Maryport Promenade, Maryport, Cumbria

Archaeological Topographical Survey and Watching Brief

Oxford Archaeology North

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Stobbarts Ltd, on behalf of Capita Symonds

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in December 2007 along the route of proposed upgrading and improvement to a section of coastal footpath to the north of Maryport, Cumbria (NGR centred NY 0384 3744). Ten trenches were excavated to assess the impact of the proposals upon any below ground archaeological remains; the existing path requiring upgrading was situated to the immediate north-west of the Scheduled Roman fort and *vicus* (SM 27746). Although the path lies outwith the Scheduled Monument of the fort, the evaluation had located associated remains of archaeological significance within two of the trenches probably dating to the late second and third centuries AD. Trench 5 contained part of a series of seaward defence banks observed running west from the fort to the cliff edge. Trench 8 contained a small ditch running north/south across the trench that probably formed part of the western boundary of the *vicus*. Furthermore, in the area between Trenches 3 and 5 are a number of earthworks of archaeological significance that will impacted by the groundworks or associated on-site works.

Consequently, a condition was imposed on the planning consent, by the local planning authority on the advice of the Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, to undertake a programme of work in mitigation of the groundworks. This consisted of two elements; the upgrading and widening of the promenade path, undertaken by Stobbarts Ltd on behalf of their client Capita Symonds, was required to be carried out under permanent archaeological presence, namely within the area of most archaeological sensitivity and vulnerability to disturbance, in the vicinity of Trenches 5 and 8; the second requirement was that intrusive groundworks were to be excluded within the immediate vicinity of the earthworks of archaeological significance, between Trenches 3 and 5. Alternatively, the path would be required to be built up to leave the earthworks *in situ*. As part of the archaeological condition, the area for exclusion around the earthworks, to include a 1m cordon, was marked out and the earthworks recorded by means of a topographical survey. The topographical survey was undertaken in February 2008, and the watching brief was undertaken in June and July 2008.

The groundworks carried out under permanent archaeological presence involved the removal of topsoil to a maximum depth of 150mm-200mm, and did not extend into any known archaeological deposits. Only one feature was recorded, thought to be the remains of a boundary wall, but there was no evidence with which it could be dated.

The earthwork remains adjacent to the Roman fort and within the remit of the footpath improvements are likely to be associated with the fort and, therefore, Roman in date. A previous archaeological survey produced by the RCHM(E) suggested that some of the earthwork features on the northern edge of the area were possibly associated with a building (?shrine) excavated in the vicinity during the nineteenth century. These were protected during the improvement works from intrusive groundwork by the exclusion zone. Affected earthworks in the immediate vicinity of the path were covered with a geotextile membrane and the ground built up to minimise any impact.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Andrew Wren of Stobbarts Ltd for commissioning the project and for the site staff for their help during the groundworks. Thanks also to Karen Morley, Dave Peacock, and Francis Borg of Capita Symonds. Thanks are also extended to Mike Collins, the Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage for his help and advice.

The topographical survey and demarcation of the earthworks was carried out by Peter Schofield and the watching brief was undertaken by Nathaniel Jepson, both of whom compiled the respective sections of the report. The drawings were undertaken by Marie Rowland and Peter Schofield. The finds were assessed by Christine Howard-Davis. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 Further to an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in December 2007 (OA North 2008), OA North were commissioned to undertake a programme of work in mitigation of proposed groundworks to upgrade and improve a section of coastline path to the north of Maryport, Cumbria (NGR centred NY 0384 3744; Fig 1). This involved a topographical survey and a watching brief during groundworks. The groundworks, undertaken by Stobbarts Ltd on behalf of their client Capita Symonds, follow an existing path situated to the immediate north-west of the Scheduled Roman fort and *vicus* (SM 27746). Although the path lies outwith the Scheduled Monument of the fort, the evaluation had located associated remains of archaeological significance within two of the ten excavated trenches, Trenches 5 and 8 (Fig 2), probably dating to the late second and third centuries AD (*ibid*). Trench 5 contained the northern edge of a north/south turf bank, which is likely to have been part of a series of seaward defence banks observed running west from the fort to the cliff edge. Trench 8, located approximately 130m to the north-east of Trench 5 and to the west of the *vicus* site, contained a small ditch running north/south across the trench that probably formed part of the western boundary of the *vicus* (*ibid*). Furthermore, in the area around Trenches 3 and 5 are a number of earthworks of archaeological significance that will impacted by the groundworks.

1.1.2 Consequently, a planning condition was imposed by the local planning authority on the advice of the Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, to undertake the upgrading and widening of the promenade path under permanent archaeological presence in the vicinity of Trenches 5 and 8, and to ensure that there will be no groundworks in the immediate vicinity of archaeologically sensitive earthworks between Trenches 3 and 5, i.e. outwith a 1m cordon of the earthworks within the parameters of the proposed route. The topographical survey and demarcation of the area for exclusion was undertaken in February 2008, and the watching brief was undertaken in June to July 2008.

1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the topographical survey and watching brief in the form of a short document, outlining the findings, and assessment of the impact of the development.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The proposed upgrading and re-routing of the section of promenade path requiring archaeological mitigation work is positioned just to the north of Maryport, and runs northwards from Senhouse Roman Museum, and along the clifftop for approximately 420m (Fig 1). The development is bounded to the west by steep cliffs that drop down to the New Promenade, while the Roman Fort and farmland lie to the east.

