



WALNEY SCHOOL, WALNEY, BARROW-IN- FURNESS CUMBRIA

Archaeological Evaluation



Oxford Archaeology North

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North was commissioned by Capita Symonds Ltd, on behalf of Cumbria County Council, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of an area of land for the proposed new sports hall (planning reference 06/05/9007) at Walney School, Walney, Barrow-in-Furness (NGR SD 1773 6835).

The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential due to numerous prehistoric lithic implements having been revealed during the construction of the school in 1957 (HER nos 2623 and 2378). Therefore, the intention of the archaeological investigation was to identify the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains to inform the planning process.

The evaluation, conducted in accordance with a brief from Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment (CCCHES), was undertaken in February 2006 and comprised a rapid desk-based assessment and the evaluation of three trenches, equivalent to a 5% sample of the development area.

The evaluation revealed no evidence of discrete archaeological features or deposits. It was clear that some disturbance of the area had already occurred, most likely related to the construction of the school and the later addition of the adjacent tennis courts. Three fragments of non-diagnostic flint and one piece of brown stoneware, of a style still currently in use, were recovered from unstratified contexts. Therefore, the proposed development is unlikely to have any impact on deposits of an archaeological significance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Allan Alexander of Capita Symonds Ltd for commissioning the work, and Vanessa Lloyd, the school Bursar, for assistance during the site visit. Thanks are also due to Jo Mackintosh, Historic Environment Record Officer for Cumbria, for her assistance with this project.

The evaluation was undertaken by Richard Lee and Pascal Eloy, with the report written by Richard Lee. The finds were assessed by Christine Howard-Davis. The illustrations were produced by Marie Rowland. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Capita Symonds Ltd commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake an archaeological investigation on an area of land proposed for a new sports hall at Walney School, Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (NGR SD 1773 6835; Fig 1). Cumbria County Council's planning section consulted the County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) regarding the planning application (planning application reference 06/05/9007), who advised that a scheme of archaeological evaluation was required in the form of a rapid desk-based assessment and trial trenching prior to development. The results of the evaluation would inform the planning process. To this end, the following proposals have been prepared in accordance with a formal brief (*Appendix 1*) issued by CCCHES.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The site is used as a sports field for Walney School and is located between the school buildings and the coast to the west, with Sandy Gap Lane to the north and residential housing to the east and south (Fig 1; Plate 1). The land was in use as allotments immediately prior to the construction of the school in 1957 but appears to have been extensively landscaped since. The site generally inclines downwards to the west.

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). The soils in the vicinity of the site are classed as Urban by the Soil Survey (1983).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 The fieldwork was conducted in adherence with a project design compiled by OA North (*Appendix 2*) and in accordance with a formal brief issued by the CCCHES (*Appendix 1*). However, a discrepancy in the size of the development area existed in the brief which states that it is 3100m², whilst in actuality, the area of impact to be considered during the evaluation equates to 1400m². This discrepancy was subsequently agreed by CCCHES. The work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 For the purposes of a rapid desk based assessment of the site, the Historic Environment Record (HER) office in Kendal was consulted. The HER is an extensive database of all known archaeological sites in the country, and it also holds a library of published and unpublished documentation for consultation.

2.2.2 An assessment of the available cartographic sources was undertaken by accessing the 'online mapping' resource at www.barrowbc.gov.uk, which provided pertinent maps of the locality.

2.3 VISUAL INSPECTION

2.3.1 A basic level of reconnaissance was required to record the existence, location and extent of any surface features or sites of archaeological potential. The reconnaissance was undertaken in a systematic fashion within the extent of the defined study area. The survey also recorded areas of disturbance, hazards or constraints, which would have an impact upon the siting of the resultant evaluation trenches.

2.4 EVALUATION TRENCHING

2.4.1 Three evaluation trenches were excavated by a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of an OA North archaeologist. Each trench was excavated stratigraphically down to either the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial till.

2.4.2 The trenches were recorded using a system devised from that by the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. The archive includes both photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at appropriate scales. Recording was principally in the form of *pro-forma* trench record sheets, which noted the orientation, dimensions and description of the topsoil and subsoil present.

2.5 ARCHIVE

- 2.5.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in Cumbria County Record Office (Barrow) on completion of the project. Copies of the report will be deposited with the Historic Environment Records office in Kendal.

