

# ABBHEY HOUSE HOTEL BARROW-IN-FURNESS Cumbria



## Watching Brief Report



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## SUMMARY

During June and September 2000 and April 2001, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in its former guise as the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) undertook a watching brief at the Abbey House Hotel, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (SD 2172 7214). The work was carried out on behalf of Northwest Projects (2000) Ltd. The aim of the watching brief was to record any significant deposits uncovered during minor excavations associated with the construction of an extension to the hotel, which lies *c* 375m north-north-west of Furness Abbey.

The site of the works was located to the north and east of the main hotel building. The works consisted of a small area adjacent to the north wall of the hotel (Area 1); a trench running west-north-west/east-south-east from Area 1 across the gardens to the east of the hotel, before turning south-south-west (Area 2); and finally, a trench excavated to the north-east of the hotel, between the proposed extension and the boundary wall to the east (Area 3).

The deposits uncovered demonstrated the presence of only post-medieval features in the first two areas but in the third area, north of the North Lodge, a sandstone wall was discovered. Although no certain date was obtained for the wall it probably represents an earlier continuation of the course of the stone wall. There is a drastic turn in the existing one and the section of wall revealed is on an identical alignment, which therefore suggests that the wall is post-medieval in date but may indicate an earlier boundary which may have coincided with the alignment of the precinct wall surrounding Furness Abbey.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thanks go to Reg Kennedy and his staff of Northwest Projects (2000) Ltd. Thanks are also due to the staff, including the manager Brian, of the Abbey House Hotel who were very gracious, and also to the staff of the Furness Abbey site and grounds. The report was compiled by Vix Hughes, who also undertook the watching brief along with Andy Bates. Alan Lupton was responsible for project management and report editing.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CONTRACT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 An application was submitted by Robert Turley Associates to Barrow Borough Council for a three-storey extension to the Abbey House Hotel, Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (SD 2172 7214). The Hotel is within the grounds of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Furness Abbey (SM 13572) and, consequently, in order to secure planning permission for the proposed works, Robert Turley Associates were required to undertake an archaeological assessment of the site of the proposed extension in order to inform an application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC). The assessment was carried out by the former Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) in July/August 1999 (LUAU 1999), concluding that, as the development site lies high on a cliff above the abbey, it was unlikely that this area ever included monastic buildings; however, as it was within the precinct wall, the area may have been exploited, for instance, for the quarrying of natural resources, and archaeological remains for any such use may have survived. Consequently, a watching brief on the groundworks associated with the hotel extension was recommended. SMC and planning permission were granted for the hotel extension, with the construction undertaken by Northwest Projects (2000) Ltd (hereafter the 'client'), who were appointed Principal Contractor for the project. The following report presents the results of a watching brief undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (in its former guise as LUAU) on the groundworks associated with the new extension.

### 1.2 METHODOLOGY

1.2.1 A programme of intermittent field observation took place on the following dates: 21st June 2000; 12th September 2000; and 6th April 2001. The fieldwork accurately recorded the location, extent, and character of all surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the excavations in the course of the proposed development works. The work comprised observation during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and artefacts, identified during observation. The recording consisted of a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, diagrammatic, measured drawings, and a simultaneous photographic record in both monochrome and colour formats.

1.2.2 A full archive of the watching brief was produced to a professional standard in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The archive will be lodged with Cumbria County Record Office (Barrow Office) and a summary lodged with the National Monuments Record (NMR). A copy

of this report will be submitted to English Heritage as part of the conditions of SMC.

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## 2. BACKGROUND

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### 2.1 THE SITE

- 2.1.1 The Abbey House Hotel and grounds (SD 2172 7214), where the works for the extension took place, lie at the top of the steep-sided Vale of Nightshade about 375m north-north-west of the remains of Furness Abbey within the defined Scheduled Monument area of the monastic remains (SM 13572). The Abbey House Hotel itself is located two miles to the north of Barrow-in Furness, just off the A590 to Ulverston (Fig 1). It falls within the district of Lonsdale North of the Sands in the liberty of Furness, and was until 1291 in Westmorland (Farrer and Brownbill 1914). It then became a part of Lancashire, until boundary changes in 1974 created the present county of Cumbria.

### 2.2 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 2.2.1 The site is in an area of geology incorporating thick beds of Carboniferous sediments, including the red St Bees sandstone, of which the abbey is almost entirely built. There are also mudstones and limestones, the latter including large deposits of iron ore, either in veins or in ‘sops’, conical formations unique to South Cumbria (Young 1990, 2). The abbey itself stands on alluvial deposits but the study area, high above it on a cliff, is built on boulder clay (*op cit*, np).

