 33 finds were recovered from the watching brief and are catalogued in *Appendix 4*. The assemblage consisted of 27 sherds of pottery, two clay pipe fragments and single pieces of copper alloy, decorative tile, animal bone and glass.
- 3.3.2 **Pottery:** the earliest identified material comprised a single sherd of soft oxidised first- to second-century AD pottery, recovered from possible rampart

deposit **216**. Two green-glazed partially reduced greyware body sherds were recovered from ditch fill **208**; they derived from the same vessel (probably a jug) and dated approximately to the thirteenth to early fourteenth century.

- 3.3.3 All 24 fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from stratified contexts, although most derived from demolition and make-up deposits. The earliest of these were a sherd of seventeenth-century lead-glazed earthenware from demolition layer **102** and fragments of seventeenth- to eighteenth-century manganese-mottled ware from demolition deposit **401**, including an unusual cup fragment with a marble slip. Eighteenth-century pottery comprised fine white salt-glazed stoneware, tin-glazed earthenware and decorated delftware, which may have come from the Lancaster factory on St George's Quay. The latter included, from redeposited natural sandy clay layer **103**, a hand-painted plate depicting a vase, dog and ball. Eighteenth- to nineteenth-century pottery consisted of slip-trailed redware, possibly from Burton-in-Lonsdale, and a few sherds of blackware.
- 3.3.4 **Ceramic building material:** a single piece of decorative tile was recovered from demolition layer **101**, in Trench 1. Stylistically, the fragment appears to be of the art nouveau period, c 1890-1910, although may belong to a slightly later period.
- 3.3.5 **Clay pipe:** two clay pipe stems were recovered from make-up layers **302** and **401**. Both were of eighteenth to nineteenth century date, but could not be attributed to any maker.
- 3.3.6 **Glass:** a fragment of eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century bottleneck was recovered from make-up layer **302** in Trench 3.
- 3.3.7 **Bone:** a single unidentified large mammal bone fragment was recovered from make-up layer **302**. It appeared to have been rodent gnawed.
- 3.3.8 **Copper alloy:** a single piece of copper alloy bar, possibly a fragment of a Roman brooch, was unearthed from redeposited natural sandy clay layer **403**.
- 3.3.9 **Conclusions:** although the finds assemblage is small, the presence of artefacts in association with several of the features give important dating information, whilst those from demolition and make-up layers provide more general chronology for the occupation of the site as a whole. Similarly, the post-medieval assemblage also reveals clues about the domestic nature of the activity and, perhaps less surely, the status, of the eighteenth-century occupants, who appear wealthy enough to have had hand-decorated delft wares.

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## 4. DISCUSSION

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### 4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 Whilst the restricted visibility and accessibility afforded by the deep narrow foundation trenches meant that the watching brief findings were limited compared to those of the evaluation undertaken in 2003, and much less so than might be expected from an open area excavation, the programme of works did reveal information complimentary, and additional, to that recovered in 2003 (OA North 2004). Where referenced in the following discussion, contexts allocated during the evaluation run from **1-35**, those in the watching brief from **101** to **403**, with the first digit referring to the foundation trench in which the deposit was identified. The most significant watching brief results were obtained at the western end of Foundation Trench 2, where deposits that had not been exposed during the evaluation were revealed, supplying information that both supported and augmented the 2003 findings. The more limited results from Trenches 1, 3 and 4 might be explained partly by their location adjoining eighteenth-century walls, positions that are likely to have seen previous disturbance. Equally, the poor conditions encountered during the excavation of the service trench in the north-east corner of the site mean that the negative results cannot necessarily be considered to be indicative of an absence of archaeological deposits there.
- 4.1.2 The most obvious feature is the westward continuation of the roughly north/south-aligned putative Roman rampart of redeposited natural sandy clay, represented by deposits **16**, **22** and **23** in the evaluation, and by deposit **210=216** in the watching brief. When considered together, these would make the putative rampart at least 8m wide. Relative to the haul of Roman artefacts recovered from this feature during the evaluation, finds from deposit **210=216** were sparse, although the fact that the sole pottery sherd could be dated to the late first to second century AD, very similar to a number of the finds made in 2003, may well be significant. Although no closely datable finds were recovered from redeposited natural sandy clay layers **303** and **403**, these would seem to mark the continuation of the earthwork to, and beyond, the southern site boundary. Despite the limited visibility and access, Trench 3 is of particular interest, because this seems to be the only point at which the boundary between natural geology **305** and rampart deposit **303** was observed, perhaps with a buried soil horizon, **304**, sandwiched between. It is unfortunate, however, that this interface could not be explored in more detail, as such an area would have excellent potential for the preservation of pre-rampart features and land surfaces. Putative cobbled surface **213** may also be of significance, given the possible metallurgy of evaluated rampart deposit **16**. If these deposits are analogous, then it may be suggested that cobbles **213** are close to marking the western edge of the rampart, as they lie somewhat lower than rampart deposit **210=216**, to the immediate east. It is even possible that these represent an inter vallum road.
- 4.1.3 Such information does help to provide further information about a substantial second-century earthwork, probably a rampart, in the area, but many questions

remain. For example, it is still not possible to establish the finer alignment of the feature, thus allowing a better understanding of how it might have adjoined the known parts of the fort. Without such information, one cannot say whether it represents the, as yet, poorly located southern end of the eastern rampart of the main fort, an annex adjoining the south-east corner of the fort, or even a metalled terrace, with or without defences.

