

MILL LANE, WALNEY ISLAND, BARROW-IN- FURNESS, CUMBRIA

Documentary Research, Building Survey and Watching Brief

Oxford Archaeology North



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SUMMARY

Following submission by Capita Symonds of a planning application (reference 6/05/9001) to develop land on the northern side of Mill Lane, Walney Island, Cumbria (SD 180 693), Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) requested that a programme of archaeological works be conducted in association with the proposed development (*Appendix 1*). The development comprised a skateboard park, football and rugby pitches, a multi-use playing-field area and a new pathway around the 1800m² site.

The programme of archaeological works was to comprise documentary research of the subject site to complement an existing desk-based assessment undertaken by Iron Bridge Archaeology, the recording of the existing buildings prior to their demolition, and an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development. Following submission of a project design to fulfil the brief issued by CCCHES, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were commissioned to undertake the work, commencing in July 2005.

The documentary research was undertaken in July and August 2005, and determined that the site had, throughout its history, predominantly been used for agriculture, either arable or pasture, and, during the medieval period, was almost certainly farmed by tenant farmers under the control of Furness Abbey. The land reverted to pasture in the post-medieval period and remained so until its temporary use as a military base during World War II. The military buildings fell into disuse after the war and became tenanted by 'squatters' who used them as houses for a short period during the late 1940s and early 1950s. Subsequently, the area as a whole generally fell into disrepair and became wasteland. The building recording survey, carried out in July and August 2005 supported this conclusion. The results of this survey indicated that the buildings recorded dated no earlier than the 1940s.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks comprising topsoil stripping and drainage trenching in July and August 2005. Few horizons of archaeological significance were observed during the works; however, in the area of the skate-park, several parallel linear features were exposed. These are undoubtedly associated with the period when the land had been used for agriculture, and were probably the vestigial remains of ridge and furrow farming. No diagnostic finds were recovered from these features, but it is likely that they were the remnants of an agricultural practice that has its roots in the medieval period.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Guy Weller of Capita Symonds for commissioning the project, and the staff of Ken Hope Limited for their assistance on site.

Daniel Elsworth carried out the documentary research and building recording, and David Tonks and Andy Bates undertook the watching brief. Daniel Elsworth and David Tonks wrote the report. The finds were examined by Jo Dawson and the drawings were produced by Christina Clarke and Marie Rowland. Stephen Rowland managed the project and edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Cumbria County Council propose to build a teenage activity centre (Planning Reference 6/05/9001) on land on the northern side of Mill Lane, Walney Island, Cumbria (SD 180 693; Fig 1). The proposed development includes the construction of a skateboard park, football and rugby pitches, a multi-use playing-field area and a new pathway around the site, which comprised 1800m² of semi-derelict scrub land. Accordingly Cumbria County Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) recommended that a programme of archaeological works be conducted prior to and during the development (*Appendix 1*). This was to consist of documentary research of the subject site to supplement a previous desk-based assessment undertaken by Ironbridge Archaeology (2004), the recording of several existing buildings on the site prior to their demolition, and an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks associated with the development. In accordance with this brief, a project design (*Appendix 2*) was supplied by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North). The project design was approved by CCCHES, and OA North was duly commissioned by Capita Symonds to carry out the archaeological programme, which was undertaken between July and August 2005; this report sets out the results in the form of a short document.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The site was scrub grassland when the project was conducted and had formerly been occupied by MoD buildings associated with usage of the site during the Second World War. The development site is situated immediately north of Mill Lane and is bordered to the north by grassland, to the east by a public footpath and fire station, and to the west by West Shore Road. The site is located on a largely flat area of land, whilst the surrounding area is slightly undulating in character.

1.2.2 The underlying solid geology consists of Permo-Triassic rock, mainly composed of Steeton Bees Sandstone, with some overlying mudstone (Countryside Commission 1998, 27). The drift geology is entirely glacially-derived, and consists of stiff boulder clay mixed with sand and glacial boulders (Barnes 1968) with outcrops of sand and gravel in places (Countryside Commission 1998, 27). However, the soils in the vicinity of the site are classed only as Urban by the Soil Survey (1983) and otherwise remain unclassified.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 Through circumstances beyond the control of OA North, and with sole relation to the watching brief, the project design (*Appendix 2*) was not fully adhered to in that the overwhelming majority of the groundworks were conducted in the absence of suitable monitoring by an archaeologist. Otherwise, the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

2.2.1 The documentary research was intended to complement and enhance the existing desk-based assessment (Ironbridge Archaeology 2004). In order to do this, however, it was necessary to examine many of the sources referred to in the earlier report, as well as examine several additional sources of both primary and secondary information. Particular emphasis was placed on discovering details relating to the military use of the site, although, as is evident in *Section 3*, this proved very difficult.

2.2.2 A number of locations were visited in order to provide the appropriate information:

- the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness (CRO(B)) – primary sources, particularly maps and other documents, and secondary sources such as directories and local histories;
- the OA North library has a wide range of secondary sources and unpublished reports relating to the area, produced both as OA North and in the former guise of Lancaster University Archaeology Unit (LUAU);
- private collections – secondary sources covering the general area.

2.3 BUILDING RECORDING

2.3.1 A single standing building and two concrete platforms were examined as part of the building recording. In addition, a former field boundary was also recorded.

2.3.2 The building recording mainly comprised a photographic record; black and white and colour slide shots were taken of all of the structures, their immediate environs, and any features of architectural interest. In addition, written descriptive records were made of each structure, and hand-drawn plans produced at a scale of 1:50. The location of the building, concrete platforms and field boundaries was sketched onto a location map of the site (Fig 2).

2.4 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.4.1 Every attempt was made by OA North to maintain close liaison with the site contractors during the watching brief. Where practicable, the programme of field observation recorded the location, extent and character of any surviving archaeological features. This work comprised observation during a small part of the topsoil strip and the examination and preliminary classification of any features thus exposed. In addition, the approximate location of any such features was planned at an appropriate scale and any finds retained for later analysis. A photographic record in colour slide and monochrome formats was also compiled.

2.5 ARCHIVE

- 2.5.1 A full archive of the work undertaken has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The archive will be deposited in the Cumbria County Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness and a copy of this report will be deposited with the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (CHER), Kendal.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The site has been the subject of a previous archaeological desk-based assessment (Ironbridge Archaeology 2004), so the following section is intended only to provide a summary of the historical and archaeological context of the site. Where possible, specific reference is made to the immediate locality of the site and any events known to have taken place nearby.

3.2 HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

3.2.1 **Prehistoric period:** significant concentrations of Mesolithic material have been found on the Furness Peninsula, comprising mainly chance finds from eroding dunes and the coast (Elsworth 1998). This evidence is particularly centred on parts of Walney Island (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 35) and fieldwalking elsewhere in Furness has demonstrated a less intensive lithic distribution pattern than that found on Walney (*ibid*). As the Mesolithic sea-level was somewhat lower than today, the find-spots would have occupied low-lying inland areas and, considering that much of the land was then covered by thick forest, the limitation of human habitation to more diverse and easily exploited areas is hardly surprising. During the construction of Walney School in 1957-8, a particularly large collection of lithic artefacts of Mesolithic date were discovered at Sandy Gap, off Central Drive, approximately 1km to the south-west of the present development site, (Barnes 1970).

3.2.2 Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity has also been recognised elsewhere on the Furness peninsula. Polished stone axes, adzes and axe-hammers of Neolithic and Bronze Age date are found scattered throughout the area, and approximately 90% have been shown by petrological analysis to have come from the volcanic tuff, extracted on a seasonal basis, from the axe factories of Great Langdale (Barnes 1968). Some of earliest and largest recorded sites of prehistoric flint scatters, probably of Neolithic date, were identified on raised beaches on Walney (Cross 1938; 1939). A single incidence of Beaker pottery has been found on the island itself, although there may be some doubt about its attribution (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 43); a stray find of a Grooved Ware bowl of late Neolithic date has also been found there (*ibid*). Several barbed and tanged arrowhead spot finds are also recorded (*ibid*). No sites dating to the Iron Age are confirmed from the immediate vicinity of the site, although there are settlements further inland that were probably occupied from the end of the Bronze Age and into the Iron Age (Barnes 1968).

3.2.3 **Romano-British period:** the impact of the Roman invasion upon Walney is unknown; indeed, it is uncertain what effect it had on the entire Furness Peninsula. Early antiquarian accounts identified the remains of a road crossing the peninsula near Ulverston and a fort at Dalton and, although subsequently

dismissed (Elsworth forthcoming), recent re-investigation of this evidence has suggested that these claims may have some validity (*ibid*). Recent excavations at Urswick have made claims of discovering a Roman fort and civilian settlement, but, as yet, have produced no evidence to support such claims (Dickinson 2002; 2005). Similarly, the suggestion that ‘*Walney or Piel would have been a likely spot for a coastal signal station to guide Roman ships along the western coast to Ravenglass*’ (Trescaheric 1992, 7), whilst appealing, has no physical evidence to substantiate it.

3.2.4 **Medieval period:** little is known of the early medieval period for the immediate vicinity of the development area, but many of the place-names suggest that the Norse had a considerable influence on the landscape (Kendall 1899, 45-6). North Scale, less than a kilometre to the north-east, for example, means ‘the north temporary settlement’, and demonstrates that settlements were probably present in the area in the early medieval period. In 1066 Walney was part of the estate of Tostig, Earl of Northumbria but, following the Norman Conquest, the area was briefly granted to the treacherous Roger of Poitou before returning to royal hands. In 1127, large areas of Furness were granted by King Stephen to the Abbot of Savigny, in Normandy (Barrow Borough Council 2006). Consequently, Furness Abbey was built, which over the twelfth century had certainly established granges on Walney (Kendall 1899, 46-7) and, by 1247, at Northend, North Scale, Biggar and Southend (*ibid*). It is likely that the land of the development area lay within the grange of north Scale and was farmed by the tenants of the Abbey.

3.2.5 Towards the end of the thirteenth century the lands were divided and let to the tenants:

‘The North Scale land was divided among 16 tenants, grouped into four federated farm holdings or burgages... The arable land was laid out in 21 common fields, unenclosed by hedges, and each field split up into 48 narrow strips called “dales”’ (*op cit*, 47).

Kendall’s representation of this (Plate 1) shows that the development area, called Longlands, was probably one of these common arable fields. This situation remained the case for some time, although economic depression in the fifteenth century probably led to some land being turned to sheep farming (*op cit*, 47-8).

3.2.6 **Post-medieval period:** following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the site is likely to have become the property of the crown, but in 1660 was acquired by the Duke of Albermarle, before passing to the Duke of Buccleuch (*op cit*, 56). As a result, the inhabitants of Walney became tenants of the Crown and then various families, the latter taking rent in money rather than in goods and services as had previously been the case. Without Monastic interest, repairs to the sea defences were not maintained, and on several occasions in the sixteenth century the inhabitants of North Scale were forced to plea to the Crown for funds (Laird 2000, 60). It may not be coincidental that the whole of Walney Island suffered catastrophic flooding in 1546 and 1561 (Kendall 1899, 49). In 1747 schemes for improving the land were introduced to several parts of North Walney, including Longlands (*op cit*, 61), which remained pasture

throughout the nineteenth century. It was not until the continuous expansion of Barrow led to new development on the island at the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth that the landscape changed a great deal (*op cit*, 64-5).