1.2.2 The area consists of intertidal flats, shingle and pebble beaches, and low undulating pasture. Maryport and the surrounding coastal fringe has always been important for regional trade and communications due to its geographical location, and the underlying coal and iron ore deposits have contributed to the region's industrial history. These 'urban' centres, such as Maryport, Workington and Whitehaven, are interspersed with rich farmland. This narrow strip of industry and farmland is bonded to the west by the Irish Sea, and to the east by the Cumbria High Fells (Countryside Commission 1998).

1.2.3 Maryport and its hinterland coincide with an outcrop of Coal Measures of the Hensingham Group and Chief Limestone Groups, all dating to the Carboniferous Period. These are overlain with outlying Permo-Triassic, or New Road Sandstone, sedimentary rocks, which are superseded by large quantities of glacial boulder clay, sands and gravels from Scotland and the Lake District (*ibid*). The overlying geology comprises typical stagnogley soils (Ordnance Survey 1983).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 The following section provides a summary of the history and archaeology of Maryport, allowing the results to be put into their historical and archaeological context.

1.3.2 ***Prehistoric Period:*** numerous prehistoric finds have been discovered within the town, a Neolithic stone axe (HER 792), and a Bronze Age cup-and-ring marked stone (HER 822) (Cumbria County Council and English Heritage (CCC and EH 2006). However, no actual settlement has been identified. Several significant prehistoric sites have been identified in the surrounding area, including an Iron Age burial at Rise How Tower (HER 4239), and a Neolithic site (HER 840) in the same area, to the south of Maryport (*ibid*).

1.3.3 ***Roman Period:*** the 'core' of the Roman settlement focuses on the fort and surrounding *vicus*. The fort was constructed in the second century AD, as part of the coastal defence system of forts and mileforts extending south from the western end of Hadrian's Wall, and may well have been the command base for the Roman fleet in the Solway Firth (*ibid*). However, the presence of the road from Papcastle aligned to the north of the known fort location would suggest an earlier military installation (Breeze 2006). Epigraphic evidence suggests that the fort was constructed between AD 122 and 123, for and by the cohors *I Hispanorum miliaria equitata*, a mixed infantry and cavalry unit of approximately 1000 men. Its early date indicates that it was contemporary, or even earlier, than the forts along the Hadrianic Frontier to the south of Morecambe Bay (CCC and EH 2006). Four inscribed alters have been discovered, naming *M Maenius Agrippa* as the first commanding officer, and dating between AD 123 and 126. Numerous finds have been recovered from in and around the fort, including 17 alters found buried in pits near the second century parade ground (*ibid*). They had been dedicated annually, and their lack of erosion suggests that they were buried not long after erection.

1.3.4 In the late sixteenth century, footings of buildings, vaults and other structures were still visible, and numerous statues, alters and inscribed stones had been removed from the ground (Collingwood 1936, quoting Camden). In the late nineteenth century, Robinson undertook excavations in fields to the north of the fort (CCC and EH 2006). He uncovered traces of roads, strip-housing and possible temples. During the 1920s evidence of the Roman wharf was revealed, a massive wall was identified at Ellenborough Place, just to the west of where the Roman road crossed the River Ellen (*ibid*). Camden had also noted in 1600, that remains of the harbour were still visible at the mouth of the river (Collingwood 1936), and similar walls were identified in 1886 (CCC and EH 2006), and they seemed to enclose a large paved area. The extensive and substantial nature of the Roman remains at Maryport indicates that it was likely one of the main ports on the Cumbrian coast during the period that Hadrian's Wall was being constructed.

1.3.5 ***Medieval Period:*** compared to the Roman period, there is very little evidence for extensive activity in the post-Roman and medieval periods. The town was originally known as *Ellenfort*, or more commonly *Ellenborough*, which is still the name of a small village to the east-south-east, and possibly translates from the Old English, meaning 'stronghold by the river Ellen' (*ibid*). Maryport Castle (HER 32853) comprises a damaged earthwork that possibly dates to the twelfth century, and sits within a loop of the River Ellen. It has been eroded to the west, and the site of the bailey, probably to the north, has been built over. A causeway leading to the site from the north-east may be original (*ibid*).

1.3.6 ***Post-medieval Period:*** the town of Maryport was founded between 1748-9, after Humphrey Senhouse II established Ellenborough Colliery in 1740, re-naming the town after his wife (*ibid*). The town expanded rapidly, with the earliest phase focused around the North Quay, and later phases from the mid-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth centuries saw the town growing up along the ridge parallel to the shore (*ibid*).