3. RESULTS

3.1 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 **Prehistoric Period:** evidence for post-glacial activity is not uncommon in this part of North West England. Recent work has established that groups of Mesolithic hunter-gatherers were active on the coastline from St Bees down to Walney Island (Higham 1986, 52), with many artefacts having been discovered near the south-west shore of the island. These consist of almost entirely surface finds (Cherry and Cherry 2002). During the construction of Walney School in 1957/8 several Mesolithic sites were found, one of which was described as a chipping floor (HER 2623; Barnes 1970, 278). However, the flints were found in a thin layer of topsoil above boulder clay which suggests that they were in an unstratified context and not from a chipping floor. The lithics included, microliths, cores, blades or flakes and scrapers. The butt end of a polished axe of an unusual grey volcanic rock was also found. The following year a similar find was made (HER 2738), again during the school's construction, although this was not substantial enough to be termed a chipping floor, despite its similarity to other Mesolithic sites on the island (*ibid*).
- 3.1.2 Approximately 250m to the south of the school an 'ancient quern' was found in a field at Tummerhill in 1900. This is described as the upper stone of a probable prehistoric quern (HER 2739), although the current whereabouts of the quern and knowledge of its provenance appear to be lost.
- 3.1.3 Walney Island has produced Beaker pottery found in association with rough-outs for axe heads suggesting a date from the first half of the second millennium BC (Higham 1986, 57). Second millennium BC ceramic traditions also occur in relation to 'profuse midden material' including shell fish and ox bones from Walney (Cross 1938; 1942; 1950).
- 3.1.4 **Roman Period:** the Roman period is not well attested on Walney Island (Shotter 1995) despite a considerable number of coins having been found in South Cumbria. Two Tetradrachm coins were found on the island, although their exact location is unknown, dated to Claudius II (10 BC-54 AD) (HER 19095).
- 3.1.5 **Medieval Period:** like many parts of North West England evidence for activity during the early medieval period is largely confined to place names. The Domesday Survey in 1086 names the island as *Hougenai*, thought to mean the Manor of Hougon, of which Furness was part. The Manor was thought to be based at High Haume near Dalton (Parsons 2002). The actual name of Walney is first used in 1127 (Trescaheric 1985) with numerous variations occurring over the next 400 years. The origin of the name of Walney Island may be derived from Old Scandinavian *vogn* and *ey*, meaning killer-whale island (Mills 1991, 344). Alternatively, the name may be a combination of Old English *wall* (*op cit*, 384) and Old Scandinavian *eye* meaning a walled island, and probably referred to the island having the appearance of a bank or a wall

in the sea (West 1774, xix) acting as a protection to the harbour to the east of Piel Island.

- 3.1.6 Activity on Walney and the greater Barrow area appears to be linked to the development of Furness Abbey, founded in 1127. At the time of the establishment of the Abbey, The Furness Abbey Coucher Book (Brownbill 1919) records that its foundation rights included the entire forest of Furness and Walney, including the hunting rights, thus implying that at the time Walney was part of an area used principally for hunting deer and wild boar and was subject to forest laws (Coleman and Wood 1985, 28). Walney remained in the hands of Furness Abbey throughout the medieval period, during which time the hamlets of North Scale and Biggar developed, along with tenements or farm holdings (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 308). Abbey rentals at the time of the Dissolution record the settlements of Northscale, Northende, Southende, Bygger and Idelcote on Walney Island (Brownbill 1919, 589). However, following the Dissolution of Furness Abbey in 1537, the land reverted to the Crown, as part of the lands of the Duchy of Lancaster (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 299). Parts of the Abbey's former lands were then leased out to tenants, and parts were administered directly by the Duchy (*ibid*).
- 3.1.7 **Post-Medieval Period:** the hamlet of Biggar formed the centre of the gradual development on Walney. Cartographic sources indicate that the open fields of the hamlet began to be enclosed into long narrow shapes, resulting from ploughing, probably from the later medieval or early post-medieval period onwards. The field boundaries continued unchanged throughout the nineteenth century (Ordnance Survey (OS) 1873 and 1900) and early twentieth centuries (OS 1938).
- 3.1.8 **Modern Period:** Walney Island is within the modern parish of Barrow-in-Furness, but historically lay in the parish of Dalton-in-Furness, which occupied most of the south end of the peninsula, known as Plain Furness (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 286). Although the area was originally in Lancashire-north-of-the-Sands, it became part of Cumbria in the county reorganisation of 1974.
- 3.1.9 OS Maps indicate that there was relatively little recorded activity on the development site until recently. Until the early twentieth century the development site was open fields (Fig 3), but by the 1930s (OS 1938) the area had been divided into garden allotments (Fig 4).
- 3.1.10 Opposite the school, on the north side of Sandy Gap Lane, a World War II pillbox (HER19383) is recorded, positioned within the centre of the current golf course. This is likely to have been part of the coastal defences associated with an MOD airfield, used in both the First and Second World Wars, situated 1.5km to the north-east of Walney School. Although this does not appear on any contemporary OS maps for reasons of security, it was recorded on the 1940s MOD aerial photographs of Walney (1940 MOD).
- 3.1.11 During the twentieth century, the area of the development site became known as Vickerstown as a consequence of housing the workers of Vickers Ship

Building and Engineering Ltd. Shipbuilding has remained the dominant industry ever since.

3.2 FIELDWORK

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** the evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches on the grassed sports field to the west of the existing tennis courts (Fig 2; Plate 1). Trench 1 and 2 were located on level ground adjacent to the tennis courts whilst Trench 3 was located downhill to the west. There is a drop in ground level of 1m between Trenches 1 and 2, and Trench 3 (Fig 2).
- 3.2.2 **Trench 1:** measured 10m in length and 1.8m wide (Fig 5; Plate 2). It was located 5m to the south of the main school building and 1m to the west of the existing tennis courts. The trench was machine excavated through a dark brown clayey-silt **100**, approximately 0.2m in depth. Below this was a dark brown clayey-silt subsoil, **101**, 0.5m in depth, with occasional inclusions of small pebbles and gravel. Within the subsoil were a handful of broken shards of glass and a few small pieces of modern red brick. At a depth of 0.7m a pink-brown silty-clay, **102**, natural soil was encountered, at which excavation stopped (*Appendix 3*). The natural deposit was banded with pebbles/gravel, some of which appeared to be marine deposits.
- 3.2.3 **Trench 2:** measured 10m in length and 1.8m in width, and was located parallel to the tennis courts boundary (Fig 5; Plate 3). Some modern disturbance resulting from the school's construction was anticipated. The trench was machine excavated through a topsoil of dark brown clayey-silt, **200**. A natural layer of pink-brown clay **201**, was found, at a depth of 0.18m, which was similar to **102** in Trench 1, although appearing at a shallower depth and with more disturbance. Following the excavation of a sondage to a depth of 1.2m a further stratigraphic layer was discovered below, **202**, and **201** was interpreted as a re-deposited layer or natural clay, 0.44m in thickness. The underlying mixed deposit, **202**, was a dark grey-black soil incorporating small pieces of broken glass, fragments of red brick and occasional pieces of rusty iron. Three or four complete bricks were also found with some mortar adhering to them. This layer, 0.12m deep, covered the full length and width of Trench 2 and appeared to be a make-up layer for the construction of the adjacent tennis court and school. Below this was a further layer of pink-brown clay encountered at 1m below the ground level. This was interpreted as a natural deposit, **203**.
- 3.2.4 **Trench 3:** measured 15m in length and 1.8m wide, and was located to the west of Trenches 1 and 2 (Fig 5; Plate 4). It was machine excavated through a grey-brown topsoil, **300**. This immediately revealed a land drain at a depth of 0.4m. A further two land drains were located along the length of the trench approximately 4-6m apart. There was no subsoil present and the topsoil was directly on top of the pebble-rich silty-clay natural, **301**, of an orange-pink colour at a depth of 1.2m (*Appendix 3*). During excavation, the trench rapidly filled with ground water.