- 4.1.4 Unlike the evaluation, no fourth-century Roman pottery was recovered from the watching brief and thus no deposits can be identified definitively as being of this date. However, just as evaluated deposit **34** seems to have been deposited against the east face of the then-disused earthwork during the third and fourth centuries, so would watching brief layers **214**, **211** and **212** seem to have developed against the western face. Significantly, the watching brief has identified a feature likely to be of medieval date, a period for which no stratified evidence was recovered during the evaluation. From the absence of later finds, and the presence of the well-preserved rejoining sherds of thirteenth- to fourteenth-century pottery from fill **208** of ditch/gully **209**, it would seem that this feature is medieval in date, and possibly relates to the demarcation of a burgage plot running off China Lane, to the east, and shown on Speed's map of 1610. Curiously, Docton's (1957) reconstructed map of Lancaster in 1684 shows very little development on China Lane, and would instead place the development site in a burgage running from Market Street, to the south.
- 4.1.5 To the east of ditch/gully **209**, pits/postholes **205** and **207** were of similar small size. Whilst undoubtedly truncated, the steep angle of their cuts suggests that they were never particularly wide and their form, together with an absence of evidence for refuse, is perhaps more indicative of postholes. Although postholes **205** and **207** were observed at a similar level to ditch/gully **209**, they do not share the same stratigraphic relationships as the ditch and, instead, cut soil horizon **215** (identified as layer **18**, and possibly also layer **28**, in the evaluation). Layer **215** was bereft of finds, whilst those from layer **18** comprised redeposited early Roman material; finds from layer **28**, however, were late medieval to early post-medieval, and this is likely to be the date of layer **28/18=215**. It is not unthinkable then, that postholes **205** and **207** represent an early post-medieval structure built within the rear of a Market Street burgage, along the developing Castle Hill frontage.
- 4.1.6 By the later eighteenth century, any timber-framed structure within the plot seems to have been demolished, and a levelling layer (**203=25**) deposited. East/west-aligned wall **202=3** was constructed within this levelling layer and seems to have been an internal division of the eighteenth-century stone-built house that took up most, if not all, of the Castle Hill street frontage. Perpendicular wall **105**, identified in Trench 1 as being keyed into the wall of No 25, is likely to be another, contemporary, internal division. This could indicate that the ground floor of the house was divided into at least two rooms at the street frontage, with perhaps a single room to the rear, represented by floor layers **4** and **12-15**, revealed in the evaluation, and layers **103** and **104** observed during the watching brief.

## 4.2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.2.1 Although an examination of Figure 2 would suggest that a substantial proportion of the site has been disturbed by the programme of development groundworks, this needs to be tempered with a consideration of the fact that the central foundation trench coincided with the evaluation trench excavated in 2003, whilst Trenches 1, 3 and 4 lay in areas that had already seen a degree of previous disturbance. As such, significant archaeological remains, particularly those that might provide information about the construction and usage of the putative early Roman rampart, of later Roman landscaping, and of medieval and early post-medieval activity in the area, are likely to remain preserved *in situ* between these trenches and to the rear of the property.

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## 6. ILLUSTRATIONS

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### 6.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Trench Location Map

Figure 3: Sections through Foundation Trenches 1, 2 and 3

Figure 4: Location of Roman forts on Castle Hill (based on Jones and Shotter 'Roman Lancaster' Fig. 69)