1.3.7 The initial ship building yard was established in 1765 on the banks of the Ellen, and the first dock, Campbell's Dock, was completed in 1836. Elizabeth Dock, built in the mid-nineteenth century, was the first floating dock in the country and accommodated the transport of goods to Carlisle (*ibid*). Several other industries were established during this period, including the blast furnace and associated coke ovens at Netherhall in 1752 (HER 3046), as well as glass works, pottery mills, gas works, tanneries and a paper mill (*ibid*). The town experienced a downturn in fortunes at the turn of the nineteenth century, stemming from the wars with France and the American War of Independence, which meant a loss of continental and transatlantic trade, and many of the secondary industries, such as the glassworks, were lost (*ibid*). Nevertheless, by the middle of the century the town's fortunes had turned with the growth of the coal industry. This encouraged the growth of other industries, with the establishment of a steam-powered flour mill at the east end of town, and two iron and brass factories in the immediate vicinity. The town soon regained much of its former wealth (*ibid*). In 1885 the Naval Reserve Battery was constructed to the immediate west of the Roman fort, it now houses Senhouse Roman Museum (www.thelakedistrictwalker.com 2008).

1.3.8 In 1927, however, the construction of the Prince of Wales Dock in Workington completely destroyed much of the town's trade, and between 1928 and 1931 the unemployment rate rose to two-thirds of the working population (*ibid*). Since World War II some redevelopment has taken place, with the expansion of residential and retail development in the 1980s and 90s.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North in response to a request by Capita Symonds, and in accordance with a verbal brief provided by the Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage. This was adhered to in full and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY AND DEMARCATION OF THE EARTHWORKS

2.2.1 A walkover survey of the route of the proposed pathway was undertaken to locate the earthwork features between evaluation Trenches 3 and 5 (Fig 2). The extents of the earthworks, where they cross the proposed footpath route and immediately either side, were marked out using pegs to include a 1m buffer 'exclusion zone' for intrusive groundworks.

2.2.2 A topographical survey was then undertaken to record the position of the affected earthworks, as well as those where they existed to the side of the footpath (Fig 2). Survey data was collected using a GPS device with SmartNet technologies to allow for real-time correction and provided an accuracy of ± 0.01m. The survey was conducted to set Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHM(E)) standards for Level IV landscape surveys. Survey data was processed in Leica GeoOffice, and then imported into a suitable CAD package (AutoCAD 2004) and superimposed onto the embedded digital Ordnance Survey data. A photographic and annotated record of the earthwork features was also maintained using 35mm monochrome film, as well as a digital record.

2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

2.3.1 A programme of field observation recorded accurately the location, extent and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits exposed during the course of the excavation. It comprised the systematic examination of the topsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observations.

2.3.2 All groundworks on the site were conducted under constant archaeological supervision and comprised the mechanical digging of the topsoil to a depth of 150mm-200mm. All exposed soil was examined and spoilheaps were carefully checked for any unstratified finds.

2.3.3 A daily record of the nature, extent and depths of groundworks was maintained throughout the duration of the project. All archaeological contexts were recorded on OA North's *pro-forma* sheets, using a system based on that of the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology.

2.3.4 Due to public access to the site the groundworks were carried out in 10m-15m stints, which were individually archaeologically recorded before they were laid with gravel hardcore and compressed.

2.4 FINDS

2.4.1 All finds were exposed, lifted, cleaned and bagged in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid for Finds*, 1998 (new edition). All identified finds and artefacts were retained for all material classes.

2.5 ARCHIVE

2.5.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be provided in the County Record Office (CRO) in Whitehaven, and a copy of the report will be sent to the Historic Environment Record (HER) in Kendal, on completion of the project.

3. TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The earthwork remains located on the clifftop adjacent to the Roman fort at Maryport have been subject to previous archaeological survey produced by the RCHM(E) (Lax and Blood 1997). Their investigation results suggested that some of the earthwork features evident may potentially be from the Roman period, and that those features on the northern edge of the area were possibly associated with four earthwork terraces running roughly parallel (north-east/south-west) to the clifftop (*ibid*, 62, Fig 3.1), and the site of a putative building (?shrine) was excavated in the vicinity during the nineteenth century (Robinson, 1881, 240; Wilson, 1997, Fig 1.6). The building lay adjacent to areas of quarrying along the clifftop (which was being undertaken around the same time as Robinson's excavations) that unearthed a dedication to Juno by Hermione and, further downslope at the gas works, a dedication to Neptune (*RIB 839*) that both would have once stood in a shrine (Wilson, 1997, 32-33). A further small altar with a representation of a horned god (now lost) was found within the building excavated on the clifftop (*ibid*; Robinson, 1881, 240).

3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 The earthworks outlined as being of archaeological sensitivity were surveyed on 27th February 2008. Figure 3 shows the limits of the current surviving remains of these earthworks, which were also marked physically on site (Plates 1 and 2). The four earthwork 'terraces' identified in the original RCHM(E) survey were seen running in a north-east/south-west orientation and parallel to the clifftop edge. The outermost of the terraces lay outside of the present survey area as it is on the extreme edge of the cliff, outwith a fenced boundary. The main terrace is located adjacent to, and on the west side of, the current stone wall property boundary surrounding the Senhouse Museum (first 'terrace', Fig 3). It is this terrace which is under direct threat of disturbance through the present groundworks. The other two 'terraces' recorded by Lax and Blood (1997) lay in between the inner and outer terraces. It was discovered, however, that these in fact probably relate to only one level terrace which runs beneath the modern concrete shelter and up to the fenced boundary on the west side (second 'terrace', Fig 3). The confusion lies in the misinterpretation of one of the four terraces that is in fact the putative shrine/building site identified and excavated by Robinson (1881) positioned to the north of the concrete shelter orientated and on the same long axis as the terraces. The earthworks of the shrine are not directly impacted upon by the present groundworks but survive as upstanding turf covered wall foundations of at least a two celled rectilinear structure, that has a surviving extent of up to 28.4m long by 10.5m wide. The structure is truncated on all but the eastern end, by a quarry in the north, the cliff edge in the west and possibly by the concrete shelter in the south (Fig 3).