3.3 FINDS

- 3.3.1 Only four finds were recovered, all of which were unstratified (*Appendix 4*). Three of them were irregular fragments of flint, all with cortex remaining, and probably from beach pebbles. It is possible that these are debitage from the primary working of flint nodules, but as they lack any diagnostic features this cannot be confirmed. The fourth fragment was that of a late brown stoneware vessel thought to be the horizontal lug handle of a stewpot. The lustrous glaze might suggest a Nottingham product. The vessel is unlikely to date earlier than the mid nineteenth century, and is a form that remains in use to the present day.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 Evidence from Walney Island suggests activity was prevalent throughout the prehistoric period. Several sites with Mesolithic and Neolithic lithics have been identified (Cherry and Cherry 2002), and Beaker pottery and midden material from the first half of the second millennium BC has also been recovered (Cross 1938; 1942; 1950, and Higham 1986, 57). Construction of the school in the late 1950s, revealed several Mesolithic sites, including a chipping floor (HER 2623 and 2738; Barnes 1970, 278). The artefacts included microliths, cores, blades or flakes, scrapers, and the butt end of a polished axe. In addition, to the south of the school a probable prehistoric quern was found (HER 2739).
- 4.1.2 Consequently, there was potential for uncovering additional prehistoric remains during the evaluation trenching. However, the results of the trenching show the area to have been heavily disturbed during the construction of the school. Depths of made ground were seen in the vicinity of Trenches 1 and 2, such as the layer of dark grey/black soil, **202**, with inclusions of glass, brick and rusty iron. The discovery of flint fragments during the trenching may be associated with the scatters recovered during the 1950s. However, these were found unstratified with a fragment of relatively modern pottery, demonstrating the level of recent disturbance.
- 4.1.3 The discovery of three land drains within a 15m long trench in Trench 3 suggest that they may run across the full length of the sports field as part of the water management of the area; Trench 3 is at a lower elevation than Trenches 1 and 2, probably the original ground level, where the field is notably wetter.

4.2 IMPACT

- 4.2.1 The lack of archaeological features discovered over the three trenches is largely due to the disturbance resulting from the construction of the school during the late 1950s. This activity is likely to have destroyed any surviving archaeological deposits and the proposed development is unlikely to have an archaeological impact.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

5.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

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5.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

