

EDGE END FARM, EDGE END LANE, NELSON LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North June 2006

Persimmon Homes Ltd

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SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North on 12th December 2005 at Edge End Farm, Nelson, Lancashire (SD 8561 3671). Persimmon Homes Ltd propose to develop the site, which lies within an area of recognised archaeological potential, into residential dwellings. Following a request for an archaeological watching brief by the Lancashire County Archaeology Service, Oxford Archaeology North was commissioned to undertake the works during the topsoil stripping and overburden removal activity along the access road to the site.

In the event, through circumstances beyond the control of Oxford Archaeology North, most of the groundworks were completed in the absence of an archaeological presence, and those that were conducted under archaeological observation yielded nothing of any archaeological significance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OA North would like to thank Persimmon Homes Ltd for commissioning and supporting the project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Jason Clark and David Tonks wrote the report. The drawings were compiled by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Alison Plummer, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 A planning application was submitted to Pendle Borough Council (Planning Application reference 13/04/0889) by Persimmon Homes Ltd, for the development of 30 dwellings, including the refurbishment of two existing buildings and the creation of an appropriate infrastructure and landscaping at Edge End Farm, Nelson, Lancashire (SD 8561 3671: Fig 1). Conditional permission was granted with a requirement for an archaeological investigation to be carried out in the form of a watching brief and archaeological building recording of the earlier of the two buildings.
- 1.1.2 Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) issued separate specifications for the watching brief and building recording in order to allow the client to carry out such an investigation. These formed the basis of a project design which was produced by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) (*Appendix 1*).
- 1.1.3 OA North was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Ltd to undertake both the watching brief and the building investigation in December 2005. The results from the watching brief are presented here in the form of a short report. The building recording is the subject of a separate report (OA North 2006).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 **PROJECT DESIGN**

2.1.1 Circumstances beyond the control of OA North dictated that the project design was not followed in full (*Section 4.1*), but such work as was carried out 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 It was the intent of the programme of field observation to record accurately the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features exposed during specified groundworks associated with the development. This work would have comprised observation during the topsoil strip and overburden-stripping activities associated with the improvement works along the proposed access road to the site.
- 2.2.2 The recording comprised a full description of the site on OA North *pro-forma* sheets, and a photographic record in colour slide and monochrome formats was compiled.

2.3 ARCHIVE

2.3.1 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 with the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Records office in Preston.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1.1 Edge End Farm is located within Brierfield, which lies close to the south end of Nelson, Lancashire (Fig 1). The site is situated on Edge End Lane which is off Walverden Road and is approximately 0.5km south-east of Junction 12 of the M65 motorway. The site is bounded to the north by Nelson Edge End High School and by Edge End Hall to the west.
- 3.1.2 The solid geology comprises mainly Lower Westphalian coal measures with overlying drift deposits of till and fluvial deposits occurring particularly in valley bottoms (Countryside Commission 1998). The soils are classified 'urban' by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (Ordnance Survey 1983).

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 Edge End is thought to have a long history. It is known to have been tenanted by the Hargreaves family from the early fourteenth century, who held nearly 26 acres of land (Bennett 1957, 51), and the estate may have been formed as a result of enclosure carried out in around 1311 (op cit, 22). The Hargreaves family held the estate until the mid eighteenth century (op cit, 51), and were latterly Quakers; it is thought that meetings took place at Edge End in secret until the Toleration Act was passed in 1689 (Pendle Borough Council 2003, Section 3). It is likely that their original farmstead was situated on the same site as the current Edge End Hall (ibid). The estate was purchased either by Richard Ecroyd in 1721 (op cit, Section 5) or Henry Ecroyd in c 1735 (Bennett 1957, 128), both of whom were fellow Quakers and clothiers, in what may have been a 'friendly business transaction' (ibid). Henry Ecroyd is certainly listed as the owner in 1769 (LRO(P) 27/11/1-25 c 1792-1867). The Ecroyds set up a weaving shop and dye house, as well as cottages, in the early eighteenth century: 'Here, a few workers were engaged in hand combing, spinning, warping and dyeing; the weavers who worked in their own cottages were supplied with warps, weft, healds and reeds' (Bennett 1957, 128). In 1740 Edge End House, to the south, was also built, as was a second house called Clare Green (Pendle Borough Council 2003, Section 5).
- 3.2.2 By 1780 the Ecroyds moved their business to the Lomeshaye area but 'for many years weaving was still done in cottages by hand-loom weavers' (ibid), and there are still references to the shop as late as 1820 (LRO(P) DDBd 27/11/27-30 1820-1845). An account of buildings in Little Marsden from 1800 provides some interesting information about Edge End at this time: it lists one old cottage, 17 cottages 'gone down' (presumably meaning demolished), and three old buildings made into cottages (Bennett 1957, 231-2). Of the 'old cottages' at Edge End, 'six... had housed the hand-loom weavers and spinners of Ecroyd's Edge End Mill, and four were connected with Marriott's farm and shop at Clay' (op cit, 135). In 1814 the house at Clare Green was apparently partially destroyed by fire (Pendle Borough Council 2003, Section 5), and, although there are references to Clare Green in rentals from 1820 it is not clear