3.2.2 The first (eastern) 'terrace' was the only extant earthwork structure identified during the topographic survey that would be directly impacted upon by the current groundworks. Its long axis is orientated in a north-east/south-west direction and the visible earthwork remains measure up to 99.4m long, as defined by the limits of earthworks (Figure 3; Plates 1 and 2). The terrace is at a maximum 13.4m wide and is up to 1.2m high (Plate 3). The terrace is not uniform in nature with modern truncation occurring at the northern end by the quarry, in the centre where a concrete shelter has been constructed adjacent to the western edge of the earthwork, and also where the modern footpath has eroded into the top of the earthwork. The terrace consists of two discrete sub-divided constituent parts; the southern end of the terrace is raised slightly as a lynchet when compared to the northern end. It is uncertain if this sub-division undermines the interpretation of the earthwork as a terrace. It seems that at least one, the second (central) 'terrace' formed the basis for a building on the northern end, but this is the only surviving earthwork evidence for building structures. It is likely that the terraces originally had a predominantly agricultural function, although this cannot be proved or disproved with the evidence recorded in the present topographic survey.

3.2.3 The southern limit of the earthworks coincides with a field drain running from the field to the east, over the area of the groundworks and draining down to the west (Plate 1). From discussions with the on-site contractor, Stobbarts Ltd, it was envisaged that remedial sub-surface work was required on the drain but that this would not adversely affect the surface archaeological resource on the alignment of the drain. The northern limit of the earthworks is easily defined by extending the line of a south-east/north-west aligned modern field wall in a north-westerly direction (Plate 2) from the eastern side of the site (Fig 3).

3.2.4 The current metalled footpath requiring upgrading crossed the alignment of a large terraced earthwork on the eastern side of the development area (Plate 3). Historically, prior to its surfacing, this well-used footpath had worn a course into the earthworks (Plate 3).

4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify any potential archaeological features or deposits revealed during the groundworks for the upgrading of the coastal path, and record their presence or absence, character and extent, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality. The position of the watching brief is plotted on Figure 2.

4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 The mini-excavator proceeded to remove the topsoil to a maximum depth of 150mm-200mm. The removal of the turf revealed a light reddish-brown sandy-silt (Plates 5 and 6). Lengths of approximately 35m-40m were removed each day in stints of 10m-15m, with a width of up to 2m (see *Appendix 2* for progress schedule).

4.2.2 The planning condition prohibited any groundwork excavation into the earthworks as demarcated during the topographical survey (*Section 3*, Fig 3), which necessitated a change in the footpath design in this area, to build up the level of the footpath instead within the hollow way that already existed (Plate 3). However, some stripping of turf from the edge of the existing footpath was necessary, and carried out under archaeological supervision. A 2m wide layer of geotextile membrane was laid along the centreline of the existing footpath to protect the archaeological features, and the hollow way built up with the new footpath material to the required dimensions.

4.2.3 The watching brief only noted one archaeological feature, which was a small stone linear running north/south directly beneath the surface of the stripped turf (***1002***). It ran into the area of excavation from the west for approximately 1m. It was only one course high but appeared to be the foundation remains of a boundary wall of probable post-medieval date given its apparent association with the abutment of the ridge and furrow (Plate 4).

4.3 FINDS

4.3.1 There were several fragments of artefacts recovered during the investigation, taken from the topsoil and, hence, unstratified. The majority was fragments of pottery, but there comprised some glass, a flint, and a piece of curved iron.

4.3.2 All of the ceramic material recovered was nineteenth century in date. The sherds comprised pearlware (2) and a glazed earthenware (1), but none of the vessels represented can be dated with precision. These finds contribute little to the understanding of the site.

4.3.3 The flint artefact comprised a primary debitage flake with a beach pebble cortex on the dorsal face. Pronounced concoidal fractures were evident on the ventral face, radiating from the striking platform at the proximal end, and a hinge fracture was present at the distal end of the ventral face. The artefact appeared to be unprepared and there was no evidence of retouch, although it was damaged along the majority of its edges. This artefact may conceivably have been washed downstream to this location, and is undateable.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 DISCUSSION

5.1.1 The earthwork remains adjacent to the Roman fort and within the remit of the footpath improvements are likely to be associated with the fort and, therefore, Roman in date. A previous archaeological survey produced by the RCHM(E) (Lax and Blood 1997, Fig 3.1) suggested that some of the earthwork features evident on the northern edge of the area were possibly associated with contemporary terracing and a building (?shrine) excavated in the vicinity during the nineteenth century (Robinson, 1881, 240; Wilson, 1997, Fig 1.6).