### 6.2 PLATES

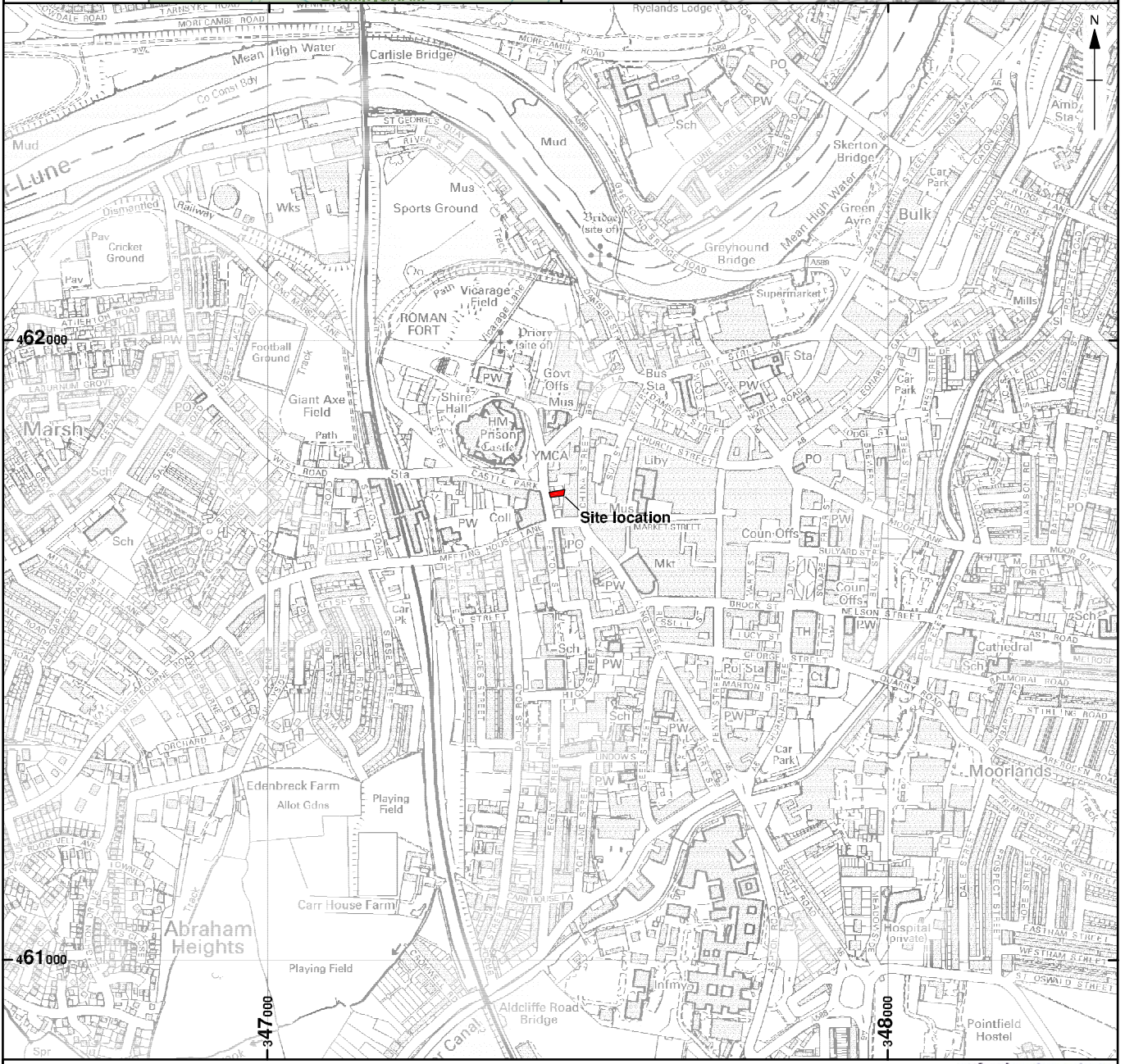
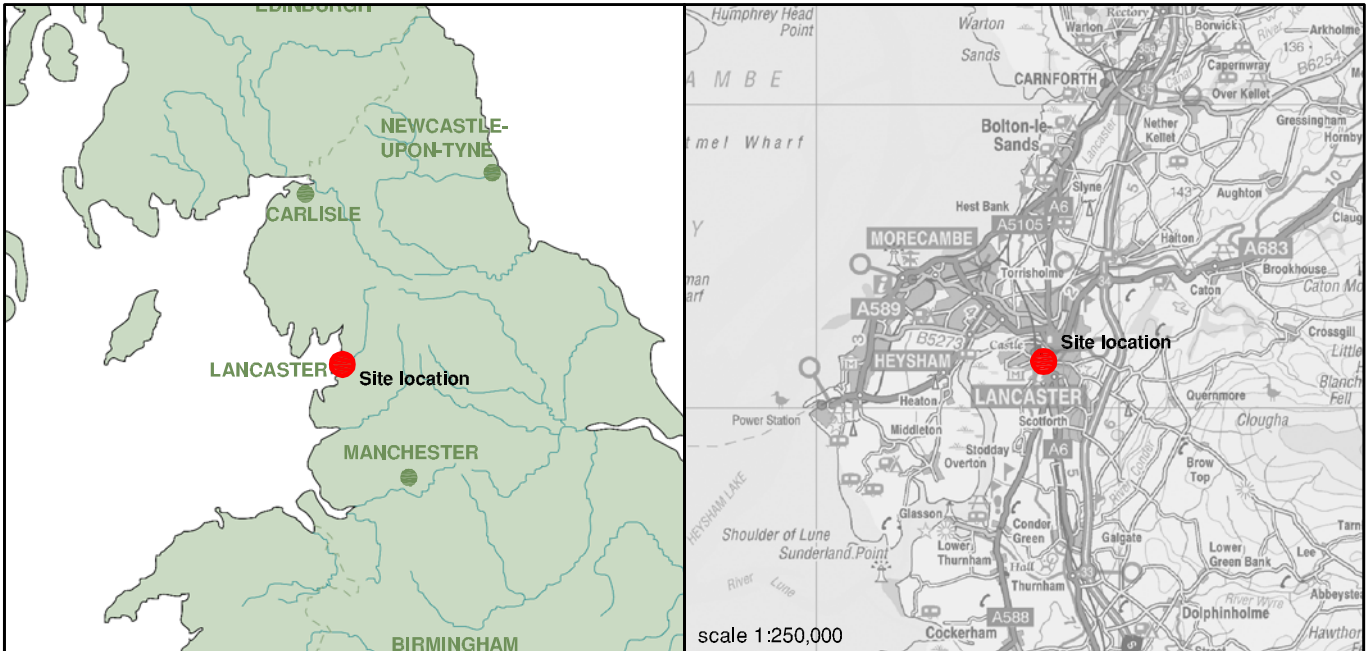
Plate 1: Central segment of Foundation Trench 1, facing north and showing stone wall **105**

Plate 2: North-facing section of Foundation Trench 1, east end.

Plate 3: General shot of Foundation Trench 2, facing west

Plate 4: North-facing section of Foundation Trench 2, west end, showing pit/posthole **206** and ditch/gully **209** cutting Roman earthwork deposit **210=216**