- 3.2.7 During the First World War a base was established on Mill Lane for use as an airship station (Plates 2 and 3). Although the location of this is not shown on any maps (Plate 4), presumably for security reasons as much as a lack of mapping, the majority seems to have lain further west than the present development site (Laird 1992, 24), and closer to Walney Foreshore, where the war office had acquired a large piece of land in 1904 (CRO(B) BD/BUC/45/11/1-3). It is possible, however, that elements of the camp extended as far east as the development area, which may have been why it was used (or re-used) during World War II. The airship station and camp, which comprised a number of timber huts, was dismantled and the fittings sold off in 1919 and 1920 (CRO(B) BDB/17/SP3/49; CRO(B) BDB/54/29).
- 3.2.8 The construction of the airship station had necessitated the widening of Mill Lane, which was for a time known as Cobblers Lane (Laird 1992, 24). In 1930 West Shore Road (Plate 5), which forms the western edge of the development area, was constructed (*op cit*, 26). Additional development around North Scale also took place, in particular relating to the aerodrome, and the pace of development increased as World War II approached. A number of RAF training camps were established in the area, particularly around Mill Lane (*op cit*, 29). The development area falls within one of seven camps situated across north Walney (Plates 6 and 10), which were made up of two types of buildings: Nissen Huts and Officers' Huts. The Nissen Huts had a U-shaped corrugated iron roof and were used as bunkhouses for the RAF crew (Jevons 2002). Accommodation was basic, with a kitchen at one end and a large main room making up the rest, with a single stove in the centre (*ibid*; Plate 7). The Officers' Huts were similar, but better-built, and with a separate mess room (*ibid*; Plate 8). Partially buried air-raid shelters were also present at most of the camps (*ibid*; Plate 9).
- 3.2.9 After the end of World War II there was a critical lack of housing in Barrow, partially as a result of bombing but also because of the baby boom that happened at this time. The camps on north Walney, which had become rapidly run-down following the end of the war, were managed by caretakers and, in August 1946, three families from Barrow illegally moved in, so desperate was the housing shortage (Laird 1992, 33). This provoked a 'squatters' rush' and, overnight, 50 families and more than 100 people had moved in (*ibid*). Despite panic amongst local officials, the families were allowed to stay and were even expected to pay rent to the Town Council (Jevons 2002). During the early 1950s, the housing crisis was gradually dealt with by the construction of new estates in the area and, by 1956, the so-called 'Squatters' Huts' had been vacated (*ibid*). Some of these buildings were still standing within the development area until 1985 when they were pulled down (*ibid*).
- 3.2.10 An examination of directories covering Mill Lane provides little additional information. Very few properties are listed on Mill Lane and those that are evidently have no connection to the development area. There are no references

to habitation along Mill Lane prior to the beginning of the twentieth century and it is clear that there were no buildings on the present development site until the 1940s. A military presence on Mill Lane is evident during the early twentieth century with 'The Fort' being listed in 1924 (Barrow News and Mail Ltd 1924, 206). This was a gun emplacement, established during World War I, which only saw action on one occasion in 1915 (Trescaheric 1994, 49). By 1931 the 'Walney Battery' is listed, which may be the same as 'The Fort' (Barrow News and Mail Ltd 1931, 178), and 'Walney Battery' is also listed in 1939 (Barrow News and Mail Ltd 1939, 178). By 1950 the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI) are listed on Mill Lane, as is 'Fort Walney', demonstrating a continuing military presence of some kind (Barrow News and Mail Ltd 1951). Evidence of new development along Mill Lane is provided by the directory of 1966, which lists a large number of residents (Barrett's Publications Ltd 1966, 51), and was probably part of a growth of housing that took place on the island from the early 1950s (Trescaheric 1985, 109).

3.3 HISTORIC MAP REGRESSION

- 3.3.1 ***Ancient Common Fields:*** although not strictly an historic map, this is an interpretative depiction of the fields of North Scale as they would have been used in the medieval period (Kendall 1899). Large common areas were divided between a number of tenant farmers, each of whom had their own strip of land, in this case within an area known as 'Long Lands' (Plate 1).
- 3.3.2 ***Yates 1786:*** although not as informative as later maps this is the earliest plan to show the area in any detail. There is, however, nothing shown at the development area, although North Scale and the windmill to the west are present.
- 3.3.3 ***Tithe Map (CRO(B) BPR/1/I3/1/2):*** this is the first detailed map of the present development area and it demonstrates that the site was part of a wider area of pasture. The development area is made up of two fields called 'Great Long Lands' and 'Long Lands' (CRO(B) BPR/1/I3/1/1).
- 3.3.4 ***Ordnance Survey 1850 first edition 6":1 mile:*** during this period the arrangement of the fields changes very little from the tithe map. The only feature of note is a footpath cutting across the west end of the fields (Plate 2).
- 3.3.5 ***Ordnance Survey 1891 first edition 25":1 mile:*** the arrangement of the fields does not change dramatically at this time, although the footpath is no longer present (Plate 3).
- 3.3.6 ***Undated maps:*** three undated maps, which probably belong to the early twentieth century and which show the development area, were also examined. Two of these (CRO(B) BD/BUC/39/60 nd; CRO(B) BD/BUC/40/Bundle 5/39 nd) are essentially tracings of the 1842 tithe map, and do not show any additional information. The third shows field owners (CRO(B) Z593); the development area is listed as belonging to 'WF', although it is not known who this is.

- 3.3.7 **Ordnance Survey 1913 second edition 25":1 mile:** although the fields within the development area are essentially the same as in 1891, a large pit, already marked 'old clay pit', has been excavated to the east (Plate 4).
- 3.3.8 **Ordnance Survey 1933 third edition 25":1 mile:** by this date, a field boundary to the north has been removed and the development area has become part of a much larger field (Plate 5).
- 3.3.9 **Ordnance Survey 1992 1:25,000:** many more field boundaries to the north have been removed by this date and a small group of buildings is shown on the site, at least one of which probably corresponds to those surviving on the site prior to the development.

4. BUILDING RECORDING RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The standing remains of a single building (Building 1) were present on the site prior to development, as well as two further concrete platforms (Platforms 1 and 2), and a field boundary (Fig 2).

4.2 RESULTS

- 4.2.1 **Building 1:** this comprises the remains of a small structure built primarily of concrete blocks sat on a concrete platform which extends beyond the limit of the walls to the east and south to cover a total area of over 12.5m north/south and 5.5m east/west (Fig 2). Only two walls remain, to the west and south, forming an L-shape, which has no roof but was evidently only a single storey in height. The walls are built of concrete blocks in a stretcher bond and the exterior faces and top four courses of the interior walls have been painted white (Plate 11). On the internal surface of the west wall the scars of three partition walls are visible (Plate 12), as are scars along the north and east sides of the extant structure. A small part of the east wall remains, which is attached to the south wall by an A-frame timber bracket. At the wall tops, the scar of a monopitch roof is visible and the aluminium clips that held it in place are still present. Externally, it is evident that the west wall is built onto a course of bricks, possibly the remains of an earlier structure, which has two short buttresses or stub walls projecting to the west (Plate 13). The bricks extend to the south beneath the concrete floor and are marked within the frog ‘...NOP’ and ... TON’.
- 4.2.2 **Platform 1:** this is a concrete platform to the east of Building 1 (Fig 2; Plate 14). It comprises a square area of concrete approximately 3.5m across, edged by a skin of bricks one unit thick. The skin is constructed of two types of bricks, a mould-thrown mid-orange to red brick with no visible frog, and a reddish-orange machine-made type with grooves and perforations. There is a probable doorway on the south side filled with a horizontal piece of timber with an additional concrete area beyond it. To the east is a raised timber floor on timber joists. There are loose bricks around this platform marked ‘FURNESS BRICK C^o L^D BARROW’.
- 4.2.3 **Platform 2:** this is a much larger platform covering an area approximately 15m north/south and 12m east/west (Fig 2; Plate 15). It is made up of several sections or strips of concrete and accessed by a junction from Mill Lane in the south-east corner.
- 4.2.4 **Field Boundary:** this is a large bank constructed from earth and stones, which presumably originally formed an east/west orientated field boundary (Fig 2). It is between 2m and 3m wide, standing 1.5m tall and is topped with tall grass and scrub.

5. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 Initially, the site was stripped of topsoil and vegetative cover using a mechanical excavator with a large toothed bucket. In the two areas of games pitches (Fig 3), the ground was further graded down to a pre-determined level using a mechanical digger with a toothless ditching bucket. A series of drainage ditches and a deep soakaway were excavated in the area of the football pitch and a further area was graded to accommodate a skate park. A curvilinear pathway also required grading to a suitable formation level at various points.

5.2 RESULTS

5.2.1 **Topsoil Strip:** owing to a communication failure and contrary to the project design, the vast majority of the topsoil strip was effected in the absence of an archaeological presence. However, the stripped area was subsequently subject to a systematic fieldwalk. The topsoil comprised an approximately 0.5m thick layer of very loose, mid- to dark grey sandy clay with inclusions of brick, plastic, rubble and other modern detritus. The ground below the topsoil was almost wholly obscured by repeated tracking over by the machines. This had left a blanket cover of mixed and much-disturbed ground that made the observation of any archaeological features extremely difficult. A concentration of detritus, predominantly bottles, was observed towards the western end of the site, but no features were visible and no finds of archaeological significance were made.

5.2.2 **Football pitch:** the ground was levelled to a predetermined depth in the absence of an archaeological presence. Although patchy, the visible subsoil comprised light brown to buff, flecked orange clay with some sand and 2% small rounded to angular stones (Plate 16). A systematic fieldwalk of the cleared area demonstrated that there were no visible archaeological features. A total of ten drainage ditches (*DD*) aligned east/west with the exception of *DD5* which was aligned north-east/south-west and *DD10* which was aligned north-west/south-east, and one soakaway pit, were subsequently excavated (Fig 3).

5.2.3 ***DD1, DD2, and DD3:*** *DD1*, measuring 75m x 0.4m, *DD2*, measuring 55m x 0.4m, and *DD3*, measuring 35m x 0.4m, had been excavated and backfilled in the absence of an archaeological presence. No features or archaeological horizons were observed within the sections of the trenches.