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6. ILLUSTRATIONS

6.1 LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

Figure 3: Ordnance Survey, 6 inch to 1 mile, 1900

Figure 4: Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to 1 mile, 1938

Figure 5: Plan of Trenches 1, 2 and 3

6.2 PLATES

Plate 1: General view of the proposed development area

Plate 2: View of Trench 1 looking east

Plate 3: View of Trench 2 looking south

Plate 4: View of Trench 3 looking south

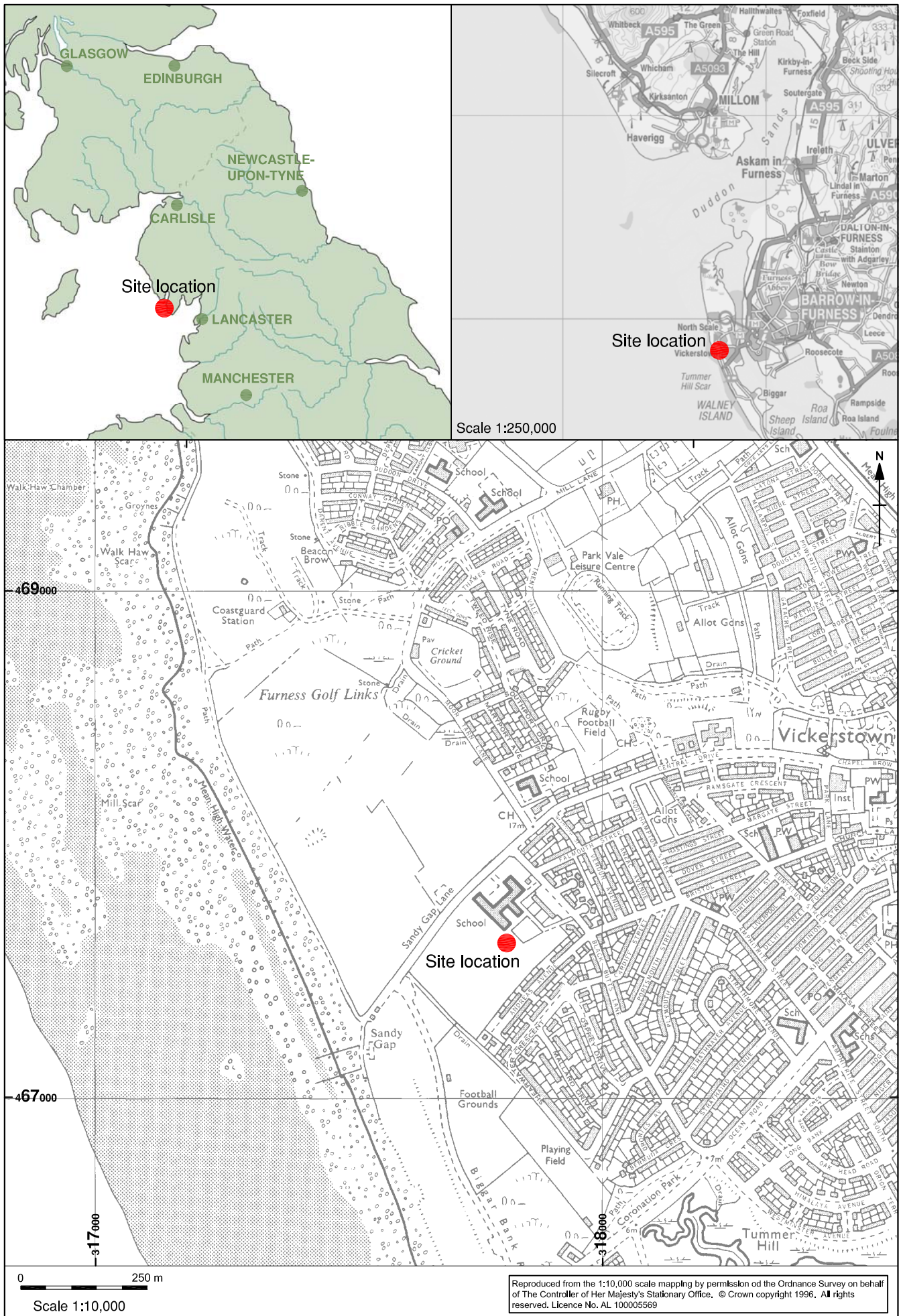


Figure 1: Site Location Map

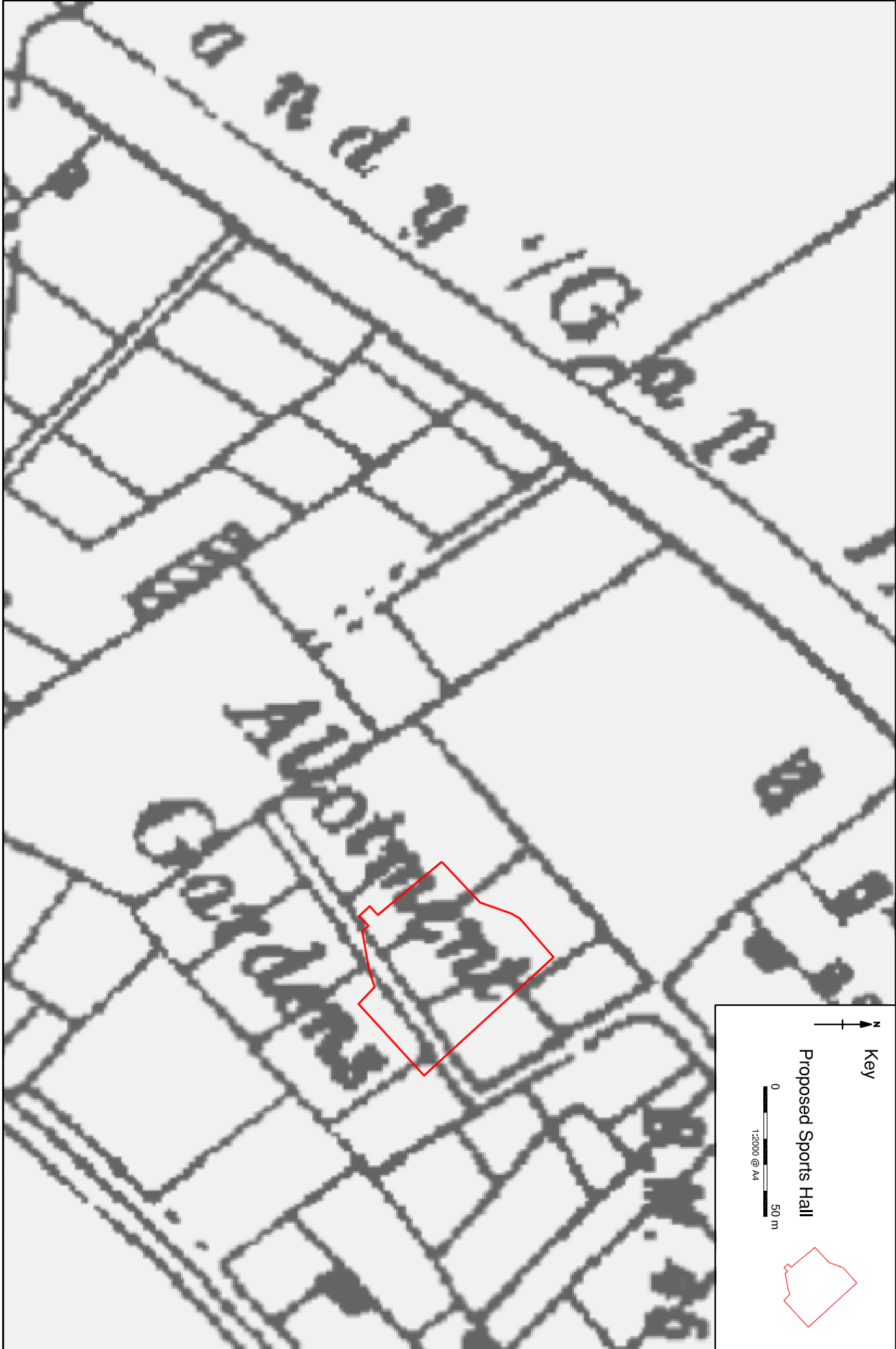


Figure 4: Ordnance Survey, 25" to 1 mile, 1938

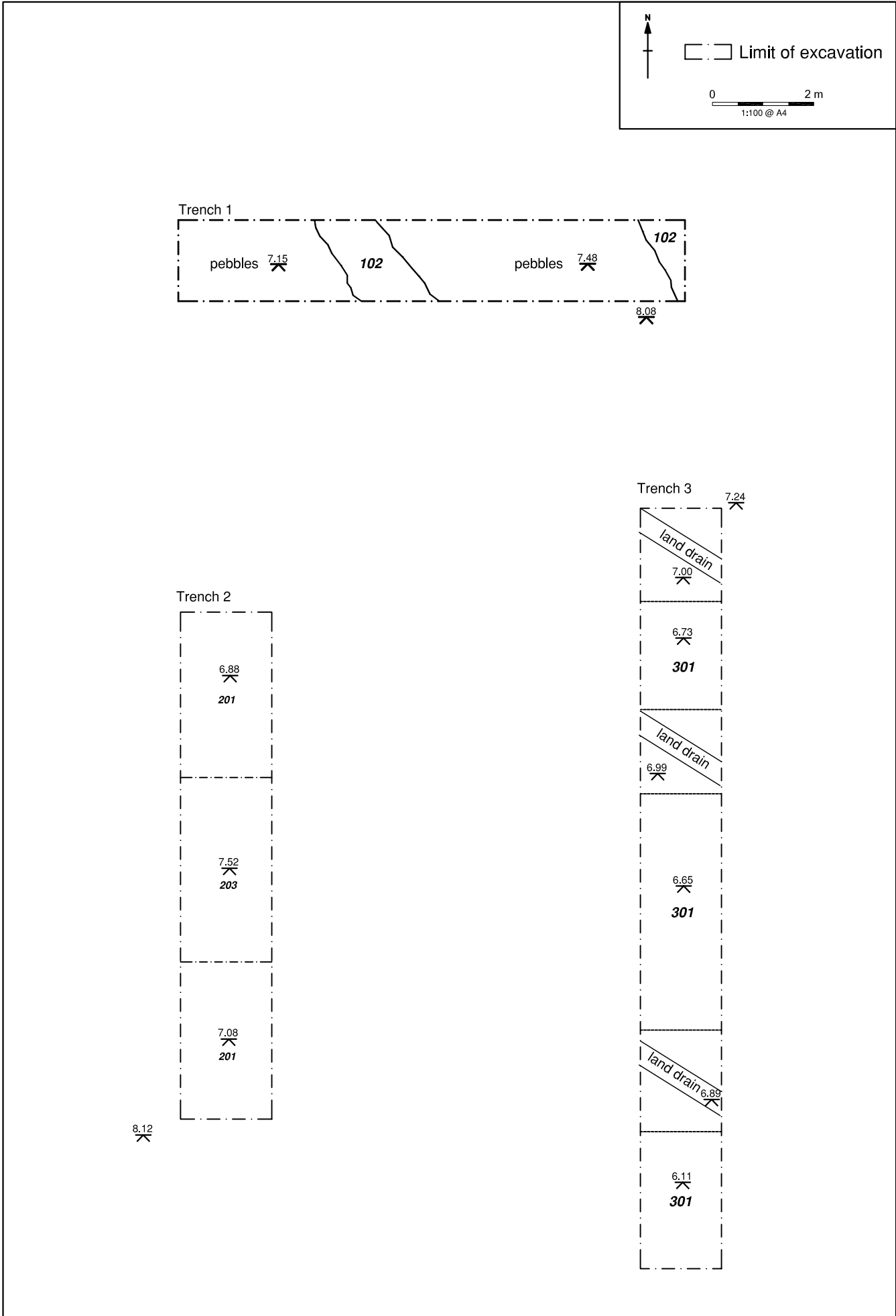


Figure 5: Plans of Trenches 1, 2 and 3





Plate 1: General view of the proposed development area



Plate 2: View of Trench 1 looking east



Plate 3: View of Trench 2 looking south



Plate 4: View of Trench 3 looking south

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AT WALNEY SCHOOL, BLACK BUTTS LANE, WALNEY, BARROW-IN-FURNESS
CUMBRIA

Issued by the

County Historic Environment Service

Environment Unit, Economy, Culture and Environment



COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Brief: 29 July 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.

1. SITE DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY

Site: Walney School, Black Butts Lane, Walney, Barrow-in-Furness

Grid Reference: SD 1773 6835

Planning Application No.: 6/05/9007

Area: 3100 square metres

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. Any response to this Brief should follow IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 1994. No fieldwork may commence until approval of a specification has been issued by the County Historic Environment Service.