### 2.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.3.1 **Prehistoric Period:** although possible evidence for Upper Palaeolithic activity has been uncovered relatively close by at Bart’s Shelter, Scales (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000), current evidence suggests that settlers first permanently occupied the Furness region during the Mesolithic period, between 5000bc and 3500bc, exploiting coastal sites particularly centred on large parts of the west coast of Walney Island. The use of cave sites is also known, from which a meagre amount of evidence for activity has been revealed, such as a bone harpoon point from Bonfire Scar Cave, Scales (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).
- 2.3.2 There is some scattered evidence for activity throughout the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, with pottery and arrowheads of both periods found in close proximity. The main artefacts recovered from these periods are the polished stone axes, adzes and axe-hammers, which are found scattered throughout the area, especially north of the Furness peninsula, around the Duddon Estuary (*ibid*).
- 2.3.3 Iron Age activity is not well represented within the archaeological record for the region. Bucket-shaped pottery, with parallels to artefacts found on Scottish Iron Age broch sites, has also been found on some sites, and flint-working of beach pebbles appears also to have carried on into the Iron Age (Barnes 1968).

It is possible that the area was occupied by the *Setantii*, a tribe subject to the *Brigantes* who controlled much of the north of England (Barnes 1968; Higham 1986).

- 2.3.4 **Roman Period:** Barnes (1968) states: ‘evidence of Roman occupation in Furness is entirely wanting’. The area is described as being quite lawless throughout the period, with continuous raids from Scotland and Ireland from c AD 220 and in the latter part of the fourth century (Barnes 1968). Some finds are known from the area but no definite settlement sites of this date have been located. The nearest forts are at Ravenglass to the north-west, Watercrock to the north-east and Lancaster to the south-west, all of which would have been too distant to have exerted much continuous force on the local population (Shotton 1997).
- 2.3.5 **Early Medieval Period:** the presence of Anglian and Scandanvaian influences are traceable through local place names, the former from Northumbria and the later from Scotland and Ireland (Cameron 1998). Scandanavian settlement is thought to have been from coastal bridgeheads, such as Barrow (derived from the Scandinavian *Barrai* - Barnes 1968), moving onto the higher ground of northern Furness. Throughout this early period it is probable that Furness came under a number of different rulers, as the kingdoms of Northumbria and Strathclyde battled for supremacy in Cumbria (Kirkby 1962).
- 2.3.6 Furness is not mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 (Faull and Stinson 1986), and little is known of the area until the foundation of the Abbey. The study area lay near the township of Dalton, which probably represented the first significant settlement of the area (Ross 1884, 192), and the area had belonged to Earl Tostig, brother to Harold Godwinson, as part of the large estate of Amounderness which encompassed the Furness peninsula. In 1065, Earl Tostig was expelled for bad government, and was eventually replaced by Morcar, son of Edwin of Mercia (Farrer and Brownbill 1914).
- 2.3.7 In the immediate post-Conquest period, King William I gave Furness and the Liberty of Lancaster to Roger de Poitou, a Norman lord. He seems to have had problems holding a number of his lands, and much of the area is recorded as waste in Domesday (Faull and Stinson 1986). Roger regained his Lancashire estates in the early 1090s, and held onto them for a decade until he was stripped of them in 1102 for his part in a rebellion by Robert Bellême, in opposition to the succession of the king’s youngest son, Henry I (Kenyon 1991).
- 2.3.8 **Later Medieval Period:** by the early twelfth century a recovery seems to have been taking place in Furness. Henry I gave the Lancashire estates to Stephen, Count of Boulogne between 1114 and 1116 (later to be King Stephen) and also granted lands to Michael le Fleming (also called Michael de Furness), who raised a motte and bailley castle at Aldingham and rebuilt Aldingham Church (Farrer and Brownbill 1914). In 1127, Stephen gave his forest of Furness (almost all of lower Furness and parts of upper Furness) to Ewan D’Avranches, an abbot based at Tulketh near Preston (since 1124), from the Abbey of Savigny in France. Ewan moved to Beckansgill near Dalton, and a start was

made on the construction of the great Abbey of St Mary, now known as Furness Abbey (Walton 1984). From then on, Furness was split between lands held by le Fleming and the Abbey (Kenyon 1991).