Plate 5: East-facing section of Foundation Trench 3



SR\*L9782\*APS\*17.06.09

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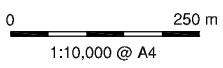
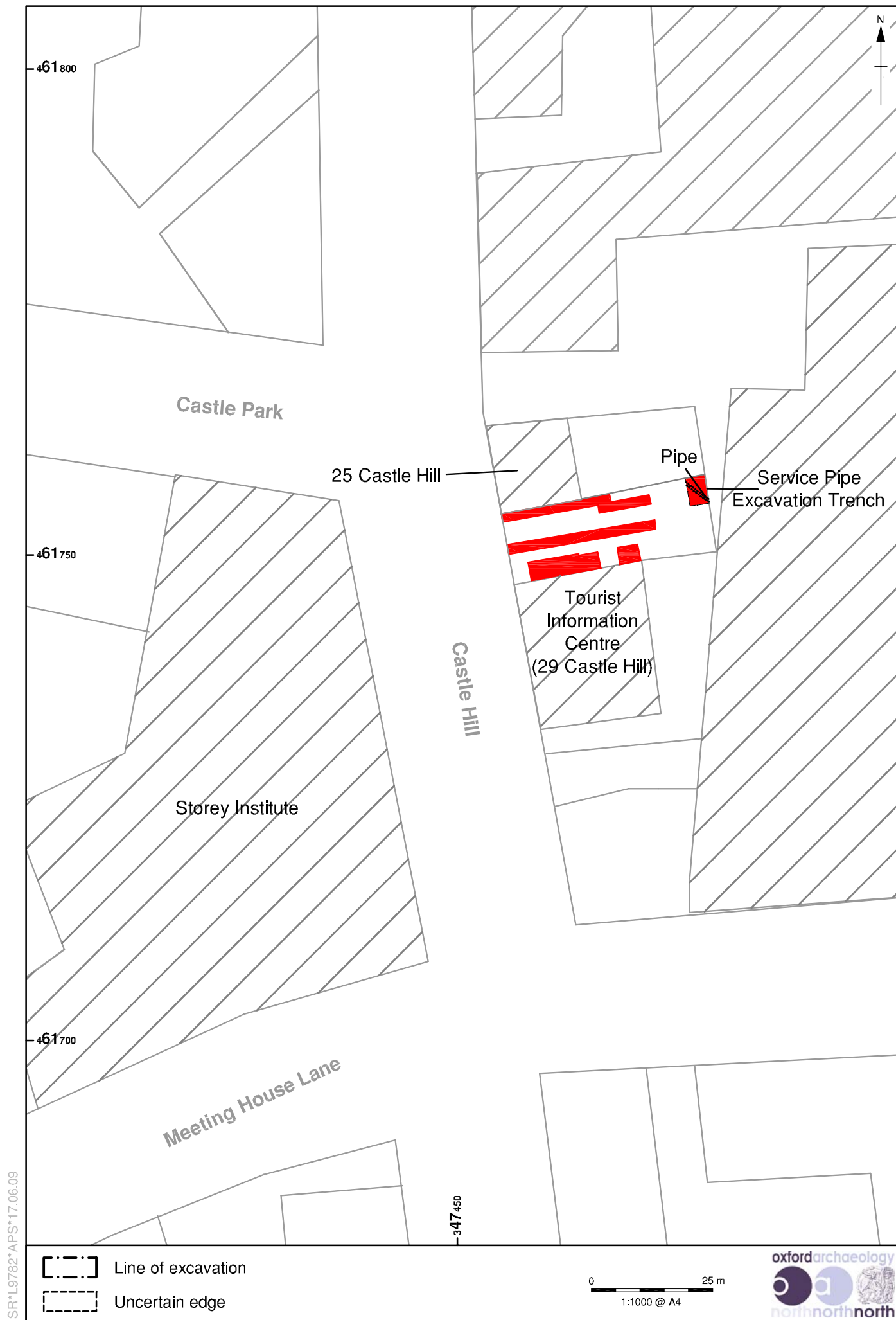
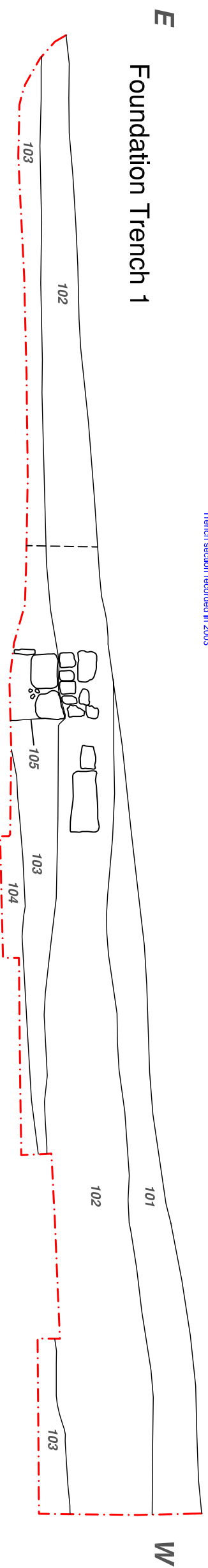
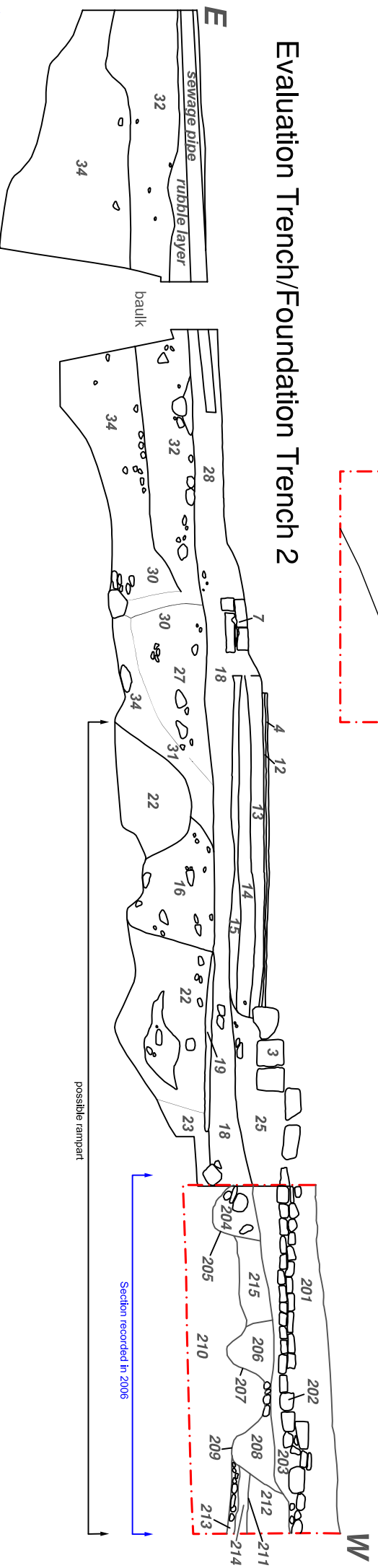
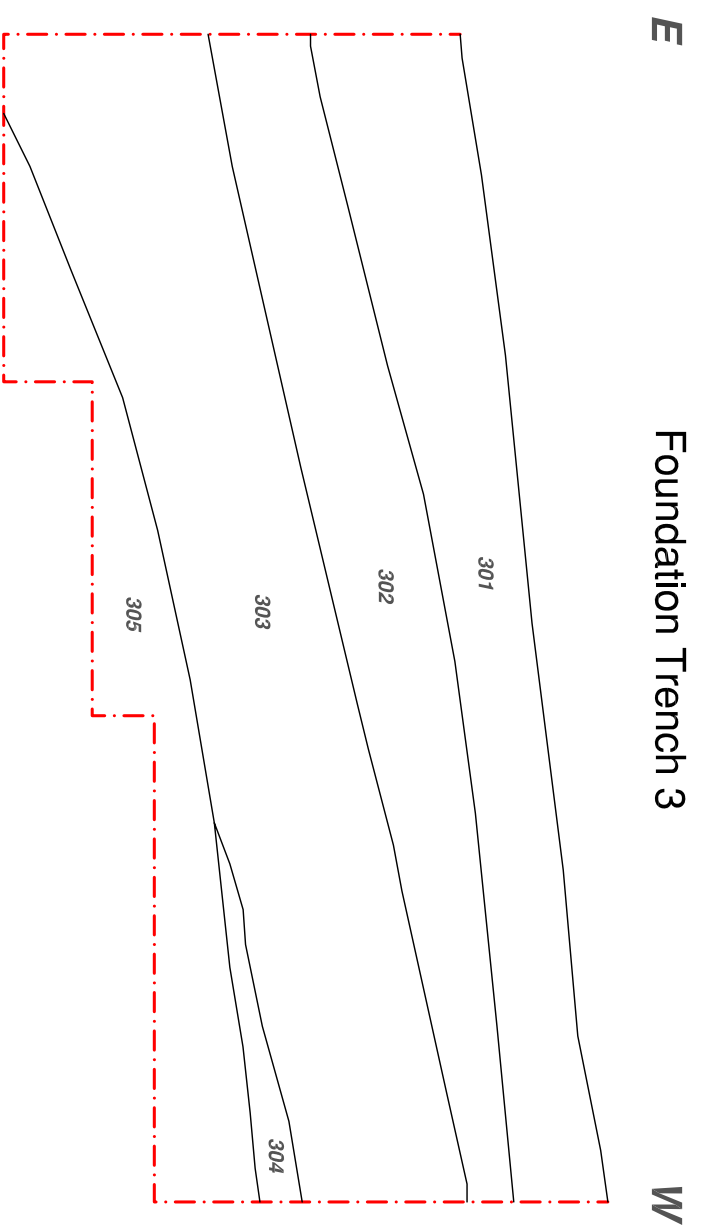


Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: Trench Location







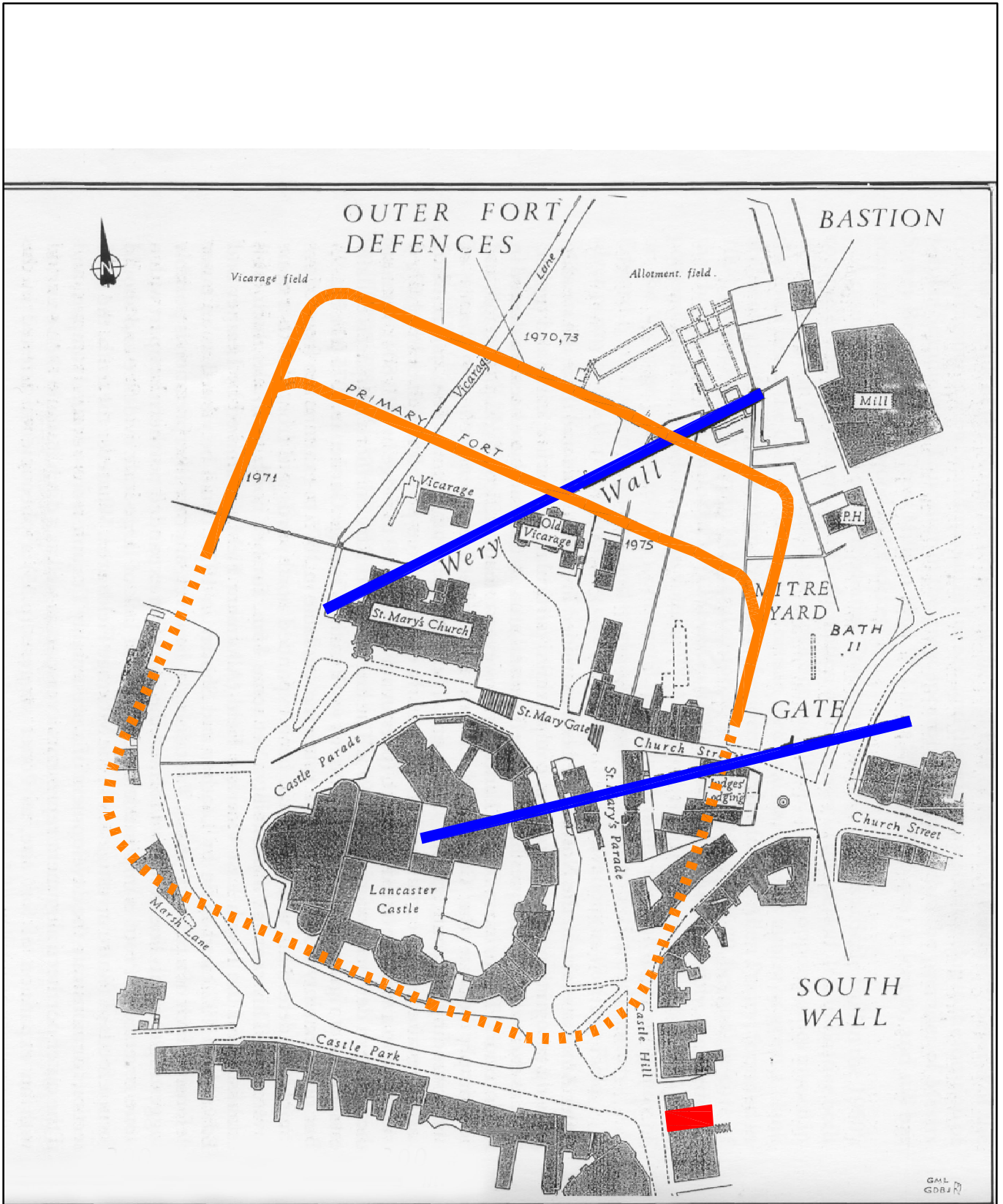




-  Line of excavation
-  Feature
-  Uncertain edge
-  Stone



Figure 3: North-facing sections of trenches excavated at 27 Church Street, with new data recorded in 2006 added to that recorded in 2003



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-  Site
-  Forts (first - third centuries)
-  Projected line of forts (first - third centuries)
-  4th century fort

0 50 m  
1:2000 @ A4



Figure 4: Location of Roman Forts on Castle Hill (based on Jones & Shotter 'Roman Lancaster' fig 69)



Plate 1: Central segment of Foundation Trench 1, facing north and showing stone wall *105*



Plate 2: North-facing section of Foundation Trench 1, east end.



Plate 3: General shot of Foundation Trench 2, facing west



Plate 4: North-facing section of Foundation Trench 2, west end, showing pit/posthole **206** and ditch/gully **209** cutting Roman earthwork deposit **210=216**



Plate 5: East-facing section of Foundation Trench 3



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## APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 In 2003, Norman Jackson Contractors (henceforth, the Client) submitted proposals for a residential development at 27 Castle Hill, Lancaster, Lancashire (NGR 474 617). The development encompasses approximately 360m<sup>2</sup> and will include the excavation of a half cellar towards the front (west) of the site. Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) issued a brief for an evaluation, comprising a single trench measuring 12m by 3m on an east/west axis. This was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in autumn 2003 and indicated the survival of significant archaeological remains within the development area to a depth of at least 2.4m below the present ground level (OA North 2004). Accordingly, LCAS recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during all groundworks associated with the development. At the request of the Client, OA North have been invited to undertake the watching brief, and the following project design has been compiled to meet the standard LCAS requirements for such works.

#### 1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 Although several Bronze Age palstaves and occasional chance finds of prehistoric date are known from the area of Castle Hill (White 1998), the earliest known settlement activity relates to the utilisation of the hill for the site of a Roman fort in the later first century AD (Jones and Shotton 1998). As with many such installations, it is likely that a civilian settlement developed around the fort, traces of which have been recovered in the area of Church Street (*ibid*), and it is possible that the development site fall either within the south-eastern edge of the fort, or at the northern edge of the civilian settlement. The archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2003 located a number of truncated deposits and pits of second- and fourth-century date, together with a metal surface and second-century features, possibly relating to ramparts and sealed by fourth-century deposits. The fort was remodelled on two occasions over the next three centuries of Roman administration and it is likely that the site continued to be of significance in the early medieval period: the discovery of a seventh-century AD Anglian cross from the Priory certainly attests to a religious focus in the area.
- 1.2.2 A hoard of Northumbrian *Stycas* from Vicarage Fields and fragments of ninth-century Anglo-Scandinavian crosses from the Priory demonstrate continued activity, as does the reference to *Chercaloncastre* (Church Lancaster) in the Domesday Book. It is unsurprising, therefore, that Roger de Poitou, the Norman *de facto* ruler of a large portion of the North West, chose the site for his own castle in 1086 or that the Priory was built on the site of a probable precursor in 1094. The nature of medieval urban development within the locale of the development is less clearly known; the evaluation indicated that the Roman deposits were sealed by early post-medieval layers, but occasional sherds of medieval pottery suggested contemporary activity within the wider area. These were in turned sealed beneath the remains of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century buildings, which are likely to be those depicted on contemporary cartographic sources.

#### 1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of undertaking watching briefs of all periods, having conducted a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 25 years. Fieldwork has taken place within the planning process and construction programmes, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.3.2 OA North is an Institute of Field 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 in accordance with the Lancashire County Archaeology Service document entitled *General Conditions for Appropriate Archaeological Contractors in Lancashire*.
- 2.2 **Watching Brief:** in order to determine the presence, date, quality and state of preservation of archaeological features on the site, a permanent presence archaeological watching brief will be maintained during groundworks associated with the proposed development, including foundations and service trenches.
- 2.3 **Report and Archive:** a report will be produced for the Client within about eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. The report will aim to summarise the results of the watching brief within the context of existing knowledge about the site and its surroundings. These results will provide the basis for any recommendations for further work, should this prove appropriate. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

## 3. WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.1 In line with the objectives and stages of the archaeological works stated above, the following work programme is submitted:
- 3.2 **Watching Brief:** to be maintained during any ground disturbing activities on the site.
- 3.3 **Report and Archive:** production of a suitably illustrated report and properly ordered archive.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 4.1.1 A programme of field observation will accurately and systematically examine and record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features, horizons and/or deposits revealed during the course of ground disturbance, along with any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 4.1.2 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. A photographic record of archaeological features and general working shots, utilising monochrome print and colour slide will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 4.1.3 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more measured sections will be produced, regardless of the presence of archaeology.
- 4.1.4 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified during 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).
- 4.1.5 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important deposits. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high

density of archaeology is discovered, but this would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and LCAS and will require a variation to costing.