whether these refer to buildings or land (LRO(P) DDBd 27/11/27-30/ 1820-1845). It is also noticeable that in these early references to Clare Green it is actually known as 'Clear Green' (*ibid*), although it is not known if this name is significant. There is also a reference to a, presumably Protestant, Dissenters' meeting house at Clare Green in 1819 (LRO(P) QDV/4/ 69d 70 1819).

- 3.2.3 Throughout the 1830s and 1840s the rentals and accounts record a number of alterations carried out to buildings at Clare Green and to a farmhouse at Edge End (*ibid*). For example, in 1840 there are references to pointing of cottages at Edgend (sic) and a barn at Clare Green, as well as the building of part of a chimney at Clare Green (ibid). Again, in 1842, there are references to a farmhouse at Edgend for which a chimney was to be built, and in 1843 an 'old building' at Clare Green was taken down (ibid). There are even references from the 1830s to damage caused at Clare Green by a 'great storm', but in all these cases it is not clear which buildings are being discussed. In the mid to late nineteenth century Edge End Hall was extensively remodelled and its gardens were enlarged, and in c 1860 the house at Clare Green was effectively replaced by Edge End Farm (Pendle Borough Council 2003, Section 6). In c 1876 a nursery business developed and a large number of glasshouses were built, but this only survived until c1912 (ibid). 'More successful were the allotment gardens created from a field immediately to the south of the clough and the main area of glasshouses' (ibid).
- 3.2.4 The Ecroyds remained at the site until the early twentieth century, and it was taken over by Dugdale and Sons in *c* 1930 who used it for cattle transportation (*op cit*, Section 7). It continued to be used for this purpose until the 1970s, after which it was used for the repair of transport vehicles (*ibid*). Most recently the buildings at Edge End Farm have been derelict and empty; some were badly damaged during a fire in 2003 (Anon 2003), and a number have also been demolished (Doug Moir pers comm).

4. RESULTS

4.1 **Observations**

- 4.1.1 *Introduction:* owing to a communication failure, only a short section (*c* 25m) of the groundworks was undertaken in the presence of an archaeological monitor, the results for which are set out below. The majority of the works were effected in the absence of an archaeological presence and no comment can be made about those works.
- 4.1.2 The observed works involved the excavations of between 0.5m and 1.0m into the natural ground, which comprised light brown to buff fragmented mudstone and clay across the whole area (Plate 1).
- 4.1.3 At a point 22m north of Edge Lane, an east/west aligned stone-lined and stone-capped culvert was observed 0.5m below current ground surface (Plate 2). It was 1m in width and 0.7m in depth. The observed section had been heavily truncated by the previous laying of service pipes. There were no finds and no further archaeological horizons were encountered.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 CONCLUSION

5.1.1 Although located within a general area of recognised archaeological potential, no significant finds nor archaeological horizons were observed during the programme of works. This is principally due to the limited area of the development subjected to the watching brief.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

6.1 PRIMARY AND CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

LRO(P) DDBd 27/11/1-25, c 1792-1867 Correspondence, accounts, conveyances - Marriott family property in Marsden