- 2.3.9 The Savignac order merged with the Cistercians in 1147 and the power and wealth of the Abbey grew, so that by the end of the twelfth century it was unchallenged in Furness. Land was acquired, cleared and cultivated until much of the western part of the Lake District came under the Abbot's control; records suggest that by the end of the twelfth century the abbey had brought two thousand new acres of land into production through clearance of forest and scrub land (Atkinson 1887a; 1887b). Grazing and other rights, along with estates, were held in parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and daughter abbeys were created in Ireland, Shropshire and the Isle of Man. The land was managed with new techniques to the great profit of the Order. Land was brought under cultivation and granges or feeder farms were established. The Abbey became wealthy through farming and trade, particularly in wool and grain. Farms were also let to tenants; the local populace served the Abbey, and claimed benefits such as food, education and employment from the Abbey in return (Barnes 1968). Dalton, which is to the north of the study area, was the chief secular centre for the abbey both for trade and administration and acted as the parish and market focus for the region until the dissolution of the monastery, whereupon the settlement declined and Ulverston took over as the market centre (Walton 1984). At its height Furness Abbey was the second largest Cistercian house in the north of the country (Farrer and Brownbill 1914).
- 2.3.10 There is evidence to suggest that later in its history the abbey's fortunes were less favourable. The Wars of Independence with Scotland and the problems of border raiding eventually involved the Furness area (see also section 2.3.12). There are records of two raids by Robert the Bruce in 1316 and 1322, during the second of which the then abbot, John Cockerham, aiming to secure minimal destruction of the abbey and its lands, paid a ransom (Harrison 1998, 27). Larger scale problems were also occurring in the fourteenth century in the form of plague, including the Black Death, famine and the ongoing war with France. All these aspects had an indirect impact on the economy of the Cistercian order and, as part of this, Furness Abbey withdrew some of its resources from agricultural pursuits. The land it held was rented out and income derived from these rents instead of through farming. In general, the status and function of the abbey was in gradual decline up to the Dissolution of the Monasteries (Farrer and Brownbill 1914).
- 2.3.11 The Dissolution of the Abbey on 9th April 1537 marked the end of the great monastic period. The Abbey was dismantled and left to ruin (*ibid*); continuous stone-robbing in the area resulted in dressed stone later finding its way into farms and field walls. In general, Furness continued to prosper upon the base of a rich agriculture; the monastic granges, which were in use until the Dissolution, commonly continued as independent farms.
- 2.3.12 The Furness area played an important part in the development of the British iron industry. The earliest accounts of medieval local iron mining comes from

the Coucher Book of Furness Abbey, a domestic account and record of events (Atkinson 1887a; 1887b). The source of ore would have been the red haematite ore of the Furness district, and bloomeries would have been established adjacent to flowing water for washing the ore, though little mention is made in the book regarding how much ironstone was worked, or the sources of fuel (Knoop 1908). The consistent demand for iron would have been one of the factors that ensured the gradual clearance of the forested areas of Low Furness for charcoal, the main fuel until coke was developed in the eighteenth century, which eventually saw iron smelting move up to High Furness by the Dissolution, and finally caused a stream of Elizabethan legislation to protect the woodlands from further encroachment (Barnes 1968). A considerable quantity of iron would have been used by the Abbey and surrounding tenants, who were bestowed each year with a ton of livery ore for repairing farm equipment (Knoop 1908).

- 2.3.13 **Post-Medieval Period:** the Dissolution of the Monasteries effectively led to Furness Abbey becoming a ruin and from the late eighteenth century onwards the abbey ruins and grounds were greatly appreciated as part of what is termed the 'Picturesque and Romantic' movement (Dade-Robertson 2000). By 1549, the abbey and various parts of its land were leased to John Preston of Preston Patrick. He and his descendants resided in a house close to the abbey, probably the modified guesthouse, of which parts may survive in and around the Abbey Tavern, 300m south-west of the study area (Page 1966, 311). The estate was forfeited in the early eighteenth century, and descended through another branch of the family to the Cavendish family, and by 1775 the dilapidated manor house was being used as a farmhouse, as shown on an estate map of that date (Harrison 1998, 31). In 1923 the Cavendish family placed the ruins in the guardianship of the state (Page 1966, 311).
- 2.3.14 Industrial expansion took off in the area in the nineteenth century, in the form of slate quarries to the north of the site and ironworks to the south, utilising the natural resources of the area but on a far bigger and more organised scale than previously. Use was also made of the Duddon estuary as part of the transportation of the raw materials and finished products.
- 2.3.15 The Furness Railway was first established in 1846 as a mineral line to carry haematite and slate to Barrow, and the branch line which runs up the coast of the Duddon estuary was completed in 1850 (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). The 1851 first edition Ordnance Survey map illustrates the newly constructed Furness railway, which lies on the east side of the study area. In some areas the land occupied by the railway is shown as a strip of marked out land on the 1842 tithe map, so purchase of land must have been occurring by this time for the railway (LUAU 1999). Several railway schemes had been proposed before 1846. By 1857 the Furness Railway had been connected all the way to Lancaster (Harrison 1998). The railway runs through the natural valley below the Abbey House Hotel and forms part of the later history of the site.
- 2.3.16 The Furness Railway Company bought the farmhouse building from the Cavendish family, almost completely rebuilt it, and utilised it to attract tourists

to the area. Obviously, the original Furness Abbey Hotel had an excellent view of the abbey to its advantage but it was also purpose-built to link with the Furness Abbey station, across the tracks from the hotel; both of these structures are shown clearly on the 1851 first edition Ordnance Survey map and on the maps in an article on the abbey from 1900 (Hope 1900, 232). The original hotel seems to have played a significant role in the tourist industry of the area. It was eventually closed in 1938 and subsequently destroyed in 1941 by German bombing; the site is now the visitors' car park to Furness Abbey (Dade-Robertson 2000; Harrison 1998).