5.2.4 ***DD4:*** measuring 15m x 0.6m x 0.7m, *DD4* (Plate 17) was excavated under archaeological supervision. The observed stratigraphy comprised a 0.2m thick light buff to brown clay subsoil, flecked orange, with some sand inclusions and 2% small rounded stones. This subsoil lay over pinkish-red sandy clay, although some lenses of sand were observed and the section was noted to be changeable along its length. It is possible that this is made-ground associated

- with the MoD buildings, but may also relate to variations in the glacial drift geology.
- 5.2.5 **DD5:** measuring 65.0m x 0.6m, *DD5* had been excavated and backfilled in the absence of an archaeological presence. No features or archaeological horizons were observed.
- 5.2.6 **DD6:** measuring 75m x 0.4m x 0.8m deep (max), *DD6* was excavated through some patchy uncleared topsoil which lay directly over a dark brownish-red clay with gravel lenses, interpreted as natural geology. No archaeological features or horizons were observed.
- 5.2.7 **DD7 and DD8:** *DD7*, measuring 65m x 0.4m x 0.75m deep (max), and *DD8*, measuring 45m x 0.4m x 0.75m deep (max), were excavated directly through mid-brownish-orange compact clay with some gravel lenses interpreted as natural geology. No archaeological features or horizons were observed.
- 5.2.8 **DD9 and DD10:** *DD9*, measuring 25m x 0.4m x 0.5m deep (max), and *DD10*, measuring 35m x 0.4m x 1.0m deep (max), were excavated through some patchy uncleared topsoil which lay directly over dark brownish-red clay with gravel lenses. No archaeological features or horizons were observed.
- 5.2.9 **Soakaway Pit:** measuring 10m x 2m x 10m deep (max), the soakaway pit section (Plate 18) comprised a 0.2m thick layer of redeposited mixed ground directly over the natural geology, a mid- to dark reddish-brown stiff clay with some gravel. A field drain was observed in the north-east-facing section 0.5m below the ground surface, but there were no significant archaeological features or horizons.
- 5.2.10 **Multi-use playing field:** measuring 20m x 37m, the ground was levelled to a pre-determined depth using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. Approximately 0.4m topsoil (*Section 5.2.1*) was removed, revealing natural ground in the northern part of the area. In the southern corner of the rectangle, the excavations did not go below the topsoil horizon, thus the natural ground was obscured. No features or archaeological horizons were observed.
- 5.2.11 **Skate-park:** this covered an area of approximately 525m² towards the western end of the site. Up to 0.3m of compacted, grey/brown very dry sandy clay topsoil was removed down to the natural geology, a mid-orange/brown, very hard clay with some gravel, sand and *c* 2% small to medium rounded to angular stones.
- 5.2.12 Five relatively insubstantial parallel linear features, *c* 1.5m apart, were visible aligned roughly north-east/south-west (Plate 19; Fig 3). Each measured approximately 0.7m in width and was over 10m in length. A section through one (Plate 20) showed a shallow U-shaped profile with irregular sides and with the base at a maximum depth of 0.12m. The single fill comprised compact, mid-brownish-grey sandy clay with *c* 1% pebbles and black and orange flecking. No finds were observed within these features.

5.2.13 The south-western third of the skate-park comprised an area of dumped refuse (Fig 3) consisting of very dark grey, very mixed and loose sandy clay with many inclusions of detritus. This included many bottles, both whole and fragmented, pottery sherds, iron objects (not retained), wire and plastic. The deposit was 0.8m deep (Plate 20) at the western edge of the area, and appeared to have been used to infill either a man-made cut or natural depression in the geology. The landfill deposit was graded to the required level but otherwise left *in situ* having been deemed suitable ground for building on. No further natural geology was exposed.

5.2.14 **Pathway:** a stretch of pathway was graded to a suitable formation level (Fig 3). In other parts of the path the ground was made-up to a suitable level, therefore, no archaeological observation was required. The basic observed stratigraphy comprised 0.15-0.24m compacted light grey/brown sandy clay subsoil overlying reddish-brown clay natural. In parts, the natural was not exposed. One slab of concrete was removed, otherwise there were no features or finds of archaeological significance.

5.3 FINDS

5.3.1 **Introduction:** in total, 77 artefacts were retrieved during the watching brief, all of which originated from the refuse dump and were recorded as unstratified (Appendix 3). Of these, the vast majority (51 fragments) were from glass bottles and jars, including stoppers and tops. In addition, 23 fragments of pottery, one copper alloy spoon, one fragment of ceramic drainpipe and one glass tile were recovered. Most of the bottles and jars were complete, and they had clearly been selected as readily-identifiable examples for retrieval.

5.3.2 **Glass bottles and jars:** as can be seen from Table 1, below, the 44 individual glass bottles and jars varied in colour and included a variety of closure-types (Table 2) such as vacuum seals (mainly used for food), cork-type closures (typically used on medicines) and, less commonly, crown closures and internal screw-top closures (typically present on beer, mineral water, and other pressurised drinks). All bottles and jars retrieved were entirely mould-made, including those with cork-type closures.

Glass bottle or jar colour	Number of bottles and jars	Percentage of total
Colourless	27	61%
Brown	7	16%
Blue	3	7%
Opaque white	3	7%
Green	3	7%
Very light turquoise	1	2%
Total	44	100%

Table 1: Glass bottle or jar colour

Glass bottle or jar closure-type	Number of bottles, jars and closures	Percentage of total
External screw top	28	60%
Vacuum seal	9	19%
Cork-type	8	17%
Crown	1	2%
Internal screw top	1	2%
Total	47	100%

Table 2: Glass bottle or jar closure-types

Glass bottle or jar contents	Number of bottles and jars	Percentage of total
Food	9	47%
Medicine	4	21%
Drink	3	16%
Cosmetics	3	16%
Total	19	100%

Table 3: Glass bottle or jar contents

- 5.3.3 **Bottle and jar manufacturers:** six different glass bottle and jar manufacturers were identified from their punt marks (Table 4). All were English except for that made at the Lagnieu factory of Manufactures des Glaces et Produits Chimiques de Saint-Gobain, Chauny et Ciney, SA, France (punt mark is undated; Toulouse 1971, 572-3). In addition to these identified manufacturers, several unidentified punt marks were present (Toulouse 1971).
- 5.3.4 **Contents manufacturers and brands:** for those bottles or jars where it was possible to discern the contents with reasonable confidence (either from embossed text identifying the product, or from the closure-type), food was most common, with medicines, drinks, and cosmetics slightly less frequent. The food brands present were Marmite, Bovril, and OXO, all of which are brands still in existence today. Marmite dates from 1902 onwards (APJ 2006), Bovril from 1884 onwards (Unilever 2005) and OXO from *c* 1900 onwards (Oxoid Ltd 2003-5) so none of these provide more precise dates than 1902 to 1939 (see Table 4). Peck's was also identified as a possible food brand, but no information regarding this company could be found.
- 5.3.5 Three different drinks manufacturers were present, including Gordon's Special Dry London Gin, and two companies based in Barrow-in-Furness: Thomsons (also of Ulverston, Kendal, and Lancaster), and Marsh and Sons (see Table 4). Medicines comprised Dettol, dating from 1932 onwards (Hullwebs (UK) 2004), a medicine manufactured by Wellcome Chemical Works, tentatively identified as 'Blaud Pill and Arsenic' due to identical punt marks (Centre for the Study of Health and Society 2004-5), Milk of Magnesia, and MacLean Brand Stomach Powder. Finally, cosmetics brands identified comprised Pond's and Oatine. Brands and companies present for which no precise product could be found included Inecto and the Co-operative Wholesale Society, the latter dating from 1872 onwards (The Co-operative Group nd).

Glass bottle or jar manufacturer	Description	Date
Forsters Glass Co Ltd, St Helens	Brown jar with vacuum seal, manufactured for Bovril Limited, punt mark 'Bottle made in England / by / FGC'	1902 – 1939
Forsters Glass Co Ltd, St Helens	Brown jar with vacuum seal, manufactured for Marmite, punt mark 'FGC / 10'	1902 – 1939
Forsters Glass Co Ltd, St Helens	Brown jar with vacuum seal, punt mark 'FGC / A194 / o'	1902 - 1939
Forsters Glass Co Ltd, St Helens	Colourless bottle with internal screw-top closure, manufactured for Marsh & Sons of Barrow, punt mark 'Regd No / 833891 / FGC'	1902 - 1939
Forsters Glass Co Ltd, St Helens	Green bottle with crown closure, manufactured for Thomsons of Ulverston, Kendal, Lancaster, and Barrow, punt mark 'A Dandylion / Registered / FGC'	1902 – 1939
John Lumb and Co Ltd, Castleford, Yorkshire	Colourless bottle, punt mark 'JL & CoLd C / Regd No / 735122 / e4L3'	1905 – 1937
Manufactures des Glaces et Produits Chimiques de Saint-Gobain, Chauny et Ciney, S.A., Lagnieu factory	Colourless bottle with external screw-top closure, punt mark 'VB [in oval] / 90 / 2 L'	Early twentieth century
National Glass Works (York) Ltd, Fishergate, Yorkshire	Colourless bottle with cork-type closure, punt mark 'S / N [in diamond] / 5'	Early twentieth century
(?) Rockware Glass Ltd, Greenford, Middlesex	Brown bottle with external screw-top closure, punt mark 'R / 1'	1920 – 1930?
United Glass Bottle Manufacturers Ltd	Colourless jar with external screw-top closure, manufactured for MacLean Brand Stomach Powder, punt mark 'UGB'	1913 - 1959
United Glass Bottle Manufacturers Ltd	Dark green bottle with cork-type closure, manufactured for Gordon's Special Dry London Gin, punt mark 'UGB 5'	1913 - 1959

Table 4: Glass bottle manufacturers

5.3.6 **Pottery and cutlery:** the pottery present is likely to be contemporary with the glass bottles and jars (1910-1940), although the majority of it could not be dated as precisely due to a general lack of manufacturers' marks. White earthenware tableware vessel fragments were present in the assemblage, with vessel-types including pie dishes, tureens, plates, and ashets. Some of these were decorated with transfer-printed patterns, with a marked 'Willow' pie dish manufactured by John Stevenson and Sons Ltd of Burslem (mark dated 1923-36; Rogers 2004, 269) and an 'Asiatic Pheasants' (Neale 2005, 39) possible tureen amongst them. Other white earthenware fragments were decorated with multi-coloured enamel floral transfer-printed patterns, green transfer-printed patterns with relief-moulded decoration, and painted edge stripes. Very similar fabrics present comprised possible ironstone and cream-coloured earthenware. In addition, part of a brown-glazed buff-coloured stoneware possible pie dish was recovered, and a bone china or porcelain hollow-ware fragment decorated with orange, black, and gold painted enamels. This last was dated broadly to

the eighteenth to twentieth century, and may be an import. A single copper alloy spoon, marked 'Siltona' 'M' on the reverse, was also recovered.

5.3.7 **Building material:** a single fragment from a ceramic drain pipe, and a light turquoise opaque glass ridged tile, both dated to the late nineteenth to twentieth century, were recovered.