5.1.2 The watching brief was restricted to the stripping of the topsoil to the depth of 150mm-200mm, and did not extend into any known archaeological deposits. Only one feature was recorded during the course of archaeological monitoring of the groundworks, and it is believed to be the remains of a boundary wall (***1002***). The artefacts recovered from the topsoil were of limited significance, and add little to the interpretation of the site.

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7. ILLUSTRATIONS

7.1 LIST OF FIGURES

7.2 PLATES

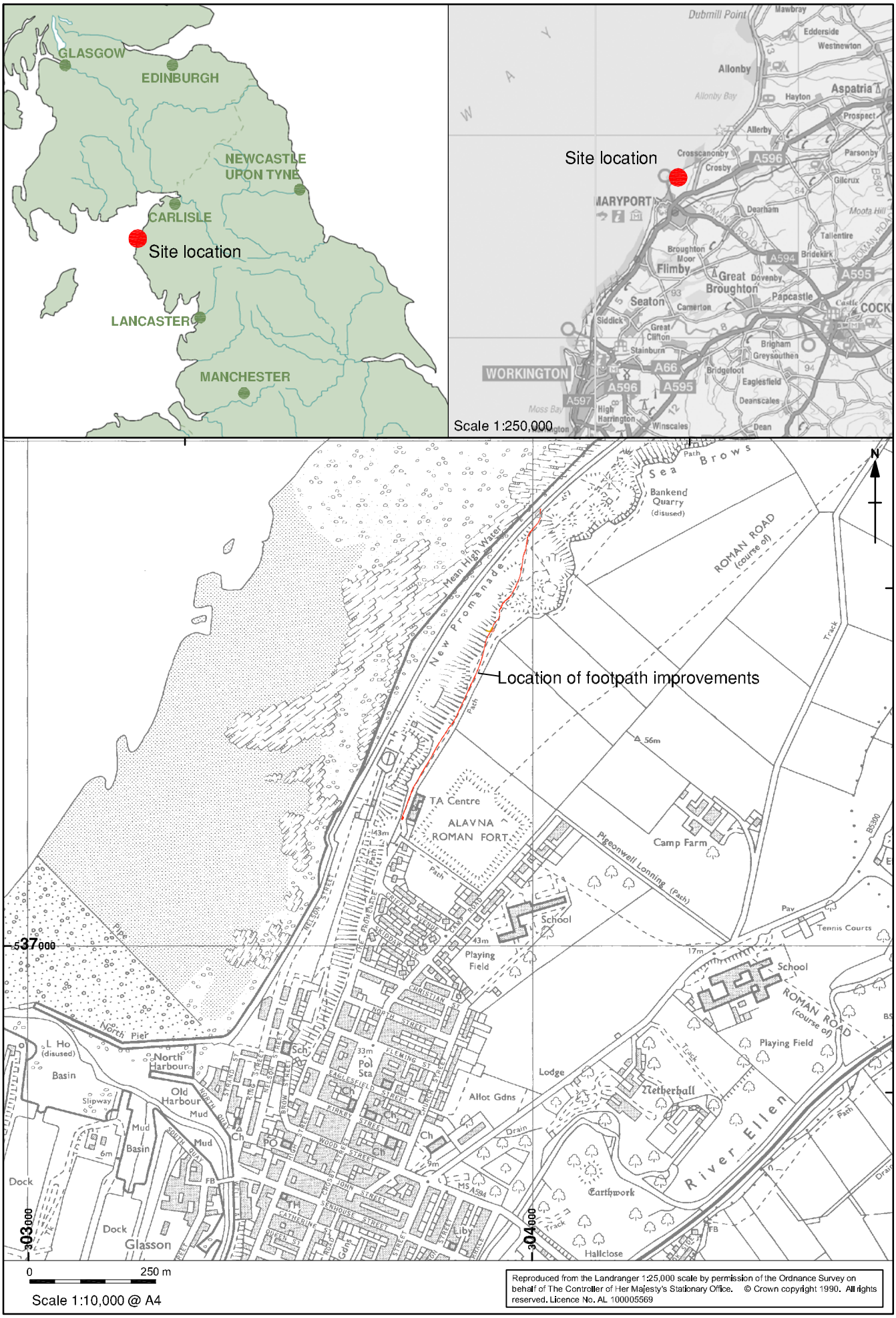

Figure 1: Site Location

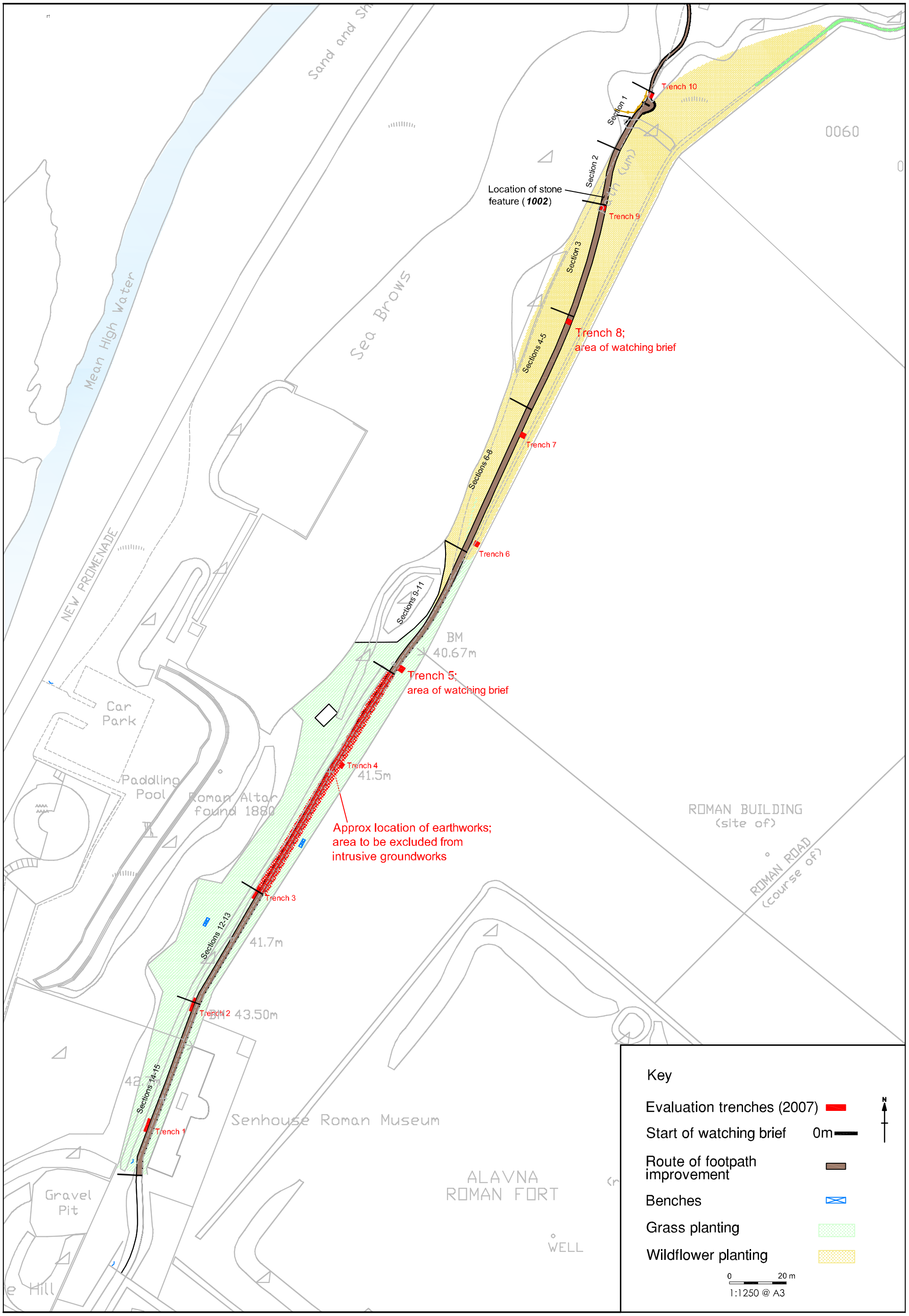

Figure 2: Plan showing location of evaluation trenches and mitigation work

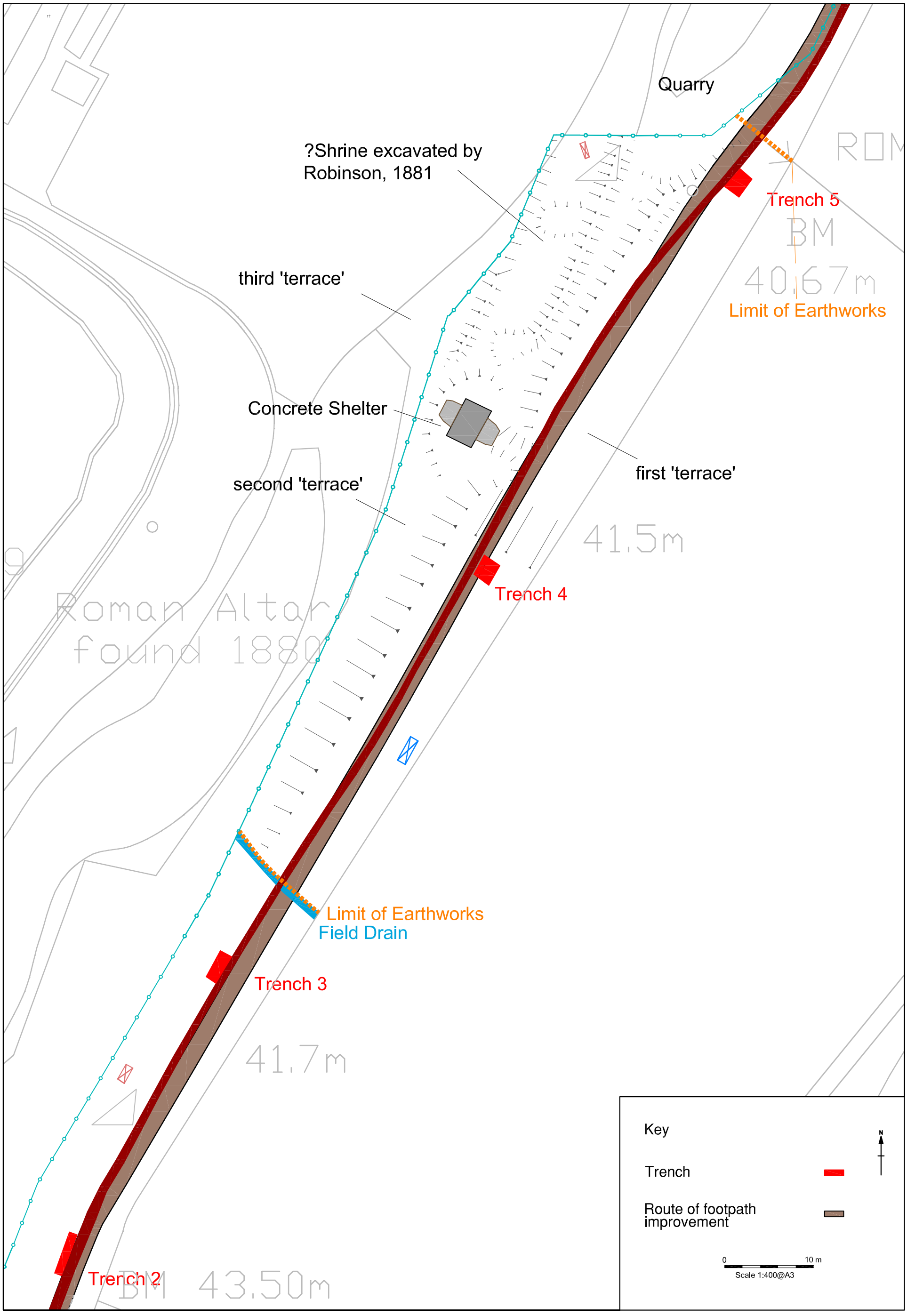

Figure 3: Plan of topographical survey

Plate 1: The demarcated southern limit of the earthworks , looking north-east, at the time of the topographical survey

Plate 2: The demarcated northern limit of the earthworks, looking south-east, at the time of the topographical survey

Plate 3: Footpath crossing the terraced earthwork, looking south-west, at the time of the topographical survey

Plate 4: Stone linear feature, facing west

Plate 5: Section 6, facing south-west

Plate 6: Section 12, facing north-east

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Capita Symonds (hereafter the 'client') has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) undertake a programme of archaeological works during the upgrade and improvement of a section of coastline path to the north of Maryport, Cumbria (NGR centred NY 0384 3744). This follows evaluation trenching along the line of the proposed route in December 2007 (OA North 2008). The proposed path lies outwith the Scheduled Monument of the fort. However, remains of archaeological significance, probably dating to the late second and third centuries