LRO(P) DDBd 27/11/27-30, c 1820-1845 Rentals – Property at Clare Green, Edgend and Reediford Mills

LRO(P) QDV/4/69d 70, 1819 Record Book of Dissenting Meetings: Little Marsden, Messuage at Clare Green in Possession of Jonas Lee

Ordnance Survey, 1983, Soil Survey of England and Wales

6.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

Anon, 2003 Outhouse at Farm Damaged by Fire, *Lancashire Evening Telegraph*, 24th February

Bennett, W, 1957 The History of Marsden and Nelson, Nelson

Countryside Commission, 1998 Countryside Character; the Character of England's Natural and Manmade Landscape, vol 2 North West, Cheltenham

English Heritage, 1991 The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edn, London

OA North, 2006 Edge End Farm, Edge End Lane, Nelson, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Evaluation, unpubl rep

Pendle Borough Council, 2003 Edge End Conservation Area – Enhanced Scheme, unpubl rep

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.1 Persimmon Homes Ltd (hereafter the client) has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals to undertake a building investigation and watching brief at Edge End Farm, Nelson, Lancashire (SD 8561 3671) prior to a proposed residential development. The site covers approximately 1.5ha and consists of hard standings and former gardens, with the site of two buildings.
- 1.1.2 A planning application was submitted to Pendle Borough Council (Planning Application reference 13/04/0889) for the development of 30 dwellings, including the refurbishment of two existing buildings on the site, and the creation of an appropriate infrastructure and landscaping. Permission was granted with a requirement for an archaeological investigation to be carried out. In response to this Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) issued two specifications: one for a watching brief and the other for a building investigation. However, following a site inspection the requirements of the specifications were modified. This project design has been prepared in accordance with the changes to the LCAS specifications.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 The settlement at Edge End dates to at least the fourteenth century. It was linked to the nearby Lomeshay area by Edge End Lane, both being owned by the same family. Edge End hall, adjacent to the site contains significant fabric of 17th century date, with Edge End House to the south which is Grade II listed (PRN 17892). The nearby Edge End Cottages were associated with a dye house and combing house for worsted yarn production, prior to the mid nineteenth century. These are depicted on an estate plan dated c 1790 but in reality it may be from 50 years earlier. The cloth business was moved to the nearby Lomeshay Mill in 1780.
- 1.2.2 The former farm buildings at Edge End Farm have largely been demolished; one of which was described by the Local Planning Authority Conservation Officer as a Georgian barn. The Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st edition map (1:10560) shows the farm as Clare Green and comprising a range of buildings running north/south to the west of the current farmhouse. The OS 1st edition map (1:2500) shows the farm as a house, a large range of buildings, a narrow building on the northern boundary of the farmyard and some minor structures.
- 1.2.3 During the mid twentieth century onwards the farmyard was in use for livestock transport and then a heavy goods vehicle repair business.

1.3 **OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH**

1.3.1 OA North has considerable experience of the assessment of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large-scale projects during the past 24 years. Such projects have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very

rigorous timetables. In recent years OA North also has extensive experience of archaeological work in Northern England.

1.3.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute 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 archaeological programme of work aims to record the presence and attempt to interpret the function of any archaeological features exposed during groundworks associated with the development, and to record and interpret the farmhouse known as Plot 15.
- 2.2 To achieve the objectives outlined above the following listed specific aims are proposed:
- 2.3 **Building Investigation:** to provide an origin, development sequence, and a drawn and textual record of the farmhouse to RCHME Level I to II-type survey;
- 2.4 *Watching brief:* to undertake the accurate recording of any archaeological deposits that are disturbed by topsoil/overburden stripping activities associated with the improvement works along the proposed access road.
- 2.5 *Report and Archive:* a written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local context. It will present the results of the building investigation.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 **BUILDING INVESTIGATION**

- 3.1.1 *Historic Map Regression*: an examination will be undertaken of all historic Ordnance Survey maps available. Cartographic sources will be consulted in an attempt to trace the development of the site back to the earliest available cartographic source. This will provide information on additional sites not included in the SMR, as well as ascertaining potentially any areas of more recent development.
- 3.1.2 Prior to commencement of the building investigation the client should remove all moveable materials which obstruct the fabric of the building.
- 3.1.3 *Photographic Archive:* a photographic archive will be produced utilising a 35mm camera to produce colour slides and black and white prints. A full photographic index will be produced and the position of photographs will be marked on the relevant floor plan. The archive will comprise the following:
 - (i) The external appearance and setting of the building;
 - (ii) The overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas;