- 2.3.18 The current Abbey House Hotel, built on a different site at the top of the valley side north-west of the earlier hotel, which was in the valley bottom, was built in about 1902 to a design by Sir Edwin Luytens (LUAU 1999). In the construction local red sandstone, of excellent quality, from the quarry at St Bees was used.

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## 3. RESULTS

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The work at the Abbey House Hotel comprised three phases of watching brief which occurred in three separate areas of the grounds. The three phases took place at different intervals: the first in June 2000 (Area 1); the second in September 2000 (Area 2) and the third in April 2001 (Area 3). Each phase comprised one day of observation and recording. The results are outlined below and should be viewed in conjunction with Figure 2.

### 3.2 AREA 1

3.2.1 Immediately adjacent to the northern entrance to the hotel a small area was stripped using a JCB (Plate 1). After removing the tarmac and makeup, a toothless ditching bucket was used to carefully strip in spits the underlying deposits. The stripping covered an area of approximately 12.5m x 12.5m. The tarmac was about 0.05m in depth, with a further 0.25m of makeup / sub-base material below that, consisting of a 0.15m deep layer of pale yellowish brown, angular, gravely material and below this a 0.1m layer of loose, black ashy stony material. Beneath the makeup was a layer of fragmentary red sandstone material, 0.3m deep. This layer seems to represent a phase of earlier makeup, possibly to help level the area for the initial construction of the Abbey House Hotel. All of these layers were of post-medieval date. Underlying the sandstone layer, at an average depth of 0.5m below the original ground surface extending to 0.9m depth, was a layer of undisturbed brown sandy silt, with occasional clay lenses, almost certainly the natural subsoil of the area.

3.2.2 There was a total of four features exposed in Area 1, all were of post-medieval date and relate to the Abbey House Hotel. The features included: two pipelines / drainage pipes orientated approximately north-west/south-east; a dump of material and the partially exposed foundations of the northern hotel wall. The dump of material was approximately 3.5m in diameter and 0.65m deep, it appeared to be partially cut into the natural subsoil, it was unclear whether it had cut the red sandstone layer but the contents of the dump clearly demonstrated a very recent date. The observed finds included; sandstone fragments, concrete chunks, glass and bottle shards and bricks. It is likely that the dump may relate to some small scale revamping of part of the hotel.

### 3.3 AREA 2

3.3.1 To the east side of the hotel there is a flat area of garden lawn which then slopes off to the east, dropping down towards the wooded sides of the small valley below. In this area it was necessary to mechanically excavate a deep hole for a holding tank at the top of the slope (Plate 2), this connected to the drainage system established in Area 1. The excavated area for the holding tank

measured 10m x 5m and was 1.1m in depth at the north end, shallower at the south end. The excavation revealed a fairly homogeneous deposit of reddish brown, silty loam, which became slightly stonier towards the base. A large number of roots were present in the soil, probably from a tree previously standing on the site. All the finds observed were post-medieval ceramics and glass, which lends support to the suggestion that some of the deposits may result from terracing activity relating to the hotel.

- 3.3.2 A trench was excavated from the area of the holding tank across the lawn and partially down the slope, in a north-north-east/south-south-west orientation, towards a second smaller hole which was to accommodate a manhole. The pipe trench excavated revealed the same reddish brown silty loam deposit and towards its southern end there was evidence of backfilled deposits from an earlier drainage trench.
- 3.3.4 The manhole excavation took place using a mini-digger and the area subject to this deeper excavation was 2.5m x 1.2m. The hole reached a depth of 2.1m at which point a concrete and brick surface was encountered. Within this area a stone-packed drain, utilising two fragments of roughly-hewn, red sandstone was uncovered, these were part of the packing and backfill surrounding the earlier cast iron drainage pipe. The excavations revealed nothing earlier than post-medieval features and deposits.