- 4.1.6 **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. LCAS and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential, the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA) 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, and if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.
- 4.1.7 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the watching brief works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs or contact prints) to identify and illustrate individual features as well as the nature of the demolition work. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 4.1.8 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.
- 4.1.9 **Treatment of finds:** excavated soil will be searched as practicable for finds. The presence and nature of finds definitely dating to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries will be noted but they will not otherwise be retained. All other finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed, as appropriate, in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines. Except where noted above, 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.
- 4.1.10 **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.
- 4.1.11 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features or human remains being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Planning Archaeologist, as to the extent of further works to be carried out, and in agreement with the Client. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design.

## 5. REPORT

- 5.1 The results of the data gathered in *Section 4.1* above, will be collated and submitted in report format, illustrated with the relevant photographs and drawings. Where appropriate, the report will attempt to relate any findings to the known history and archaeology of the site, and to its local setting.
- 5.2 One bound and one unbound copy of the report will be submitted to the Client, and one bound copy and another in digital format will be submitted to LCAS and to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record together with an archive CD-ROM. Any subsequent work arising from this survey will be subject to separate consideration in liaison with LCAS and the Client.
- 5.3 The final report will include a copy of this project design and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above, and will include details of the final deposition of the project

archive. Illustrations will include a location map, trench location plan and plans and sections of trenches drawn at an appropriate scale.

- 5.3 A brief summary of the fieldwork will be prepared and submitted to the Council for British Archaeology North West *Archaeology North West* within 12 months of the completion of the project.

## **6. ARCHIVE**

- 6.1 The results of the watching brief will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The fully indexed project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include all the original records and drawings along with fully labelled and indexed slides and contact prints. It will include summary processing and analysis of any features and finds recovered during fieldwork, in accordance with UKIC guidelines. 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, and arrangement to this effect will be made with the museum curator prior to the commencement of the project.

- 6.2 All finds will be treated in accordance with OA North standard practice, which follows current IFA guidelines and will be deposited, along with a copy of the report and of the original site records, with Lancaster City Museum.

## **7. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 7.1 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 written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.
- 7.2 The client would be asked to determine the nature of any utility services to the properties and site prior to any fieldwork being carried out.
- 7.3 OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

## **8. CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 8.1 The final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, 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.
- 8.2 Any proposed variations to the project design will be agreed with LCAS in co-ordination with the Client. OA North will arrange a preliminary meeting, if required, and LCAS will be informed of the commencement of the project in writing.

## **9. WORK PROGRAMME**

- 9.1 The following programme is proposed:
- 9.2 **Watching Brief:** the duration of the watching brief will be dependent upon the progress of the contractor.

- 9.3 **Archive/Report:** the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be submitted within about eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork and the archive deposited within six months. If desired, an interim statement could be produced within ten days of completion of the fieldwork.

## 10. STAFFING

- 10.1 The project will be managed by **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 10.2 The watching brief will be undertaken by an OA North Supervisor, suitably experienced in fieldwork techniques. Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing at this stage exactly who will be undertaking this element of the project.
- 10.3 The archaeological work will be monitored by LCAS, which will be arranged accordingly.

## 11. REFERENCES

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, second edition, London

Jones, GDB, and Shotton, DCA, 1988 *Roman Lancaster: Rescue Archaeology in an Historic City 1970-75*, Brigantia Monograph No. 1, Manchester

Oxford Archaeology North, 2004 *27 Castle hill, Lancaster, Archaeological Evaluation* unpubl rep

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

UKIC, 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*, London

UKIC, 1998 *First Aid for Finds*, London

White, A J, 1988 The Pre-Roman Period at Lancaster, in *Roman Lancaster: Rescue Archaeology in an Historic City 1970-75* (eds GDB Jones and DCA Shotton), Brigantia Monograph No. 1, Manchester, 21-23