5.3.8 **Discussion:** the glass bottles and jars, many of which could be relatively closely-dated, as well as some of the more diagnostic fragments of pottery, suggest a date range for the dump of between the First and Second World Wars. Clearly, only very small proportion of the material was retrieved, but they do, nevertheless, help to illustrate some aspects of the lives of the people of Walney between the wars. As developments increasingly impinge on early twentieth century domestic waste deposits, it is vital that reasonable records are made of them as they are destroyed.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 As can be seen from the background history of the area, the present development site on Mill Lane was an essentially agricultural piece of land, used either for arable or pasture, prior to its use as a military base during World War II (and perhaps, for part of the site, in World War I). It almost certainly formed part of an area of common land, farmed as strip fields by tenant farmers during the medieval period, under the control of Furness Abbey (Kendall 1899). Apart from reverting to pasture during the post-medieval period, this situation changed little during the eighteenth and nineteenth century. The plough marks or possible ridge and furrow identified in the area of the skate-park tie in well with the known history of the study area, and are likely to date to the post-medieval or even the medieval period. The banked field boundary observed during the building recording survey is likely to be of a similar date as it corresponds with a features shown on mapping of the area prior to 1933 (compare Plates 4 and 5), and preserves the aratral curvature typical of relict medieval field systems.
- 6.1.2 Despite the work being effected in an area of anticipated prehistoric potential, no features or finds from this period were encountered. This might be accounted for simply by the fact that none existed, but across the majority of the site, the topsoil strip revealed only subsoil rather than the natural geology, and this suggests that any remains pre-dating the agricultural use of the site lie beneath the subsoil in these areas. In those areas where the natural geology was exposed, it is possible that features or finds were either machined away in the absence of an archaeological presence, or rendered invisible by continued tracking over the ground before fieldwalking could be effected. It is, however, also possible that any archaeological horizons may have been removed when the military base was erected between the World Wars. In the area of the skate-park the paucity of features may also be explained by its previous use as a dump, which had involved the removal of natural ground to an observed depth of 0.8m. Any archaeological features would thus have been removed when this was effected.
- 6.1.3 The lack of detailed information about the twentieth-century use of the site is undoubtedly compounded by two factors: its use as a military base, and its subsequent use by ‘squatters’. Both of these were short periods of occupation and in both cases only limited records are available, either for security purposes or because of the temporary nature of the settlement. The upstanding remains do little to further an understanding of the Second World War encampment; the majority of the remains of Building 1 are evidently quite modern, although it would appear that the concrete block walls are built on top of an earlier structure. This earlier structure was probably one of the military buildings present on the site, and is large enough to have been either a Nissen hut or an Officers’ hut (Jevons 2002). Platform 1 almost certainly represents the remains of a former military building of some type, although it would appear to be too small to be either a Nissen hut or officers’ hut (*ibid*). The

function and date of Platform 2 is less certain, although it is large enough to have accommodated a number of buildings. Its apparently contemporaneous relationship with the junction onto Mill Lane might suggest that it is actually quite late in date.

- 6.1.4 Nor was the watching brief able to contribute very much additional information concerning activity on the site during the 1940s and '50s; bar one small slab of concrete in the area of the footpath, no obvious remains of the World War II military station were observed during the watching brief. This is likely to be the result of a combination of the work being effected in the absence of an archaeological presence, and the likely insubstantial nature of the structures comprising the military base. Indeed, if such structures had been post-built on small stone or concrete pads, either directly onto, or shallowly cut into, the topsoil, it is unlikely that they would have left any archaeological trace.

6.2 IMPACT

- 6.2.1 Although the initial phase of topsoil stripping was unmonitored, it would appear on the basis of later observations that the majority of the groundworks were too shallow to affect any archaeological features that would only have been visible if the subsoil on site had been removed. As such, any such features are likely to be preserved *in situ*. The development has, however, had a much more serious impact upon the twentieth century remains known to have occupied the site, although it is doubtful that the remains of these temporary structures would have left much in the way of archaeological evidence. Any concrete footings, had they been present, are likely to have been observed during the building survey, which included a walk-over of the proposed development site.

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8. ILLUSTRATIONS

8.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Location plan of sites identified in the building recording survey

Figure 3: Location plan of areas covered by the watching brief and locations of archaeological features

8.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Plan of the Ancient Common Fields of North Scale (after Kendall 1899). The site is among the fields named Longlands

Plate 2: Part of the Ordnance Survey map of 1850 showing the development area

Plate 3: Part of the Ordnance Survey map of 1891 showing the development area

Plate 4: Part of the Ordnance Survey map of 1913 showing the development area

Plate 5: Part of the Ordnance Survey map of 1933 showing the development area

Plate 6: RAF camps on north Walney (after Jevons 2002). The development area is at Site 6

Plate 7: Typical Nissen Hut (after Jevons 2002)

Plate 8: Typical Officers' Hut (after Jevons 2002)

Plate 9: Typical air-raid shelter (after Jevons 2002)

Plate 10: Aerial Photograph of site showing Ridge-and-Furrow at the top left of the picture and Sites 6 and 8 (Plate 6) in centre and centre-right respectively (reproduced from www.barrowbc.gov.uk)