AD, were located within two of the excavated trenches, Trenches 5 and 8 (Fig 1). Trench 5 contained the northern edge of a north/south turf bank, which is likely to have been part of a series of seaward defence banks observed running west from the fort to the cliff edge. Trench 8, located approximately 130m to the north-east of Trench 5 and to the west of the *vicus* site, contained a small ditch running north/south across the trench that probably formed part of the western boundary of the *vicus* (*ibid*).

1.1.2 Consequently, the proposed work has been granted planning permission with a condition that upgrading and widening of the promenade path will be undertaken under permanent archaeological presence in the vicinity of these trenches.

1.1.3 An additional condition required of the planning consent was to ensure that there will be no groundworks in the immediate vicinity of the four earthworks clearly visible on site to the south of Trench 5, within the parameters of the proposed route of the path (Fig 1). Therefore, the locations of the earthworks will be marked out and recorded, to ensure that there will be no excavation within 1m of each of their extents.

1.1.4 The following project design details the work that will be undertaken to meet the requirements of the planning conditions.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North has considerable experience of evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past three decades. These 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.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed to identify and record any surviving archaeological earthworks or below-ground deposits that may be threatened by the groundworks for the proposed development prior to their damage or destruction.

2.2 ***Demarcation and Recording of Earthworks:*** to mark out and record the locations of four earthworks visible on site to the north of the Senhouse Museum, to enable the avoidance of any groundworks within a 1m buffer.

2.3 ***Permanent Presence Watching Brief:*** to maintain a watching brief during groundworks in the vicinity of Trenches 5 and 8, to determine the quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains.

2.4 ***Report and Archive:*** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY

3.1.1 OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

3.2 DEMARCATION AND RECORDING OF THE EARTHWORKS

3.2.1 In order to satisfy the terms of the condition, there will be two elements to the fieldwork; marking the extent of the earthworks, and an additional 1m buffer zone thereafter, and recording their positions through GPS and photography.

3.2.2 ***Reconnaissance:*** the route of the proposed pathway will be walked to identify, locate and record the four earthwork features on the ground. The extents of the earthworks, where they cross the proposed footpath route and immediately either side, will be pegged out. A 1m buffer zone, in accordance with advice from the Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, will be measured out and also marked with pegs. Within these areas there should be no excavation.

3.2.3 ***Survey mapping:*** GPS will be utilised to record the earthworks, where they are threatened by the proposed development, according to OS co-ordinates. A Leica differential GPS will be employed that uses real-time (RTK) corrections using mobile SmartNet technology to achieve an accuracy of ± 0.01m. The accuracy of the OA North GPS system provides for a quick and effective means of recording the position and extent of the earthworks. The digital survey data will be transferred, via Leica Geo Office (V.3), as dxf drawing files into a CAD system (AutoCAD 2004), and superimposed onto the embedded digital Ordnance Survey data.