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) has been consulted by the County Council's planning section regarding a planning application for a sports hall at Walney School, Black Butts Lane, Walney, Barrow-in-Furness.
- 2.2 The scheme affects an area considered to have a high archaeological potential and consequently the County Historic Environment Service has advised that the applicant provides information concerning the potential impact of the proposal on archaeological remains. In order to provide this information an archaeological evaluation of the site is necessary. This Design Brief sets out the requirements for the adequate archaeological evaluation of the site.
- 2.3 This advice is given in accordance with guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (Archaeology and Planning) and with the County Structure Plan.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A considerable number of prehistoric lithic implements were revealed during the construction of the school (Historic Environment Record nos. 2623 & 2738).

4. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

- 4.1 *Objectives*
 - 4.1.1 The evaluation should aim to determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied.
- 4.2 *Work Required*
 - 4.2.1 Before any on site work commences the County Historic Environment Record should be consulted and a *rapid* desk-based survey of the existing resource undertaken. This should include an assessment of those primary and secondary sources and any relevant aerial photographs referenced in the County Historic Environment Record.
 - 4.2.2 A visual inspection of the site. This should include a walkover of the site noting any surface features of potential archaeological interest, areas of potentially significant disturbance, and hazards and constraints to undertaking further archaeological work on site (including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths).

- 4.2.3 The excavation of a series of linear trial trenches and/or test-pits to adequately sample the threatened available area, and the investigation and recording of deposits and features of archaeological interest identified within those trenches. All features must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the County Historic Environment Service. Initial topsoil removal can be undertaken by machine, but subsequent cleaning and investigation must be by hand. A minimum sample of 5% of the total site area should be investigated.
- 4.2.4 The evaluation should provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals. An impact assessment should also be provided, wherever possible.
- 4.2.5 The following analyses should form part of the evaluation, as appropriate. If any of these areas of analysis are not considered viable or appropriate, their exclusion should be justified in the subsequent report.
- A suitably qualified specialist should assess the environmental potential of the site through the examination of suitable deposits, including: (1) soil pollen analysis and the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features, and; (2) the retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits.
 - Advice is to be sought from a suitably qualified specialist in faunal remains on the potential of sites for producing bones of fish and small mammals. If there is potential, a sieving programme should be undertaken. Faunal remains, collected by hand and sieved, are to be assessed and analysed, if appropriate.
 - The advice from a suitably qualified soil scientist should be sought on whether a soil micromorphological study or any other analytical techniques will enhance understanding site formation processes of the site, including the amount of truncation to buried deposits and the preservation of deposits within negative features. If so, analysis should be undertaken.

5. SPECIFICATION

- 5.1 Before the project commences a project proposal must be submitted to, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Service.
- 5.2 Proposals to meet this Brief should take the form of a detailed specification prepared in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed. 1991, and must include:
- ❖ A description of the excavation sampling strategy and recording system to be used
 - ❖ A description of the finds and environmental sampling strategies to be used
 - ❖ A description of the post excavation and reporting work that will be undertaken
 - ❖ Details of key project staff, including the names of the project manager, site supervisor, finds and environmental specialists and any other specialist sub-contractors to be employed
 - ❖ Details of on site staffing, expressed in terms of person days
 - ❖ A projected timetable for all site work and post excavation work
- 5.3 The specification should identify the proposed locations of trial trenches.
- 5.4 Any significant variations to the proposal must be agreed by the County Historic Environment Service in advance.

6. REPORTING AND PUBLICATION

- 6.1 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
 - ❖ The dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken
 - ❖ A concise, non-technical summary of the results

- ❖ An explanation of any agreed variations to the brief, including justification for any analyses not undertaken (see 4.2.5)
 - ❖ A description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and the results obtained
 - ❖ Plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of deposits and finds located
 - ❖ 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
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 Should further archaeological work result from the evaluation, the results of the evaluation will need to be made available for inclusion in a summary report to a suitable regional or national archaeological publication.
- 6.4 Recommendations concerning any subsequent mitigation strategies and/or further archaeological work following the results of the field evaluation should **not** be included in the report. Such recommendations are welcomed by the County Historic Environment Service, and may be outlined in a separate communication.
- 6.5 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.

7. THE ARCHIVE

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 The County Historic Environment Service must be notified of the arrangements made.

8. PROJECT MONITORING

- 8.1 One weeks notice must be given to the County Historic Environment Service prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 8.2 Fieldwork will be monitored by the Assistant Archaeologist on behalf of the local planning authority.

9. FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1 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.**
- 9.2 All aspects of the evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct* and the IFA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.
- 9.3 Human remains must be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation should normally be permitted beyond that necessary to establish the date and character of the burial, and the County

Historic Environment Service and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. If removal is essential, it can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations.

- 9.4 The involvement of the County Historic Environment Service should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

10. 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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Capita Symonds Ltd (hereafter the 'client') has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an archaeological investigation on an area of land proposed for a new sports hall at Walney School, Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (NGR SD 1773 6835). Cumbria County Council's planning section consulted the County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) regarding the planning application (planning application reference 6/05/9007), who have subsequently advised that a scheme of archaeological work will be required in the form of a rapid desk-based assessment, visual inspection and evaluation trenching prior to development. To this end, the following proposals have been prepared in accordance with a formal brief has been issued by CCCHES. However, although the brief states a total area of 3100m² will be affected, the area of impact actually equates to 1400m².