Plate 11: East elevation of Building 1, looking south-west

Plate 12: Scar of a partition wall within the east elevation, looking west

Plate 13: Brick buttress against the west elevation, looking north-east

Plate 14: General view of Platform 1, looking south-east

Plate 15: General view of Platform 2, looking south-west

Plate 16: Representative north-west facing section, football pitch

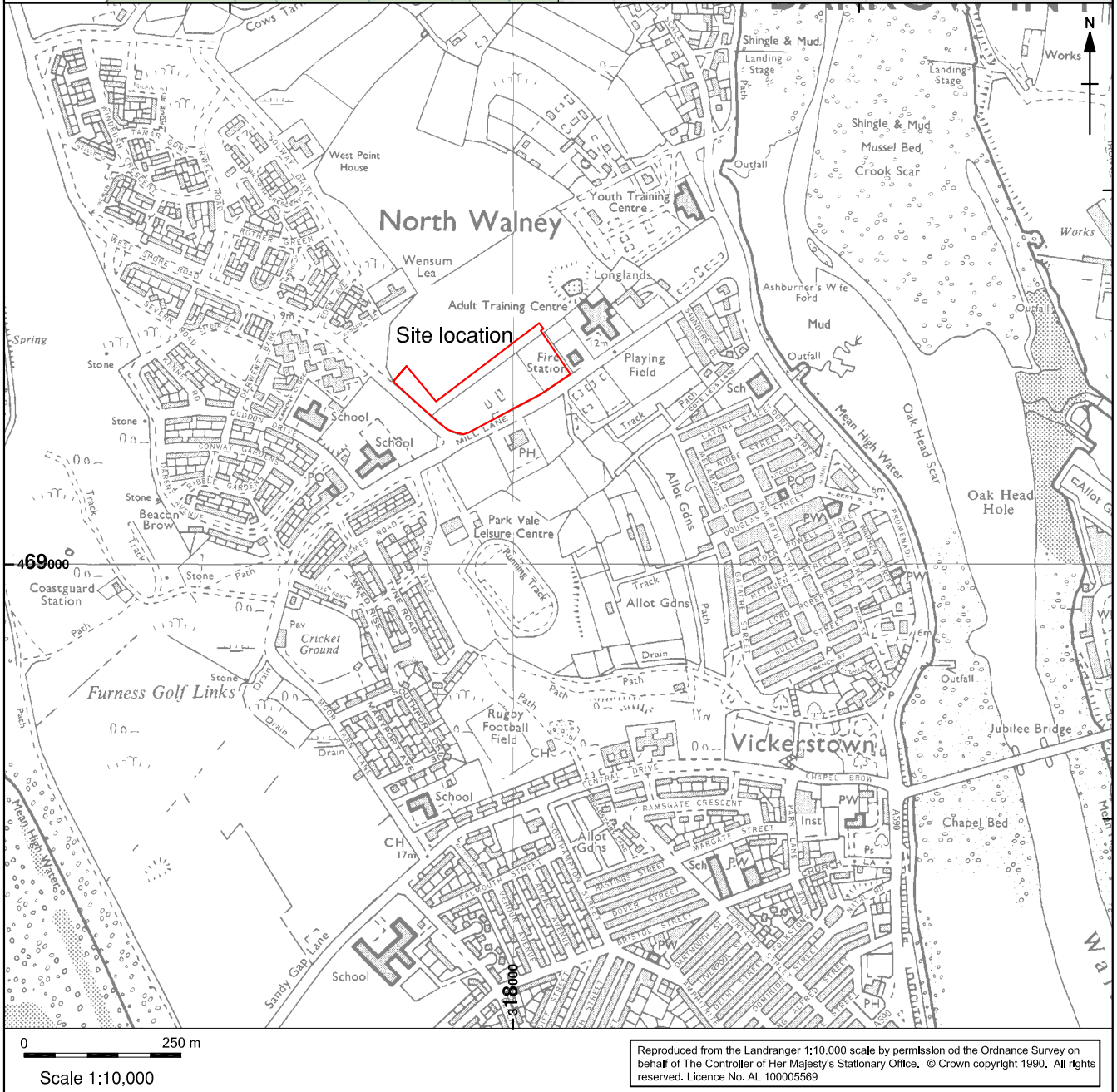
Plate 17: *DD4* facing west

Plate 18: Section of sump facing north-west

Plate 19: Two linear features, facing west

Plate 20: East-facing section through linear feature

Plate 21: West-facing section through landfill deposit



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Figure 1: Site Location

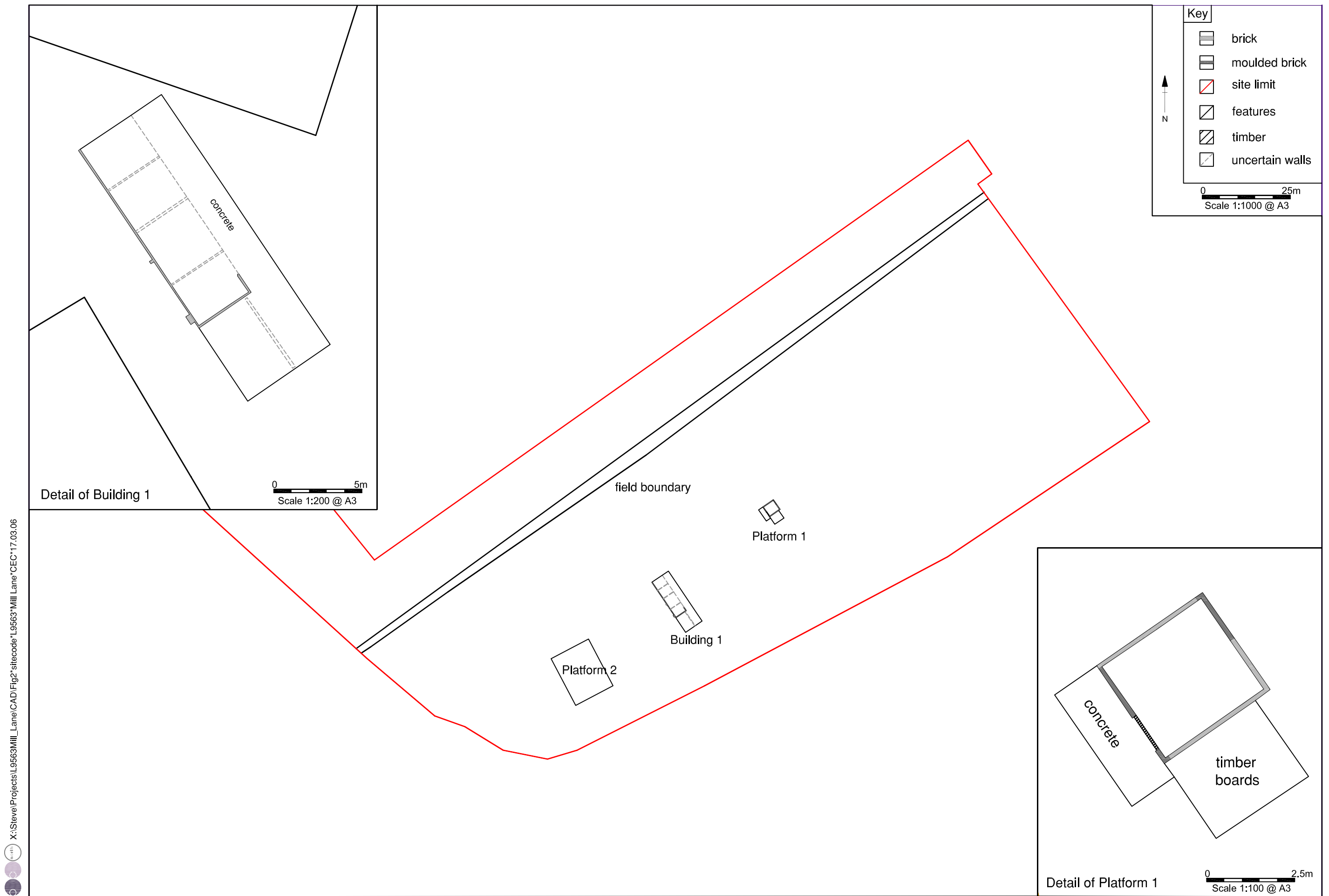


Figure 2: Plan of sites identified by site visit and documentary research

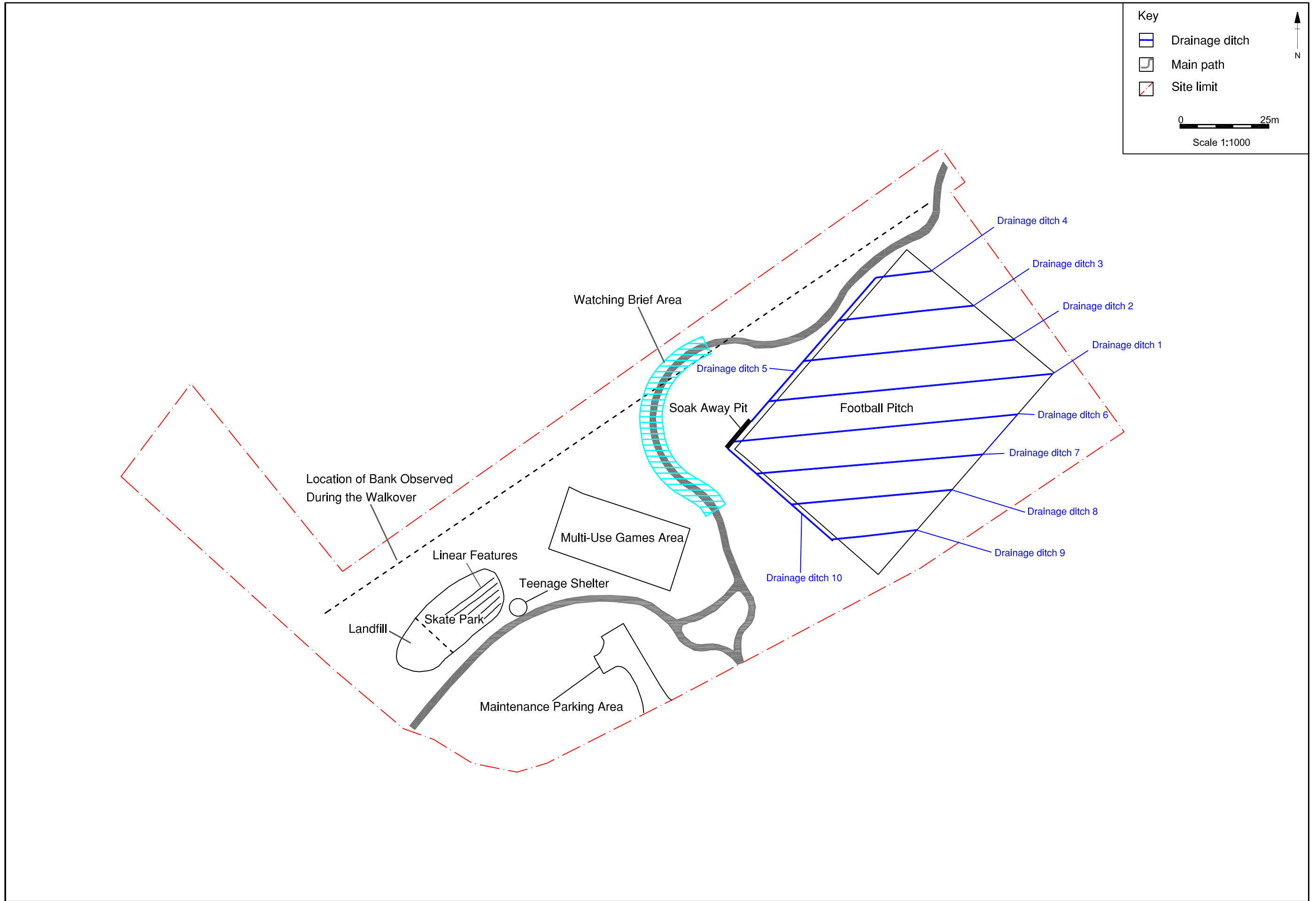


Figure 3: Plan of areas covered by watching brief

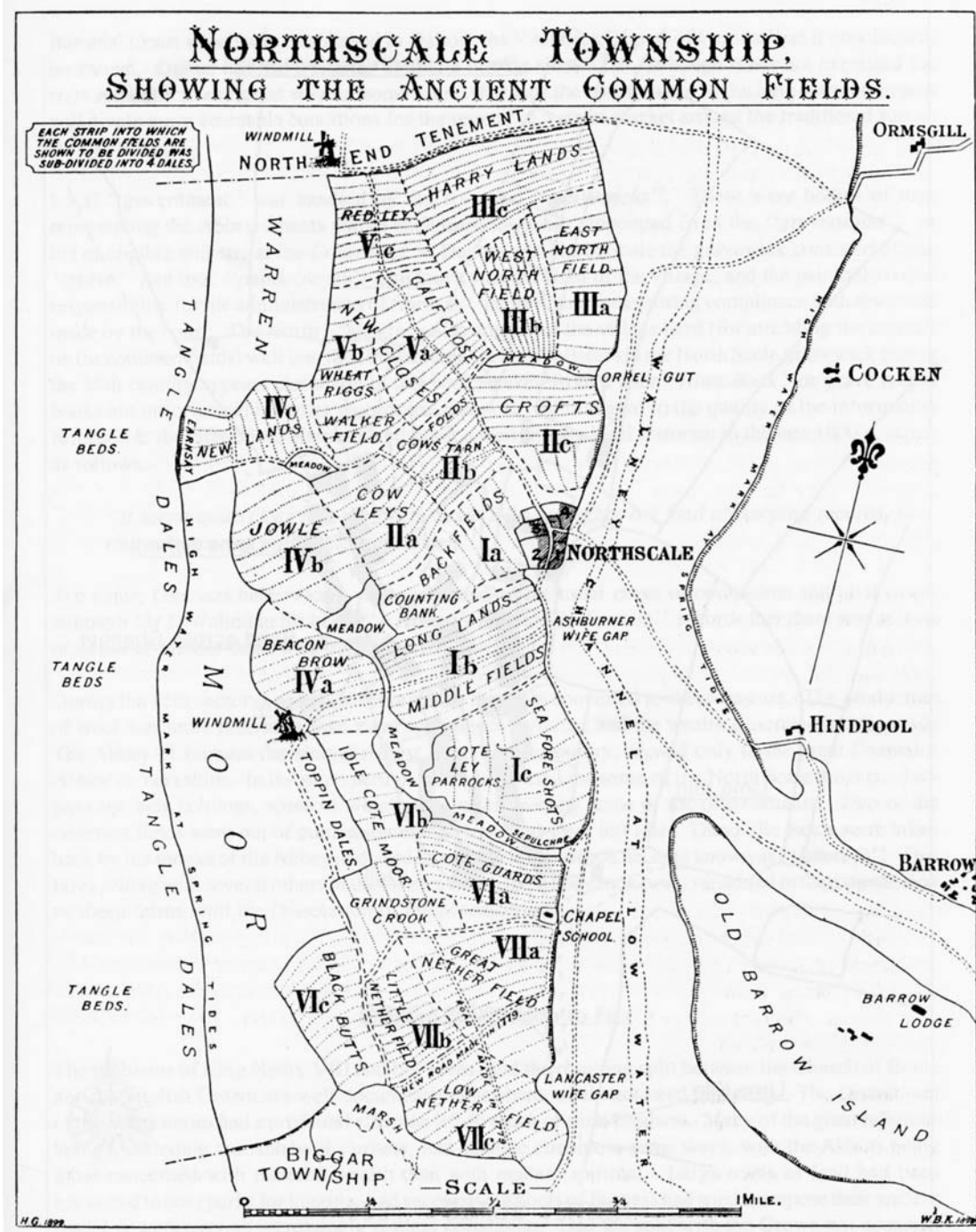


Plate 1: Plan of the Ancient Common Fields of Northscale (after Kendall 1899). The site is among the fields named Longlands