- (iii) Any external or internal detail, structural or architectural, which is relevant to the design, development and use of the building and which does not show adequately on general photographs;
- (iv) Any internal detailed views of features of especial architectural interest, fixtures and fittings, or fabric detail relevant to phasing the building.
- 3.1.4 *Site Drawings:* the following architect's drawings (supplied by the client) will be annotated for the building:
 - Ground and first floor plans of the farmhouse to be annotated to show form and location of any structural features of historic significance and recording the form and location of any significant structural details (1:100 scale);
 - (ii) One cross-section where appropriate (1:50).
- 3.1.5 It should be noted that the farmhouse has been stripped of all internal walls and the floor at first floor level has been removed. This was undertaken for safety reasons. Where possible the original alignment of the internal walls will be added to the floor plans.
- 3.1.6 OA North does not undertake to correct survey inaccuracies in the client's drawings, which shall remain the responsibility of the client. However, if inaccuracies significantly impede the progress of the archaeological survey and must be rectified to allow the archaeological survey to proceed, a charge for this correction will be made (see *Section* 9).
- 3.1.7 The drawings will be used to illustrate the phasing and development of the farmhouse. Detail captured by the annotation will include such features as window and door openings, an indication of ground and roof level, and changes in building material. The final drawings will be presented through an industry standard CAD package.
- 3.1.8 *Interpretation and Analysis:* a visual inspection of the farmhouse will be undertaken utilising the OA North building investigation proforma sheets. A description will be maintained to RCHME Level I to II-type survey. This level of survey is descriptive and will provide a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use and present the evidence.
- 3.1.9 The written record will include:
 - (i) An analysis of the plan, form, fabric, function, age and development sequence of the building;
 - (ii) An account of the past and present use of the building;
 - (iii) An account of the fixtures, fittings associated with the building, and their purpose;
 - (iv) Identification of key architectural/agricultural features (including fixtures and fittings) which should be preserved in-situ;
 - (v) A discussion of the relative significance of rooms within the building;

(vi) A description of the buildings historic context including its relationship with nearby buildings in architectural and functional terms and so forth.

3.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.2.1 A programme of field observation will record accurately the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the area of topsoil/overburden stripping for the access road. This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 3.2.2 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (ie selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 3.2.3 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 the County Archaeology Service and will require a variation to costing.
- 3.2.4 *Written Record:* during this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed. All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically utilising OA North pro-forma. Areas of excavation will be assigned trench numbers and context numbers will be applied to archaeological features.
- 3.2.5 *Site Drawings:* a large-scale plan (provided by the client) will be produced of the area of the groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance, appropriately labelled to correspond with the written record. Archaeological features will be recorded accurately (either on plan (1:20) and/or section (1:10), and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate).
- 3.2.6 The site drawings will be manipulated in an industry standard CAD package (AutoCAD release 14/release 2000) for the production of final drawings.
- 3.2.7 A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously. This will utilise a 35mm camera for the production of both colour slides and monochrome prints. A photographic scale will appear in all images captured. The photographic index will describe and locate each area/feature photographed.

- 3.2.8 *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 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, and if appropriate, in compliance with the 'Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.
- 3.2.9 **Treatment of finds:** no sampling of finds will take place during fieldwork. All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
- 3.2.10 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 3.2.11 *Treasure:* any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavations will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.2.12 *Environmental Samples*: samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeozoological specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.