### **3.4 AREA 3**

- 3.4.1 To the north-west of the main hotel building lies the North Lodge. Between the lodge and the boundary wall further north a trench was excavated for services, connecting the extension to the services running along the A590. The trench was orientated west-north-west/east-south-east, measured 23m x 0.65m and was excavated to a depth of 0.9m. There was approximately 0.1m of topsoil overlying levelling deposits. The levelling deposits consisted of a mixture of redeposited natural subsoil and topsoil, clinker, slate fragments, bricks and metal fragments. Below this was the mid brown, silty loam, natural subsoil. Only one feature was revealed within the trench, at the western end.
- 3.4.2 The feature was located approximately 7m from the west end of the trench and consisted of a wall (Plates 3 and 4) and a possible mortar surface associated with it. The wall was constructed of two elements; on the south it was of hewn red sandstone blocks, squared and faced; on the north were roughly-hewn blocks of similar red sandstone. The blocks were of variable size but between 0.45m x 0.4m and 0.65m x 0.4m. No bonding material was evident between the roughly-hewn blocks but for the squared blocks there was apparently a mid greyish sandy mortar material. The wall was orientated approximately east-west, at an oblique angle across the trench. The dimensions showed the wall to be 1.1m wide and over 1.7m long, continuing beyond the trench edges in either direction. The remains were uncovered at a depth of 0.4m below the ground surface and continued to the maximum excavated depth, giving it a height of at least 0.5m to the top of the foundations. The neat facing of the southern part of the exposed section of wall suggests that it may have originally been in view,

implying that a significant amount of infilling had taken place in this area. There was evidence of a cut for the wall on the south side, which had been backfilled with *inter alia* small slate fragments. The cut was also visible on the north side but here the wall had apparently been constructed flush against the cut. The cut truncated the natural subsoil but did not appear to have truncated the levelling deposits. The wall therefore pre-dates the levelling; however, since no finds were present a date for the construction and use of the wall is unknown.

- 3.4.3 Traces of a possible mortar surface were found on the north side of the wall at the point where the foundation met the wall. The material consisted of a compacted mid greyish mortar, upto a maximum thickness of 0.15m, similar to that used to bond the southern face of the wall. It is possible that the material represents the trampled remains of excess mortar from construction of the wall, but this raises the question as to why the northern face of the wall was not mortared.

### **3.5 FINDS**

- 3.5.1 All of the finds observed, including, ceramics, glass, metal and building materials, were noted with relevance to the features and/or deposits from which they were derived; none were retained. All the observed finds were of post-medieval date.
- 3.5.2 In addition, a record was made of the finds that had been recovered from the work undertaken by the gateway into the grounds before the watching brief had commenced. Here several pieces of the original underground, pulley-operated, gate opening system were found which opened the gate 'remotely' from the North Lodge. The material is currently stored at the hotel and is to be re-buried adjacent to the North Lodge when work on the extension has been completed.

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## 4. CONCLUSIONS

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### 4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The watching brief revealed that there were no remains of archaeological significance in either Area 1, adjacent to the north side of the Abbey House Hotel or in Area 2, to the east in the gardens. However in Area 3 the presence of a sandstone wall of uncertain date is of interest. The alignment of the wall is identical to that of a section of existing stone boundary wall. The stone boundary wall to the east of the North Lodge has a distinct kink in its alignment. It is suggested that the remains of the wall found in Area 3 are a continuation of this alignment. This therefore implies that the northern kinked section may represent a more recent change in the boundary. Plans of the precinct wall of Furness Abbey are only conjectural in this area and since this wall shows a change of alignment perhaps it also hints at the original course of the precinct wall in this section (Harrison 1998; Hope 1900, 232).

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## APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

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**June 2000**

**Lancaster  
University  
Archaeological  
Unit**

### **EXTENSION TO THE ABBEY HOUSE HOTEL, BARROW-IN-FURNESS CUMBRIA**

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF PROJECT DESIGN**

#### ***Proposals***

*The following project design is offered in response to a request by Mr B Smith, of Northwest Projects (2000) Ltd, for an archaeological watching brief in advance of an extension to the Abbey House Hotel, Abbey Road, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An application has been submitted by Robert Turley Associates to Barrow Borough Council for a three-storey extension to the Abbey House Hotel, Abbey Road, Barrow. The proposed extension of the hotel is to meet demand from business tourism in the area. The Hotel is within the grounds of Furness Abbey Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) and, consequently, in order to secure planning permission for the proposed works, Robert Turley Associates were required to undertake an archaeological assessment of the site of the proposed extension in order to inform an application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC). The assessment was carried out by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) in July/August 1999, concluding that, as the development site lies high on a cliff above the abbey, it was unlikely that this area ever included monastic buildings; however, as it was within the precinct wall, the area may have been exploited, such as for quarrying natural resources, and archaeological remains for any such use may survive. Consequently, a watching brief of the groundworks associated with the hotel extension was recommended. SMC and planning permission have now been granted for the hotel extension, which is to be built by Northwest Projects (2000) Ltd (hereafter the 'client'), who have been appointed Principal Contractor for the project. The following represents a project design to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the relevant groundworks.
- 1.2 Furness Abbey was founded in 1127 by Sauvignac monks from Tulketh in Lancashire, who were granted lands in Furness by Stephen of Blois (the future king of England) and established a new site there. In 1147 the Sauvignac order merged with the Cistercians, with Furness Abbey becoming the second largest Cistercian house in the north of the country until its dissolution in the mid sixteenth century. Its influence in the Lake Counties was immense and its legacy in part continues to this day in the holdings of the Cavendish family.
- 1.3 The Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) has considerable experience of the assessment and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 17 years. Evaluations and assessment have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. LUAU has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. LUAU is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 27, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.
- 1.4 LUAU has particular experience of the Furness Abbey area through its extensive building recording and evaluation work since 1985 undertaken on behalf of English Heritage on the site of the Abbey. Whilst work has concentrated on the land held in guardianship, the area of the "Amphitheatre" has also been studied, together with the extent of the precinct wall, and excavations and watching briefs have been undertaken to the north of the current site entrance.