Plate 2: Part of the Ordnance Survey map of 1850 showing the development area

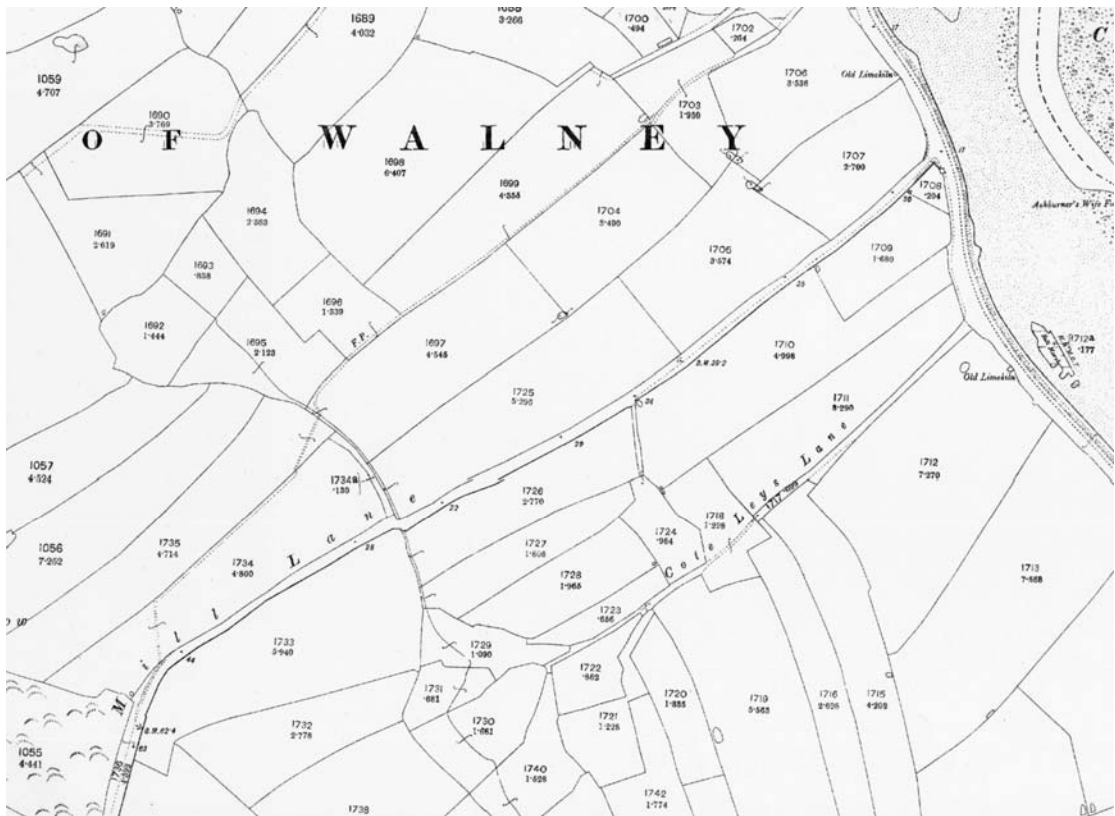


Plate 3: Part of the Ordnance Survey map of 1891 showing the development area

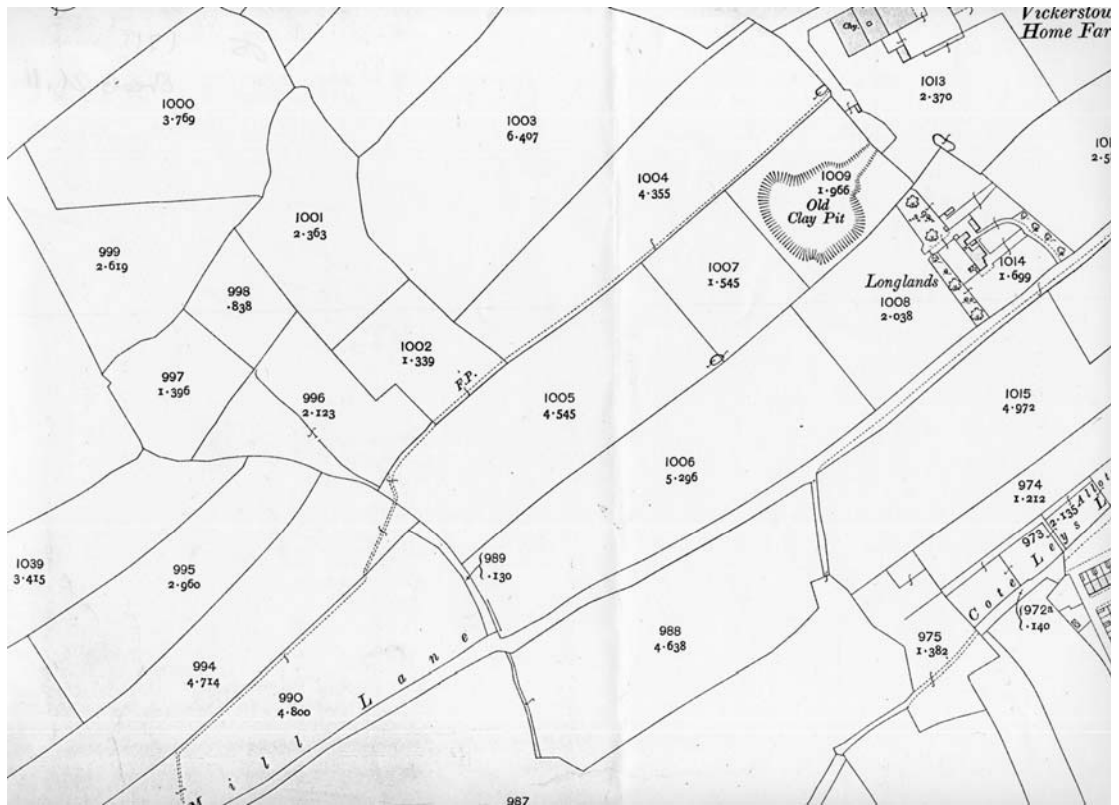


Plate 4: Part of the Ordnance Survey map of 1913 showing the development area

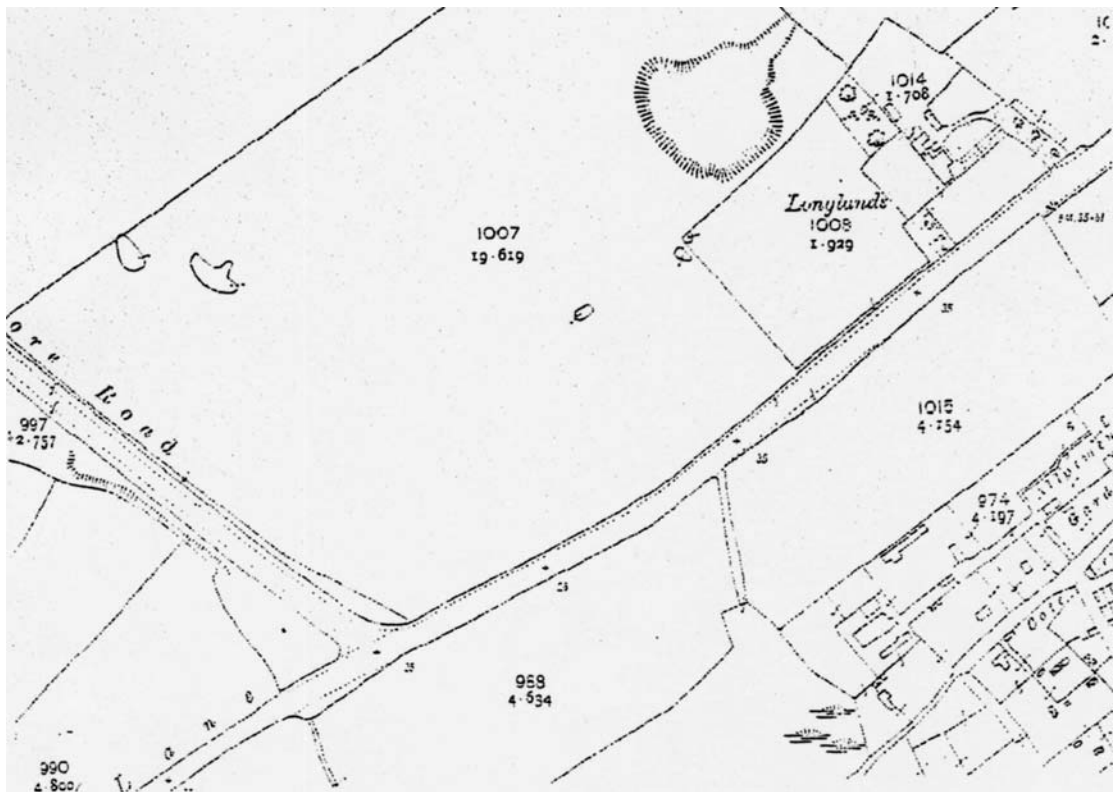


Plate 5: Part of the Ordnance Survey map of 1933 showing the development area

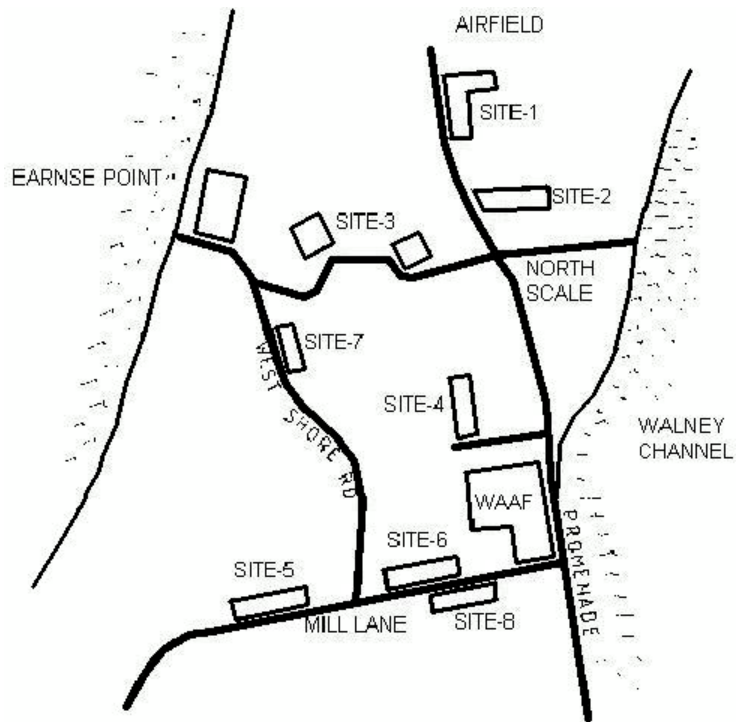


Plate 6: RAF camps on north Walney (after Jevons 2002). The development area is at Site 6

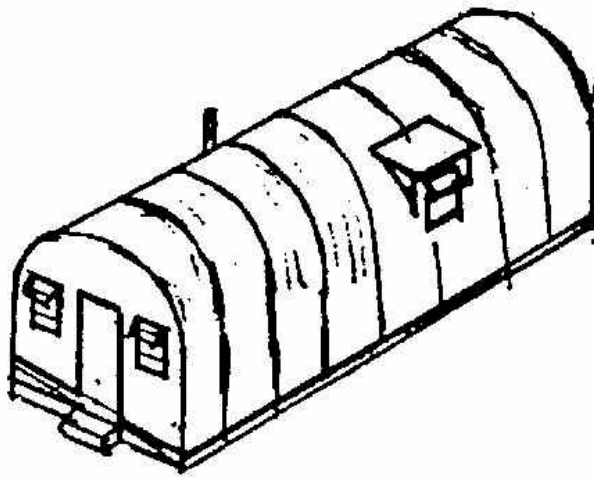


Plate 7: Typical Nissen Hut (after Jevons 2002)