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Founda tion Trench	Description
<b>101</b>	1	Make-up layer of light greyish-black sandy clay and ash with 50% inclusions of building rubble
<b>102</b>	1	Make-up layer of dark greyish-black sandy clay with 50% inclusions of building rubble
<b>103</b>	1	Orange/brown firm sandy clay, inclusions of 5% small to medium sub-rounded stones; redeposited natural geology
<b>104</b>	1	Mid-brown firm sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and small fragments of CBM
<b>105</b>	1	Limestone and mortar wall
<b>201</b>	2	Make-up layer of light greyish-black sandy clay and ash; 50% inclusions of building rubble
<b>202</b>	2	Base of stone and mortar wall
<b>203</b>	2	Buried soil horizon of light brown sandy clay and occasional sub-rounded stone
<b>204</b>	2	Fill of possible pit <b>205</b> ; mid-brown friable sandy clay with inclusions of 30% small, medium and large stones
<b>205</b>	2	Cut of possible pit, filled by <b>204</b>
<b>206</b>	2	Fill of possible pit <b>207</b> , consisting of a mid-brown firm sandy clay with 10% small to medium sub-rounded stone
<b>207</b>	2	Cut of possible pit, filled by <b>206</b>
<b>208</b>	2	Fill of possible ditch <b>209</b> , consisting of a reddish-brown firm sandy clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones
<b>209</b>	2	Cut of possible ditch, filled by <b>208</b>
<b>210</b>	2	Buried soil horizon consisting of mid-brown firm sandy clay with 5% small to medium sub-rounded stones
<b>211</b>	2	Thin lens of light yellowish-brown slightly sandy clay
<b>212</b>	2	Layer of soil consisting of dark brown firm sandy clay with 5% small to medium sub-rounded stones
<b>213</b>	2	Single layer of stones (approx 50-70mm in size)
<b>214</b>	2	Orange/brown firm sandy clay, inclusions of 10% small to medium sub-rounded stones; redeposited natural geology
<b>215</b>	2	Layer of soil consisting of dark brown firm sandy clay with 5% small to medium sub-rounded stones
<b>216</b>	2	Layer of soil consisting of dark brown firm sandy clay with 5% small to medium sub-rounded stones
<b>217</b>	2	Layer of soil consisting of mid-brown firm sandy clay with 5% small to medium sub-rounded stones
<b>301</b>	3	Make up layer of light greyish-black sandy clay and ash, 50% inclusions of building rubble
<b>302</b>	3	Make up layer of dark greyish-black sandy clay with 50% inclusions of building rubble
<b>303</b>	3	Orange/brown firm sandy clay, inclusions of 10% small to medium sub-rounded stones; redeposited natural geology
<b>304</b>	3	Greyish-brown firm sandy clay, 10% small sub-rounded stones
<b>305</b>	3	Mid-Brown compact clay with 10% small to medium sub-rounded stones. Natural geology
<b>401</b>	4	Make-up layer of light greyish-black sandy clay and ash with 50% inclusions of building rubble
<b>402</b>	4	Make-up layer of dark greyish-black sandy clay with 50% inclusions of building rubble
<b>403</b>	4	Reddish-brown firm slightly sandy clay, <0.5% small to medium sub-rounded stones; redeposited natural geology

## APPENDIX 3: FINDS CATALOGUE

**Key:** ORN = Object Record Number; C = Context; Q = Quantity

ORN	C	Q	Material	Description	Date
1001	101	1	Post-medieval pottery	Pearlware cup	Late nineteenth to twentieth century
1002	101	1	Ceramic	Art deco/nouveau wall tile	c 1890-1930
1003	101	1	Post-medieval pottery	Pearlware	Nineteenth to twentieth century
1004	101	1	Post-medieval pottery	Metropolitan/metropolitan-type trailed slipware plate/bowl; local?	Eighteenth century
1005	101	1	Glass	Bottle neck	Nineteenth century
1006	102	1	Bone	Unidentified large mammal bone with rodent gnawing	Not closely datable
1007	102	1	Post-medieval pottery	Delftware plate	Eighteenth century
1008	103	1	Post-medieval pottery	Delftware plate	Eighteenth century
1009	401	1	Ceramic	Clay pipe stem	Nineteenth century
1010	401	1	Post-medieval pottery	Manganese-mottled-type cup base/body sherd with marbled slip	Eighteenth century
1010	401	2	Post-medieval pottery	Delftware with sponged detail	Eighteenth century
1010	401	3	Post-medieval pottery	Manganese-mottled/lead-glazed-type cup	Seventeenth to eighteenth century
1015	402	2	Post-medieval pottery	Midlands Blackware	Eighteenth century
1011	403	1	Copper alloy	Small bar, possibly from a brooch	Roman?
1012	101	1	Post-medieval pottery	Creamware plate	Nineteenth century
1012	101	1	Post-medieval pottery	White earthenware	Twentieth century
1012	101	1	Post-medieval pottery	Staffordshire slipware	Eighteenth century
1012	101	1	Post-medieval pottery	Brown-glazed red earthenware pancheon	Eighteenth to nineteenth century
1013	102	1	Post-medieval pottery	Lead-glazed red earthenware	Seventeenth century
1014	301	1	Post-medieval pottery	Delftware	Eighteenth century
1014	301	1	Post-medieval pottery	Fine salt-glazed stoneware; Staffordshire	Eighteenth century
1016	101	4	Post-medieval pottery	Rouletted/press-moulded salt-glazed stoneware cup	Eighteenth century
1017	302	1	Ceramic	Clay pipe stem	Eighteenth century
1018	208	2	Medieval pottery	Green-glazed partially reduced greyware jug; 2 rejoining sherds	Thirteenth to early fourteenth century
1019	216	1	Roman pottery	Partially reduced soft fabric; probable flagon handle; possibly local origin	First to second century

## APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVE INDEX

<b>Record group</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Box/File Number</b>
	<b>Introduction</b> Project Briefs Project Designs		1/1
<b>A</b>	<b>Report</b> 2003 Evaluation 2006 Watching Brief		1/2
<b>B</b>	<b>Primary Fieldwork Records</b> a) CAS03 Context Index Context Records b) CAH06 Watching Brief Record Context Index Context Records Levels		1/3  1/4
<b>C</b>	<b>Primary Drawings</b> Plan Indices	Plans contained in separate tube	1/5
<b>D</b>	<b>Finds Compendium</b> CAS03 Box List CAH06 Box List		1/6
<b>E</b>	<b>Environmental Records</b> CAS03 Sample Register		1/7
<b>F</b>	<b>Photographic Record</b> a) CAS03 Monochrome Colour Slides b) CAH06 Monochrome Colour Slides Digital		1/8  1/9
<b>G</b>	<b>Electronic Media</b>		1/10