## **2 OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide for accurate recording of any archaeological deposits that are disturbed by the groundworks associated with the development.
- 2.2 A written report will assess the significance of the data generated by the watching brief, within a local and regional context.

### 3 METHOD STATEMENT

#### 3.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1.1 **Methodology:** following a site visit on Friday 2nd June 2000 and analysis of borehole logs provided by the client, it is clear that much of the site of the proposed extension is made up of modern terracing, perhaps associated with the building of Abbey House Hotel. Following discussion with English Heritage's representative responsible for the site, David Sherlock, it was decided that if the watching brief revealed extensive areas of modern make-up it would not be necessary to have a permanent presence watching brief of all the groundworks associated with the development. Analysis of the borehole logs suggests that archaeological remains, if they exist in this area, are most likely to be found in the area closest to the existing hotel buildings. A programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the excavations in the course of the proposed development works. This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation. Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (ie. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 3.1.2 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid coordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large scale plan provided by the Client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.1.3 All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using a system of *pro forma* recording sheets, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.

3.1.4 It is assumed that LUAU will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important deposits. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high density of archaeology is discovered, but this would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and the representative of English Heritage and will require a variation to costing. Also, should evidence of burials be identified, the 1857 Burial Act would apply and a Home Office Licence would be sought. This would involve all work ceasing until the proper authorities were happy for burials to be removed. In normal circumstances, field recording will also include a continual process of analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of the data, in order to establish the necessity for any further more detailed recording that may prove essential.

3.1.6 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc.), as well as to all Health and Safety regulations. LUAU 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 Unit Managers.

## 3.2 ARCHIVE/REPORT

3.2.1 **Archive:** The results of all archaeological work carried out during fieldwork will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct. LUAU conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Service format. LUAU practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum. Wherever possible, LUAU recommends the deposition of such material in a local museum approved by the Museums and Galleries Commission, and would make appropriate arrangements with the designated museum at the outset of the project for the proper labelling, packaging, and accessioning of all material recovered.

3.2.2 **Report:** One bound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client and a further copy submitted to English Heritage within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will

include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, with an assessment of the overall stratigraphy, together with appropriate illustrations, including detailed plans and sections indicating the locations of archaeological features. Any finds recovered from the excavations will be assessed with reference to other local material and any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted.

3.2.3 It should be noted that if no significant archaeological remains are recovered then a formal archaeological report will not be written. If this proves to be the case then a letter to this effect will be sent to the client and copied to the representative of English Heritage.

3.2.4 **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.

#### **4 WORK TIMETABLE**

4.1 LUAU could commence the watching brief within two weeks of receipt of written notification from the client.

4.2 The duration of the watching brief is dependent on the duration of the groundworks for the development and, consequently, at this stage it is not possible to give a precise figure for the number of person days for each stage of the project.

4.3 The client report will be completed within eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

#### **5 STAFFING**

5.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Alan Lupton PhD MIFA** (Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

5.2 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing at this stage exactly who will be undertaking the watching brief.

5.3 Assessment of any finds will be undertaken by LUAU's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis BA MIFA** (LUAU project officer). Christine acts as LUAU's in-house finds specialist and has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England. As well as specialist knowledge regarding Roman glass, metalwork, and leather, the recording and management of waterlogged wood, and most aspects of wetland and environmental archaeology, she is a prehistorian of considerable experience.