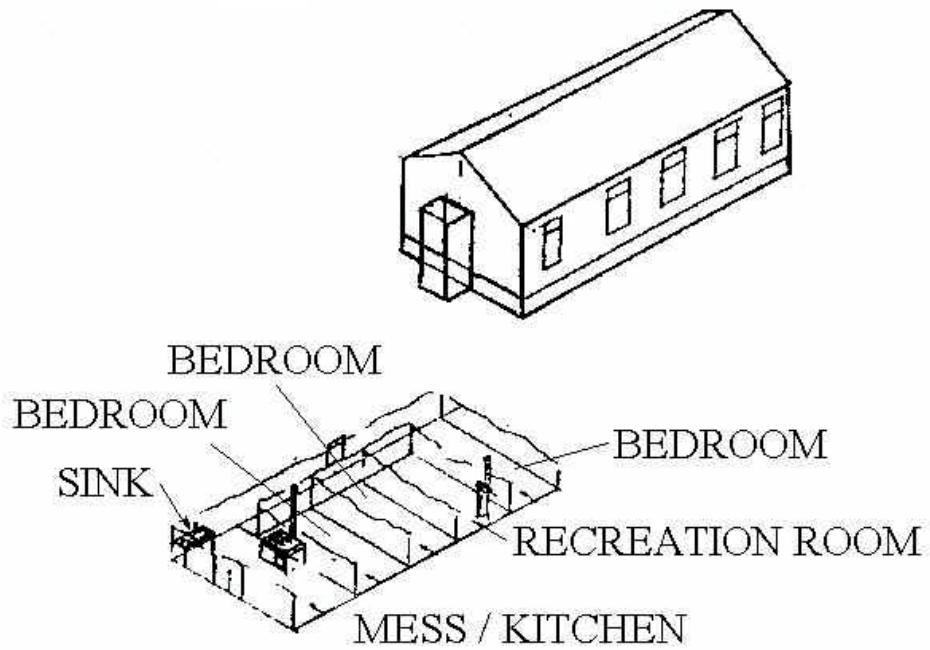


Plate 8: Typical Officers' Hut (after Jevons 2002)

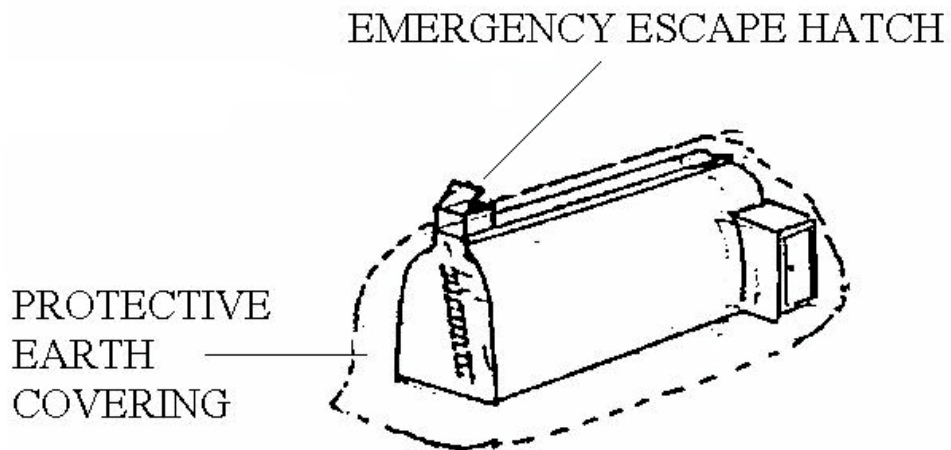


Plate 9: Typical air-raid shelter (after Jevons 2002)



Plate 10: Aerial Photograph of site showing Ridge-and-Furrow at the top left of the picture and Sites 6 and 8 (Plate 6) in centre and centre-right respectively (reproduced from www.barrowbc.gov.uk)



Plate 11: East Elevation of Building 1, looking south-west



Plate 12: Scar of a partition wall within the east elevation, looking west



Plate 13: Brick buttress against the west elevation, looking north-east



Plate 14: General view of Platform 1, looking south-east



Plate 15: General view of west half of Platform 2, looking south-west



Plate 16: Representative north-west-facing section, football pitch



Plate 17: *DD4* facing west



Plate 18: Section of soakaway facing north-west



Plate 19: Two linear features, facing west



Plate 20: East-facing section through linear feature



Plate 21: West-facing section through landfill deposit

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND WATCHING BRIEF

AT MILL LANE, WALNEY, BARROW-IN-FURNESS

CUMBRIA

Issued by the

County Historic Environment Service

Environment Unit, Community Economy and Environment



COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Brief: 05 April 2005

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.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY

Site Name: Mill Lane, Walney, Barrow-in-Furness

Grid Reference: SD 180 693

Planning Application Reference No.: 6/05/9001

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 of Field Archaeologists, or equivalent. No fieldwork may commence until approval of a specification has been issued by the County Historic Environment Service.

1. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) has been consulted by Capita Symonds regarding a planning application for a teenage activity area at Mill Lane, Walney, Barrow-in-Furness.
- 1.2 The scheme affects an area of archaeological interest and potential and consequently a programme of archaeological survey, to be undertaken prior to the site works commencing, and an archaeological watching brief, to be undertaken during the course of the ground works of the development, is required.
- 1.3 This advice is given in accordance with guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (Archaeology and Planning).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Ironbridge Archaeology, 2004, *Desk-Based Assessment of Mill Lane, Walney Island, Cumbria*, unpublished document) and this brief should be read in conjunction with that report. Structural remains including a building constructed from breeze-blocks and concrete pads survive on the site which relate to a Second World War MoD depot that served the nearby airfield (Historic Environment Record 15626). Aerial photographic evidence indicates that the remains of a medieval field system may extend across the site (HER no. 16603). Furthermore, a considerable amount of prehistoric finds have been recovered in the wider vicinity.

3. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

3.1 Objectives

- 3.1.1 To make a record of the historic structures prior to site clearance.
- 3.1.2 To identify any surviving archaeological remains within the areas of significant ground disturbance of the development and to investigate and record any revealed archaeological remains or deposits.

3.2 Work Required

3.2.1 Documentary Research

Further documentary research is required to compliment the existing desk-based assessment. This should assess any additional information regarding the nature and extent of the former MoD depot on the site and also its possible use post-war as a formal/informal housing estate. The County Records Office in Barrow should be referenced and, although a visit to the Public Records Office at Kew is beyond the remit of this project, full use of the internet is expected.

3.2.2 *Photographic record and survey*

A photographic record of the surviving structures and archaeological remains on the site should be undertaken. This should include rectified photographs of all external elevations as well as the requirements of a 'Photographic Survey' as described by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England *Recording Historic Buildings, A Descriptive Specification, 3rd edition, 1996*. All features of archaeological interest should be recorded on a site plan to +/- 0.1m accuracy.

3.2.3 *Watching Brief*

All areas of ground disturbance which will reach a depth below the topsoil layer must be carried out under archaeological supervision. This is expected to include the water balance pond, the terracing of the rugby pitches, drainage runs, and a soakaway. 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. Any ground works which are wholly contained within the topsoil layer will not require archaeological monitoring.

4. PROJECT DESIGN

- 4.1 Before the project commences a project proposal must be submitted to and approved by the County Historic Environment Service.
- 4.2 Proposals to meet this Brief should take the form of a detailed project design prepared in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd ed. 1991*, and must include:
- ❖ A description of the building recording system to be used
 - ❖ Details of key project staff, including the names of the project manager 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 through to the publication of results
 - ❖ 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
- 4.3 Any significant variations to the proposal must be agreed by the County Historic Environment Service in advance.

5. REPORTING AND PUBLICATION

- 5.1 The archaeological work should result in a report, this 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
 - ❖ An accurate plan to +/- 0.1m of the archaeological features showing the location of each photographed feature
 - ❖ Photographs of the features should be accompanied by an appropriate description
 - ❖ A description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and the results obtained
 - ❖ A list of, and dates for, any finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified
 - ❖ A description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained
 - ❖ Plans, sections drawings and photographs at an appropriate scale
 - ❖ The dates on which the project was undertaken
- 5.2 Three copies of the report should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within two months of completion of fieldwork. This will be on the understanding that the report will be made available as a public document through the County Historic Environment Record.

- 5.3 Cumbria HER is taking part in the pilot study for the *Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> 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.

6. THE ARCHIVE

- 6.1 An archive must be prepared in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed. 1991, and arrangements made for its deposit with an appropriate repository. A copy shall also be offered to the National Monuments Record.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 The County Historic Environment Service must be notified of the arrangements made.

7. PROJECT MONITORING

- 7.1 One weeks notice must be given to the County Historic Environment Service prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

8. FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1 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.**
- 8.2 The involvement of the County Historic Environment Service should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.
- 8.3 The Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists must be followed.

9. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding this brief, contact

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For further information regarding the County Historic Environment Record, contact

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service to all our clients we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this design brief. Please address them to the Assistant Archaeologist at the above address.

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

MILL LANE, WALNEY BARROW-IN- FURNESS

CUMBRIA

**Documentary Research,
Building Recording and
Watching Brief Project
Design**



Oxford Archaeology North

July 2005

Capita Symonds

OA North Tender No: t2490

NGR: SD 180 693

Planning Application No: 6/05/9001

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Cumbria County Council (hereafter ‘the Client’) has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for a programme of archaeological work at Mill Lane, Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (SD 180 693). The Client proposes to develop a teenage activity centre on the site (Planning Application Number 6/05/9001) and, consequently, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Section (CCCHES) have issued a brief requesting a programme of documentary research, and a survey of standing remains followed by a watching brief during any ground disturbing activities. The following document represents a project design to carry out the above programme of work and has been prepared in accordance with the CCCHES brief.

1.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.2.1 The site has been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Ironbridge Archaeology, 2004, Desk-Based Assessment of Mill Lane, Walney Island, Cumbria, unpublished document) which identified a number of structural remains, including a building constructed from breeze-blocks and concrete pads; these are thought to relate to a Second World War MoD depot that served the nearby airfield (Historic Environment Record 15626). Aerial photographic evidence indicates that the remains of a medieval field system may extend across the site (HER no. 16603). Furthermore, a considerable amount of prehistoric finds have been recovered in the wider vicinity.

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 24 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 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 to assess the potential for preserved archaeological remains and to record the standing remains and any 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 a brief by CCCHES, to provide documentary research to augment the desk-based assessment, a photographic survey and record and a watching brief. The results will provide information regarding the nature archaeology in the area and will help to inform future planning decisions. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 **Documentary Research:** in order to compliment the existing desk-based assessment (Ironbridge Archaeology, 2004, Desk-Based Assessment of Mill Lane, Walney Island, Cumbria, unpublished document), to undertake a rapid assessment of any additional information regarding the nature and extent of the former MoD depot on the site and also its possible use post-war as a formal/informal housing estate.

2.3 **Photographic Record and Survey:** a photographic record of the surviving structures and archaeological remains on the site.

- 2.4 **Archaeological Watching Brief:** to undertake observation during any ground disturbance beneath the level of the topsoil in order to determine and record the presence, extent and character of any archaeological remains.
- 2.5 **Report and Archive:** an evaluation 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 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

- 3.1.1 The documentary research will follow on from the desk-based assessment already produced. The study will concentrate on the nature and extent of the former MoD depot on the site and also its possible use post-war as a formal/informal housing estate assess. The study will focus on any additional information and sources at the County Records Office in Barrow and internet sources that were not examined during the original desk-based assessment.
- 3.1.2 **Documentary and cartographic material:** this work will include collation and assessment of information at the County Record Office, Barrow and of internet sources. Any photographic material lodged in the County Record Office will also be studied where appropriate to the former MoD depot.

3.2 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDING

- 3.2.1 The photographic record of the surviving structures and archaeological remains on the site will include photographs of all external elevations as well as the requirements of a 'Photographic Survey' as described by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England *Recording Historic Buildings, A Descriptive Specification, 3rd edition*, 1996. An indexed photographic record will include colour slide and monochrome prints, using a 35mm SLR camera with an appropriate lens and scale.