1.1.2 The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential due to numerous prehistoric lithic implements having been revealed during the construction of the school (HER nos 2623 and 2738). Therefore, the intention of the archaeological investigation is to identify the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains, in order that mitigation can be highlighted at an early stage prior to development.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North has considerable experience 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, 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.

1.2.2 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 (1994).

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The assessment aims to evaluate the known archaeological resource and potential for further archaeological deposits, in order to determine their extent, nature and significance of the remains that may be threatened by the proposed development. The following programme has been designed to provide information as to whether further investigation is required prior to the development taking place. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 **Rapid desk-based assessment:** to provide a rapid or low-level desk-based assessment of the site to identify the archaeological potential prior to any development and provide a context for any remains that may be located during trenching (in accordance with the IFA standards (1999a)).

2.3 **Visual Inspection Survey:** to undertake a site inspection to relate the desk-based assessment findings and identify any areas of archaeological potential, together with areas available for evaluation or disturbance.

2.4 **Archaeological Evaluation:** to implement a programme of trial trenching examining a minimum 5% of the proposed development area, to evaluate any archaeological deposits and features (in accordance with the IFA standards (1999b)).

2.5 **Report and Archive:** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks, unless a report submission deadline is agreed with the client at the time of commission. An archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2 (1991)).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

3.1.1 **Introduction:** a desk-based assessment is usually undertaken as the first stage of a programme of archaeological recording, prior to further intrusive investigation in the form of trenching. It is not intended to reduce the requirement for evaluation, excavation or preservation of known or presumed archaeological deposits, but it will provide an appraisal of archaeological constraints and a guide to any requirement for further archaeological work.

3.1.2 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The CCHES brief has requested a rapid desk-based assessment. The results will be analysed using the set of criteria used to assess the national importance of an ancient monument (DoE 1990). This aids in the presentation of the significance or otherwise of the site, and assessment during the planning process.

3.1.3 **Documentary and cartographic material:** this work will rapidly address the full range of potential sources of primary and secondary information for the study area consisting of 0.5km radius centred on the site. It will include an appraisal of the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (CHER, formerly the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)) in Kendal, which is a database of known archaeological sites within the County. The CHER also holds an extensive library of published materials for consultation, including OS 1st Edition maps (both 6" to 1 mile and 25" to 1 mile) and published documentary sources, that will also be examined and assessed as appropriate. The aim is to give consideration not only to the application site, but also its setting in terms of its archaeological context.

3.1.4 **Aerial photography:** a brief survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. This would provide an indication of recent land-use, but is not likely to significantly inform the archaeological potential of the site. The Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record has a valuable aerial photographic collection.

3.2 VISUAL INSPECTION

3.2.1 Following the desk-based assessment the site will be visited in order to relate the existing topography and land use to research findings, and assess evidence not available through documentary sources. It will also provide an understanding for areas of impact by the proposed redevelopment or areas of disturbance.

3.2.2 A visual inspection of the site will be undertaken to;

- relate the existing landscape to any research findings and note any features of potential archaeological interest.
- identify any areas of potentially significant disturbance to surviving archaeological remains.
- identify any hazards and constraints to undertaking further archaeological work on site, i.e. evaluation trenching (including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders).

3.3 EVALUATION

3.3.1 The programme of trial trenching will establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits and, if established, will then test their date, nature, depth and quality of preservation. In this way, it will adequately sample the threatened available area.

3.3.2 **Trenches:** the evaluation is required to examine a minimum of 5% of the total study area, which is approximately 1400m². Therefore, this requires the excavation of 70m², which equates to the excavation of a series of trenches equating to 35m in length with a width of 2m (the width of a typical excavator bucket).

3.3.3 Provisionally the trenches will be scattered uniformly over the extent of the undeveloped area. However, the exact configuration of the trenches and location will be determined by the

- desk-based assessment and visual inspection, and in consultation with CCCHES. Subject to the assessment, there may also be additional areas of disturbed land, which are inappropriate for evaluation and hence may reduce the overall area requiring evaluation trenching.
- 3.3.4 Trenches will be located by use of a total station in accordance with a **digital plan to be supplied by the client**.
- 3.3.5 **Methodology:** the trenches will be excavated by a combination of mechanised and manual techniques; the topsoil will be removed by machine (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket) under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit. The machine excavation will not intrude into any potential archaeological stratigraphy. This deposit will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and inspected for archaeological features. All features of archaeological interest must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed by CCCHES. The trenches will not be excavated deeper than 1.20m to accommodate health and safety constraints; any requirements to excavate below this depth will involve recosting.
- 3.3.6 Any concrete surfaces that require breaking out will be done so under OA North supervision, with a breaking arm mounted on the mechanical excavator. The cost will be subject to a variation for plant hire, breakers and any additional staff to supervise the work.
- 3.3.7 Any investigation of intact archaeological deposits will be exclusively manual. 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. It is hoped that in terms of the vertical stratigraphy, maximum information retrieval will be achieved through the examination of sections of cut features. All excavation, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features, which appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.
- 3.3.8 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections, colour slides and monochrome contacts) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.3.9 Results of all field investigations will be recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10). All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.
- 3.3.10 **Environmental Sampling:** environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of suitable deposits by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis.
- 3.3.11 The assessment would be undertaken in line with English Heritage guidelines (2001) and will include soil pollen analysis and the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features. In addition, the samples would be assessed for plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if good deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of CCCHES and the client.
- 3.3.12 Advice will also be sought as to whether a soil micromorphological study or any other analytical techniques will enhance the understanding of the site formation processes, including the amount of truncation to buried deposits and the preservation of deposits within negative features. Should this be required the costs for analysis have been provided as a contingency.
- 3.3.13 **Faunal remains:** if there is found to be the potential for discovery of bones of fish and small mammals a sieving programme will be carried out. These will be assessed as appropriate by OA North's specialist in faunal remains, and subject to the results, there may be a

requirement for more detailed analysis. A contingency has been included for the assessment of such faunal remains for analysis.