3.2.4 ***Photographic Survey:*** a photographic archive will be generated in the course of the recording exercise. Detailed photographs will be taken using a scale bar. All photography will be recorded on photographic *pro-forma* sheets which will show the subject, orientation and date. The photography will be primarily undertaken within monochrome 35mm format for archival purposes and will be maintained to archival standards. Photography will also be undertaken within digital formats for presentation purposes.

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 extents of the proposed groundworks. For such purposes the on-site contractor should be using a toothless ditching bucket for excavating purposes.

3.3.2 The watching brief will be maintained in the vicinity of Trenches 5 and 8 (Fig 1) to be disturbed by the development, and will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, including clearing of demolition rubble, floor slabs/coverings, excavation of building foundation trenches and service trenches, and other earthmoving activities.

3.3.3 A systematic examination will be carried out of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts identified during observation will be accurately recorded.

3.3.4 The discovery of archaeological remains will require stoppage of the clearance/construction work to allow the OA North archaeologist sufficient time to adequately record the remains. This would aim to minimise disruption to the construction works.

3.3.5 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 (i.e. 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).

3.3.6 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.

3.3.7 A monochrome photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously for archiving purposes, although a digital photographic record will be maintained for reporting purposes.

3.3.8 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.

3.3.9 ***Contingency plan:*** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage or a 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.

3.3.10 ***Environmental Sampling:*** environmental samples (bulk samples of 40 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).

3.3.11 An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of suitable deposits by the in-house palaeoenvironmentalist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The assessment would 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 assessment will be in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (2001). The costs for the assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if good deposits are identified.

3.3.12 ***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.

3.3.13 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.

3.3.14 ***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.

3.3.15 ***Human Remains****:* it is not anticipated that any human remains should be discovered within such a backyard plot. However, should any be encountered they 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. The Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage 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. The cost of removal or treatment will be agreed with the client and costed as a variation.

3.4 REPORT

3.4.1 ***Interim:*** for the purposes of approval for the planning condition, the plan and accompanying relevant photographs will be submitted to the client, together with a statement of required avoidance, will be submitted to the client within two days of completion of the earthwork fieldwork.

3.4.2 ***Final Report:*** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork. Three bound copies will be submitted to the Cumbria HER, and a copy to the Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage.

3.4.3 The report will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above in order to come to as full an understanding as possible of the archaeology of the area. 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
- 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

3.4.4 ***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 project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The results of the 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) and a synthesis will be submitted to the HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the County Record Office. Arrangements will be made for the deposition of the material archive in an appropriate repository.

4. OTHER MATTERS

4.1 PROJECT MONITORING

4.1.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work. At least one week's notice is required of the commencement of the work.

4.2 WORK TIMETABLE

4.2.1 OA North can execute projects at very short notice once a formal written agreement has been received from the client, allowing sufficient time to provide the Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage with notice of works.

4.2.2 ***Demarcation and Recording of the Earthworks:*** this element will require two days, one of which will be on site.

4.2.3 ***Watching Brief:*** the duration of the archaeological presence for the watching brief is as yet unknown, being dictated by the schedule of works.

4.2.4 ***Report:*** the client report will be completed within approximately eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

4.3 STAFFING

4.3.1 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.

4.3.2 All elements of the fieldwork will be undertaken by either an OA North project officer or supervisor experienced in this type of project. All OA North project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes. Due to scheduling requirements it is not possible to provide these details at the present time. However, once the timetable of constructions works is made available details of staff can be provided.

4.3.3 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken under the auspices of OA North's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis** (OA North finds manager). Christine has extensive knowledge of finds from many periods.

4.3.4 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples will be undertaken by or under the auspices of **Elizabeth Huckerby** (OA North environmental manager).

4.4 INSURANCE

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

OA North, 2008 *Maryport Promenade, Maryport, Cumbria: Archaeological Evaluation*, unpubl rep

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

UKIC, 1998 *First Aid For Finds*, London

APPENDIX 2: WATCHING BRIEF DETAILS

DATE	LENGTH (M)	SECTIONS	DESCRIPTION	FINDS
19/06/08	20m	1	Light reddish-brown, sandy-silt, partially on existing path.	Ceramic
23/06/08	25m	2	Light reddish-brown, sandy-silt, with small stone linear feature exposed.	Ceramic, Iron
24/06/08	40m	3	Light reddish-brown, sandy-silt	Ceramic
25/06/08	35m	4,5	Light reddish-brown, sandy-silt	Ceramic
26/06/08	55m	6,7,8	Light reddish-brown, sandy-silt	Ceramic
27/06/08	50m	9,10,11	Light reddish-brown, sandy-silt, running into existing path.	Ceramic
01/07/08	45m	12,13	Mainly on existing path – little of topsoil removed.	None
02/07/08	60m	14,15	Mainly on existing path – little of topsoil removed.	None

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT LIST

CONTEXT NO.	**DESCRIPTION**
1000	Topsoil - light reddish-brown sandy-silt
1001	Linear deposit - mid greyish-black silty-sand
1002	Stone linear structure, probable field boundary - at least 0.21m in length, 0.08m in width.