## **6 INSURANCE**

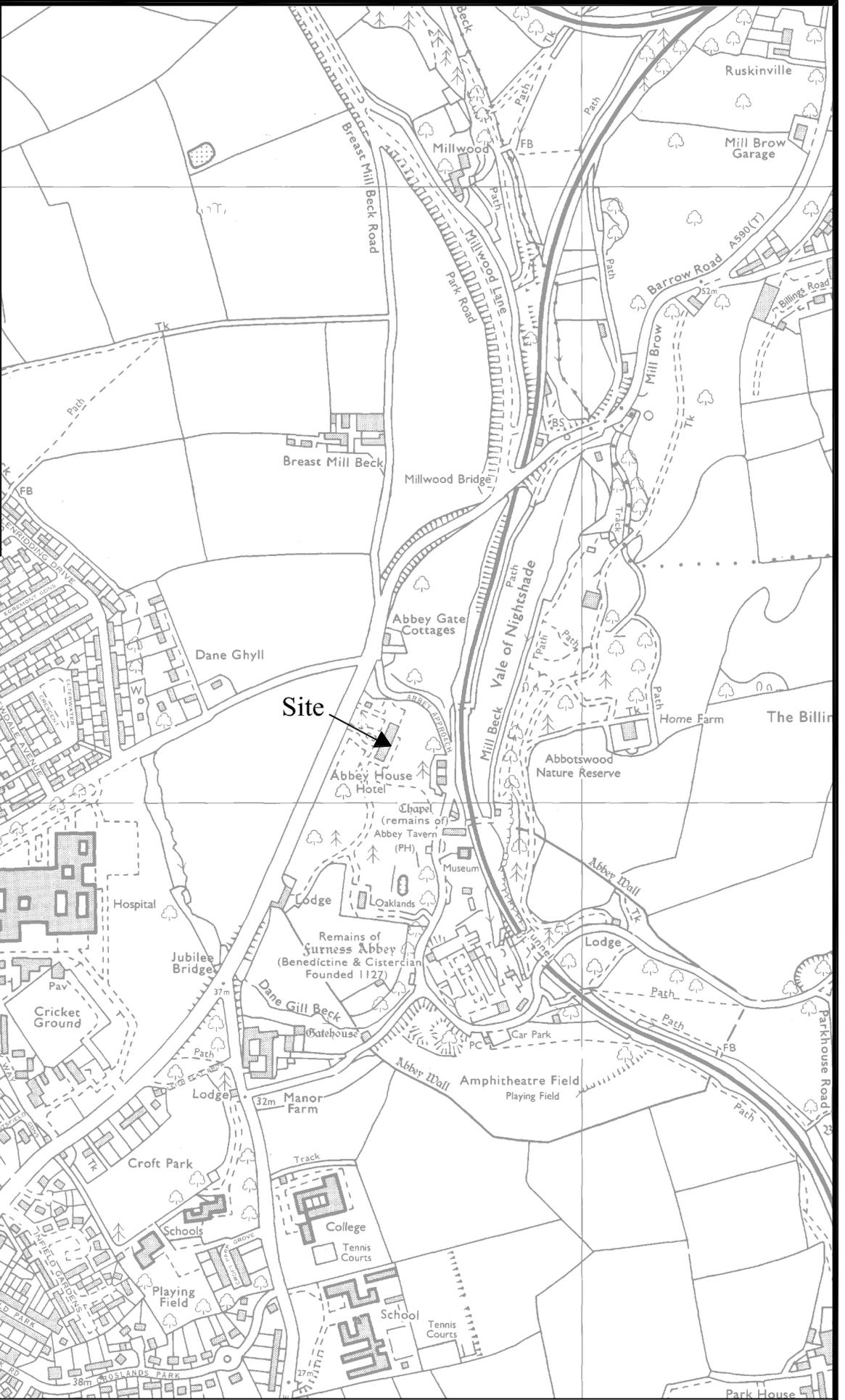
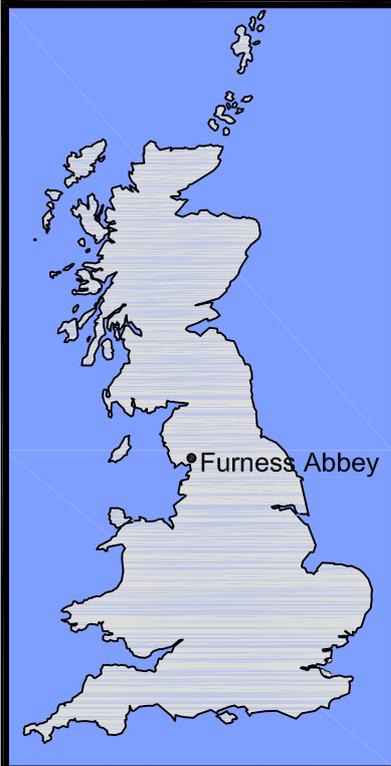
- 6.1 LUAU has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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- Figure 1      Site Location
- Figure 2      Location of works and features
- Plate 1        Section in Area 1: looking south-west
- Plate 2        Excavation for the holding tank in Area 2: looking south-west
- Plate 3        Wall seen in Area 3 and its surroundings: looking north-east
- Plate 4        Close up of south face of wall: looking west