3.3 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.3.1 **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 the excavation for these works, including building foundations and service trenches, 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.
- 3.3.2 The watching brief will cover the whole of the area to be disturbed by the development including, topsoil stripping, foundation trenches and other earthmoving activities.
- 3.3.3 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).
- 3.3.4 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.
- 3.3.5 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.
- 3.3.6 *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.
- 3.3.7 *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.
- 3.3.8 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.
- 3.3.9 *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. 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.
- 3.3.10 *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.
- 3.4 REPORT AND ARCHIVE
- 3.4.1 *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. 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
- 3.4.2 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.
- 3.4.3 *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.
- 3.4.4 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.
- 3.4.5 *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.
- 3.4.6 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.
- 3.4.7 *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 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 **Documentary Research:** this element is expected to take approximately five days to complete.
- 5.2 **Photographic Survey:** this will take one day to complete in the field.
- 5.3 **Archaeological Watching Brief:** the duration of this element is dependant upon the duration of any ground disturbing activities on the site.
- 5.4 **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.
- 5.5 **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 **Access:** liaison for site access during the evaluation will be arranged with the client unless otherwise instructed prior to commencement of the archaeological investigation.
- 6.2 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 The project will be under the direct management of Stephen Rowland (OA North project manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 If there is a requirement for assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples which may be taken, it 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 and compilation*

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

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1998, *First Aid for Finds*, London

APPENDIX 3: FINDS SUMMARY

All finds were recovered from unstratified deposits

Object record	Quantity	Material	Description	Date range
01	1	Glass	Colourless entirely mould-made ribbed small jar with smooth panel for label and vacuum seal? No punt mark	Late nineteenth - early twentieth century
01	1	Glass	Colourless small bottle with Art Deco moulding, no punt mark, external screw-top closure	Early twentieth century
01	1	Glass	Dark green bottle with cork (?) -type closure, embossed text on sides 'Gordon's / Special Dry / London Gin', 'Established 1769', 'Regd 610617', and punt mark on base with an animal head and 'UGB 5'	1913 - 1959
01	1	Glass	Small brown bottle, external screw-top closure, punt mark on base 'FGC / 430 / 2'	1902 - 1939
01	1	Glass	Small cobalt blue jar, external screw top, punt mark on base with joined initials between two lines in a circle 'VW' or 'KW' or 'WV'?	Early twentieth century
01	1	Glass	Small colourless bottle with external screw top and punt mark on base with '3' in the centre of a sun burst	Early twentieth century
01	1	Glass	Small colourless bottle with cork-type closure (but entirely mould-made), and punt mark on base 'Wellcome / 10 5 / Chem-works' (although hard to read)	1880+
01	1	Glass	Small colourless jar with external screw-top closure and '8' on base	Early twentieth century
01	1	Glass	Small colourless bottle with external screw-top closure and '30' on base	Early twentieth century
01	1	Glass	Opaque white glass jar with external screw-top closure and embossed text on base 'Oatine / Regd No 717352 (?)'	Early twentieth century?
01	2	Glass	Small colourless refitting complete bottle with cork-type closure (entirely mould-made), and punt mark on base 'S / 17 / ◇' (not sure what is in the diamond)	Early twentieth century
01	1	Glass	Small colourless jar, external screw-top closure, no punt mark	Early twentieth century
01	1	Glass	Small colourless bottle, external screw-top closure, punt mark on base 'VB [in oval] / 90 / 2 L'	Early twentieth century
01	1	Glass	Small colourless bottle with cork-type closure (entirely mould-made), no punt mark	Late nineteenth - early twentieth century

Object record	Quantity	Material	Description	Date range
01	1	Glass	Small colourless bottle with relief-moulded leafy twig on both sides, external screw-top closure, and punt mark on base '13 (?) / 000 R0(?)0 / 311' (not sure as unclear)	Early twentieth century
01	1	Glass	Small brown jar with embossed text on side '2oz / Marmite' and on base 'FGC / 10', and vacuum seal?	1902 – 1939
01	1	Glass	Small green bottle with crown closure and embossed text on sides 'Thomsons / Ulverston / & Kendal', 'Thomsons / Lancaster / & Barrow', and punt mark on base 'A Dandylion / Registered / FGC'	1902 – 1939
01	1	Cork	Stopper fragment	Nineteenth – twentieth century
01	1	Plastic and rubber	White plastic screw bottle top with blue rubber insert	Early twentieth century
01	3	Plastic	Black screw-top bottle lids, all different, one with '21' embossed on inside	Early twentieth century
01	1	Glass	Colourless bottle base to neck with relief-moulded leaf vein pattern covering it, with smooth triangle for label and punt mark on base 'JL & CoLd C / Regd No / 735122 / e4L3'	1905 – 1937
02	1	Glass	Small brown jar with embossed text on side '2oz / Bovril / Limited' and punt mark on base 'Bottle made in England / by / FGC', vacuum seal?	1902 – 1939
02	1	Glass	Small brown bottle with external screw-top closure and very faint punt mark on base 'R / 1'	1920 – 1930?
02	1	Glass	Small colourless jar with embossed pattern on side and 'CWS' (Co-operative Wholesale Society, presumably), and on base '295 / * / 7', vacuum seal?	1872 +
02	1	Glass	Small colourless jar with embossed herring bone pattern on side and embossed text 'Packed by / OXO / Limited / London', and punt mark on base 'Rg No / 764042', vacuum seal?	c1900+
02	1	Glass	Small brown bottle, cork-type closure, entirely mould-made, no punt mark	Late nineteenth – early twentieth century
02	2	Glass	Identical light blue bottles, external screw-top closure, embossed text on side '“Milk of / Magnesia” / Registered Trade Mark', and on base '4 A / 3'	1873+
02	1	Glass	Colourless bottle, external screw-top closure, sauce bottle (?), '7' on base	Early twentieth century

Object record	Quantity	Material	Description	Date range
02	1	Glass	Small colourless jar, with embossed chequered pattern and 'Peck's' on sides, 'N' on base, vacuum seal?	Early twentieth century?
02	1	Glass	Colourless bottle, external screw-top closure, no punt mark	Early twentieth century
02	1	Glass	Green bottle with external screw-top closure, with punt mark on base with four initials in the four quadrants of a square 'LIHD'? (in the order NW, NE, SW, SE)	Early twentieth century
02	1	Glass	Small opaque white jar, external screw-top closure, and embossed text on base 'Pond's / England / G.B. Reg. No 792704'	1886+
02	1	Glass and plastic	Small opaque white jar with external screw-top closure and cream-coloured plastic lid <i>in-situ</i> . Embossed text on base 'Regd. No. 844932 / 1'	Early twentieth century
02	1	Glass	Small colourless jar with embossed chequered pattern and 'Peck's' on sides, and embossed text on base 'Rg No / 5 / 744903', vacuum seal?	Early twentieth century?
02	1	Glass	Colourless jar with external screw-top closure and embossed text on sides 'MacLean Brand / Stomach Powder', and 'UGB' on base	1913 - 1959
02	1	Glass	Colourless bottle with external screw-top closure, no punt mark	Early twentieth century
02	1	Glass	Brown jar, vacuum seal (?), punt mark 'FGC / A194 / o'	1902 – 1939
02	1	Glass	Colourless bottle with external screw-top closure, and punt mark 'X' (in circle) on base	Early twentieth century
02	1	Glass	Very small brown bottle, external screw-top closure, embossed text on side 'Inecto'	Early twentieth century
02	1	Glass	Very light turquoise entirely mould-made small bottle, with cork still inside and embossed 'X' or '+' on base	Late nineteenth – early twentieth century
02	1	Glass and plastic	Small colourless bottle with external screw-top closure and black plastic lid still <i>in-situ</i> (impressed 'Screw tightly / Dettol'), remains of printed paper labels on both sides (in black, gold, and green), and 'Tea spoons' embossed along sides, and 'Dettol' on base	1932+
03	2	Glass and cork	Refitting complete colourless bottle with cork stopper <i>in-situ</i> , punt mark on base 'S / N [in diamond] / 5'	Early twentieth century
04	1	Glass and paint?	Small colourless jar, ribbed sides with gap for label, '7' on base, half full of light blue solidified paint? Vacuum seal?	Early twentieth century

Object record	Quantity	Material	Description	Date range
05	1	Glass	Colourless bottle with external screw-top closure '4' (?) on base	Early twentieth century
06	1	Glass	Large colourless bottle with internal screw-top closure, embossed text below shoulder 'Marsh & Sons / Barrow Trade [stylised picture of a barrow/cart] Mark', base embossed 'Regd No / 833891 / FGC'	1902 – 1939
07	1	Copper alloy	Soup spoon? Marked 'Siltona' 'M' on reverse	Early twentieth century?
08	6	Ceramic	Partly refitting white earthenware pie dish rim to base with 'Willow' transfer-printed pattern marked 'Willow / Royal / Venton Ware [crown] / John Stevenson / & Sons Ltd / Burslem / England'	c1923-1936
08	3	Ceramic	Refitting white earthenware tureen (?) or other large hollow-ware fragments, with 'Asiatic Pheasants' transfer-printed pattern	Mid nineteenth – twentieth century
08	2	Ceramic	Brown-glazed buff-coloured stoneware pie dish (?) rim to base	Twentieth century
08	2	Ceramic	Refitting white earthenware ewer (?) rim fragments, with relief-moulded and green transfer-printed decoration	Late nineteenth – early twentieth century
08	1	Ceramic	Cream-coloured earthenware plate rim to base, with beaded rim	Twentieth century
08	1	Ceramic	White earthenware hollow-ware base	Late eighteenth – twentieth century
08	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed turquoise earthenware plate rim to base	Nineteenth – twentieth century
08	1	Ceramic	White earthenware ashtray rim to base with blue painted rim	Nineteenth – twentieth century
08	1	Ceramic	White bone china basin (?) fragment with enamelled gold decoration inside and out	Late nineteenth – twentieth century
08	1	Ceramic	White earthenware plate rim to base with orange enamelled stripe along rim, multi-coloured enamel floral transfer-printed pattern	c.1930s?
08	1	Ceramic	White earthenware plate rim with blue painted rim and black line at edge of well	Late nineteenth – twentieth century
08	1	Ceramic	White ironstone (?) plate rim	Late nineteenth – twentieth century
08	1	Ceramic	White earthenware hollow-ware rim, with relief-moulded decoration and turquoise enamel transfer-printed pattern	Early twentieth century
08	1	Ceramic	Fireclay (?) drain pipe rim?	Late nineteenth – twentieth century
08	1	Glass	Light turquoise opaque ridged tile fragment	Late nineteenth – twentieth century

Object record	Quantity	Material	Description	Date range
08	1	Ceramic	Bone china/porcelain hollow-ware fragment with orange, black and gold painted enamel decoration – imported?	Eighteenth – twentieth century
09	1	Glass	Colourless bottle with external screw-top closure and corroded iron lid <i>in-situ</i> , and punt mark ‘757 / c’	Early twentieth century