- 3.3.14 **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. Any delays caused by unforeseen and complex excavation of inhumations may be subject to a variation to the cost of the contract and will be agreed with the client.
- 3.3.15 **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.
- 3.3.16 **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.
- 3.3.17 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.
- 3.3.18 **Contingency plan:** a contingency costing may also be employed for unseen delays caused by prolonged periods of bad weather, vandalism, discovery of unforeseen complex deposits and/or artefacts which require specialist removal, use of shoring to excavate important features close to the excavation sections etc. This has been included in the Costings document and would be in agreement with the client.
- 3.3.19 The evaluation will provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals. In this way, an impact assessment will also be provided.

3.4 REPORT

- 3.4.1 One bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, and three copies to the Cumbria HER within eight weeks of completion of the final report. The report will include;
- a site location plan related to the national grid
 - a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results
 - the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken
 - description of the methodology, including the sources consulted
 - a summary of the historical background of the study area
 - an interpretation of the results and their significance, using the 'Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments' included as Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990)
 - appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located
 - a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the proposed development
 - monochrome and colour photographs as appropriate
 - a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design
 - the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted

- plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds
- an index to the project archive

3.4.2 **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.

3.5 ARCHIVE

3.5.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with Appendix 3 of the current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991) and UKIC (1990). This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the County Record Office.

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.

4.2 **Services:** full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the evaluation as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. As a matter of course the Unit uses a U-Scan device prior to any excavation to test for services, however, this is only an approximate location tool, and is not foolproof.

4.3 Any **drawings or knowledge of live cables or services** that may pose a risk to OA North staff during evaluation must be made known to the project manager of OA North before site work. This will ensure the risk is dealt with appropriately.

4.4 **Contamination:** any known contamination issues or any specific health and safety requirements on site should be made known to OA North by the client or main contractor on site to ensure all procedures can be met.

4.5 Should areas of previously unknown contamination be encountered on site the works will be halted and a revision of the risk assessment carried out. Should it be necessary to supply additional PPE or other contamination avoidance equipment this will be costed as a variation.

4.6 A portable toilet with hand washing facilities, as required for health and safety regulations, has been costed as a contingency, as the client may wish to provide their own arrangements. This will be located on or adjacent to the site.

4.7 **Fencing:** at the request of the client, heras security fencing will be provided during excavation and reinstatement of the trenches. To avoid unnecessary health and safety risks of deep excavation within the vicinity of the school, no more than two trenches will be open at any one time.

4. OTHER MATTERS

5.1 **Access:** liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through the client and it is understood that there will be access for both pedestrian and plant traffic to the site.

5.2 **Reinstatement:** it is understood that there will be no requirement for reinstatement of the ground beyond backfilling. The ground will be backfilled so that the topsoil is laid on the top, and the ground will be roughly graded with the machine. Should there be a requirement by the client other than that stated this will involve recosting.

5.3 **Work timetable:**

- **Desk-based assessment:** approximately two days will be required for this element, to undertake the research and compile the findings.
 - **Visual Inspection:** one day will be required to complete this element, which would be undertaken following the desk-based assessment.
 - A trench location plan will be drawn up following the results of the desk-based assessment, to be agreed by CCCHES.
 - **Evaluation Trenching:** approximately two days will be required to complete this element, depending on the ground coverage and trench configuration.
 - **Report and Archive:** the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be available within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork, and the archive deposited within six months.
- 5.4 OA North would require a formal written agreement at least one week before commencement in order to notify CCCHES and schedule the work as above.
5. STAFFING
- 5.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc AIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 5.2 The desk-based assessment will be undertaken by **Richard Lee BA (Hon) MRES** (OA North assistant supervisor) who is experienced in such work.
- 5.3 The evaluation 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.
- 5.4 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken under the auspices of OA North's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis** (OA North finds manager). Christine has extensive knowledge of finds from many periods, although she does have considerable experience with Roman finds, being involved with the excavations at Ribchester and at present with the Carlisle Millennium Project.
- 5.5 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples will be undertaken by or under the auspices of **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.
6. INSURANCE
- 6.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

English Heritage, 2001 *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of environmental methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, London

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 (new edition)

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT LIST

| Context Number | Trench Number | Description |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>100</i> | 1 | Top soil |
| <i>101</i> | 1 | Sub soil |
| <i>102</i> | 1 | Clayey-silt with pebbles |
| <i>200</i> | 2 | Top soil |
| <i>201</i> | 2 | Re-deposited clay |
| <i>202</i> | 2 | Made ground |
| <i>203</i> | 2 | Orange clay |
| <i>300</i> | 3 | Top soil |
| <i>301</i> | 3 | Silty-clay with gravel |

APPENDIX 4: FINDS SUMMARY

OR = Object Record Number; Qty = Quantity

| Context | OR | Material | Category | Qty | Description | Date |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Unstrat | 1 | Stone | Flint | 3 | Fragments of flint. | Not closely dated |
| Unstrat | 2 | Ceramic | Vessel | 1 | Body fragment and handle fragment. Brown stoneware. Stew pot. | Mid nineteenth century or later |