3.3 **REPORTS / ARCHIVE**

- 3.3.1 **Report:** due to the timescale involved and the nature of the development it is proposed that two reports will be issued. The first report to be issued will be the results of the watching brief within three weeks of completion of fieldwork. The second report will comprise the results of the building investigation, and this will be issued within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork. The reports will include:
 - (i) a site location plan related to the national grid;
 - (ii) a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR;
 - (iii) a concise, non-technical summary of the results;
 - (iv) an explanation to any agreed variations to the brief, including any justification for any analyses not undertaken;

- (v) a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained;
- (vi) copies of plans, photographs, and other illustrations as appropriate;
- (vii) a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design;
- (viii) the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.
- 3.3.2 These reports will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on CD, if required. Two copies of the reports will be supplied to the client and further digital copies to the SMR.
- 3.3.3 *Archive:* the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project.
- 3.3.4 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct. OA North conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Lancashire SMR (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 appropriate County Record Office.
- 3.3.5 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database project *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.
- 3.3.6 *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.

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 written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

5 **PROJECT MONITORING**

5.1 *Access:* liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through the client.

5.2 Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the County Archaeologist or his representative 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 LCAS in consultation with the client.

6 WORK TIMETABLE

- 6.1 *Building Investigation:* approximately two days in the field will be required to complete this element.
- 6.2 *Watching Brief:* the duration of this element will be dependent upon the progress of the contractor.
- 6.3 *Reports/Archive:* the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork: the watching brief report within three weeks and the building investigation report within eight weeks. OA North can execute projects at very short notice once a formal written agreement has been received from the client.

7 STAFFING

- 7.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Alison Plummer BSc** (**Hons**) (OA North senior project manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 7.2 Both elements of the fieldwork will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist experienced in the recording and analysis of historic buildings in the North West. Present timetabling constraints preclude who this will be.

8 INSURANCE

8.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

REFERENCES

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

ILLUSTRATIONS

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location map

Figure 2: Trench location plan

LIST OF PLATES

Plate1: Stone-lined culvert, facing east

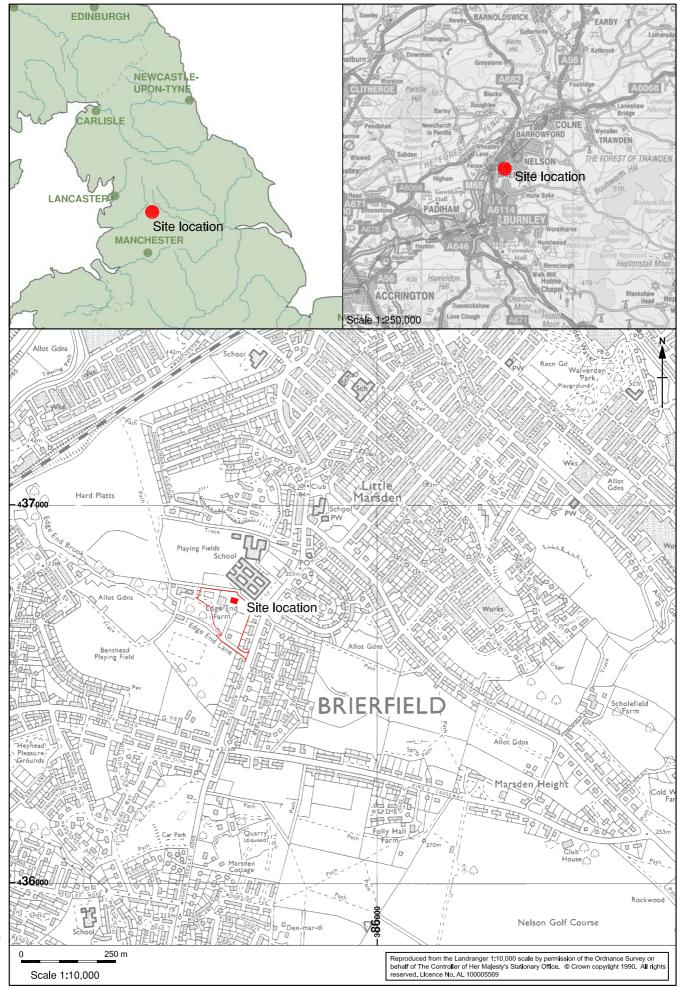


Figure 1: Site Location

filelocation*sitecode*invoicecode*sitename*illustratorsinitials*00.00.06

(north) filelocation*sitecode*invoicecode*sitename*illustratorsinitials*00.00.06



Figure 2: Trench location plan



Plate 1: Stone-lined culvert, facing east