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Figure 1: Location Map



**Oxford Archaeology North**  
 Storey Institute  
 Meeting House Lane  
 Lancaster  
 LA1 1TF  
 Tel 01524 848666  
 Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT:  
 Furness Abbey

DRAWING No:  
 2

Scale  
 1:5000 and 1:1000

DRAWN BY:  
 ELC

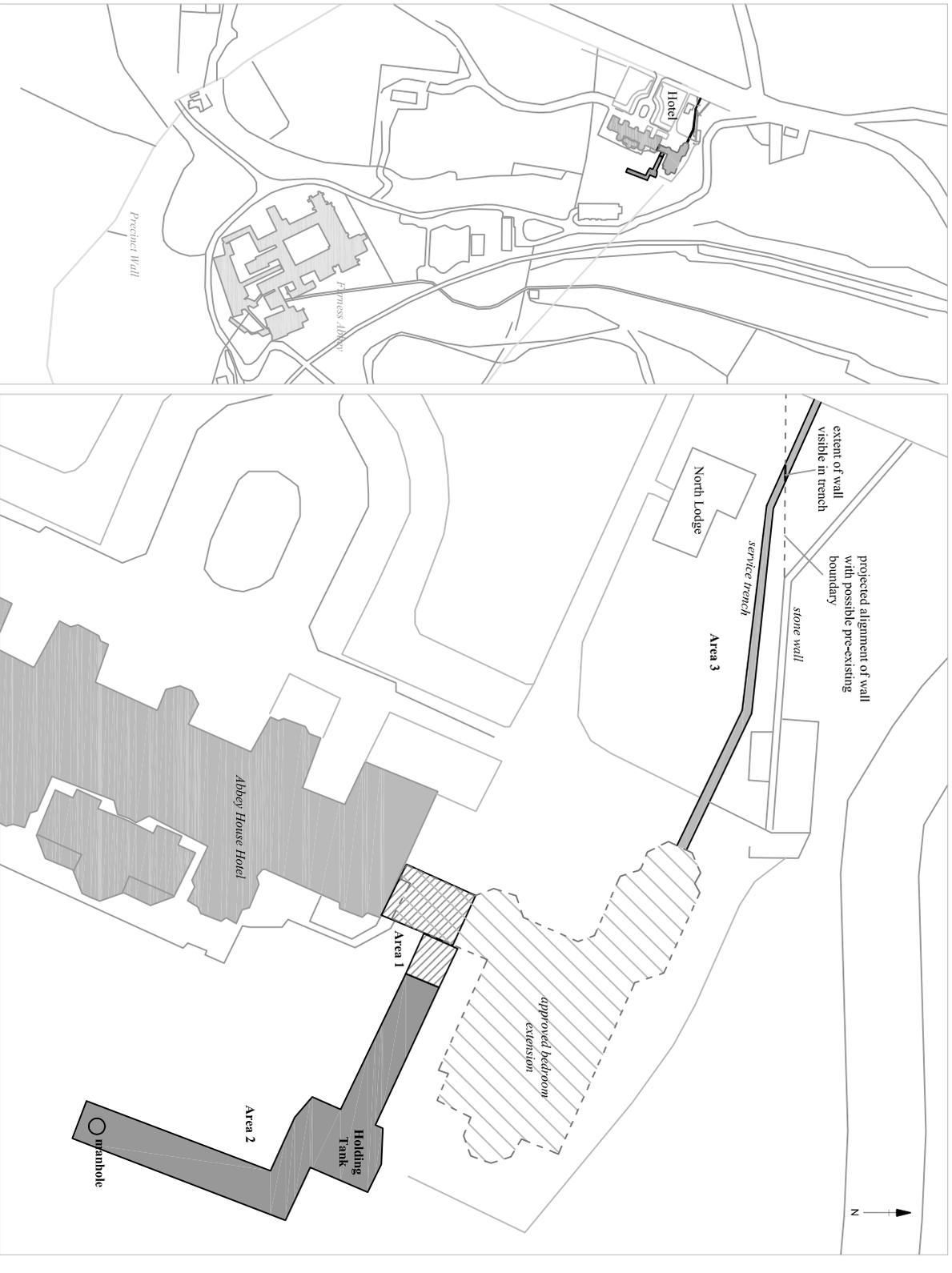
DATE:  
 August 2001

LOCATION:  
 Furness Abbey

KEY

TITLE:  
 Location of Works and Features

COMMISSIONED BY:  
 Northwest Projects (2000) Ltd



1:5000 1:1000 0 25m

Figure 2 : Location of Works and Features



Plate 1 Section in Area 1: looking south-west



Plate 2 Excavation for the holding tank in Area 2: looking south-west

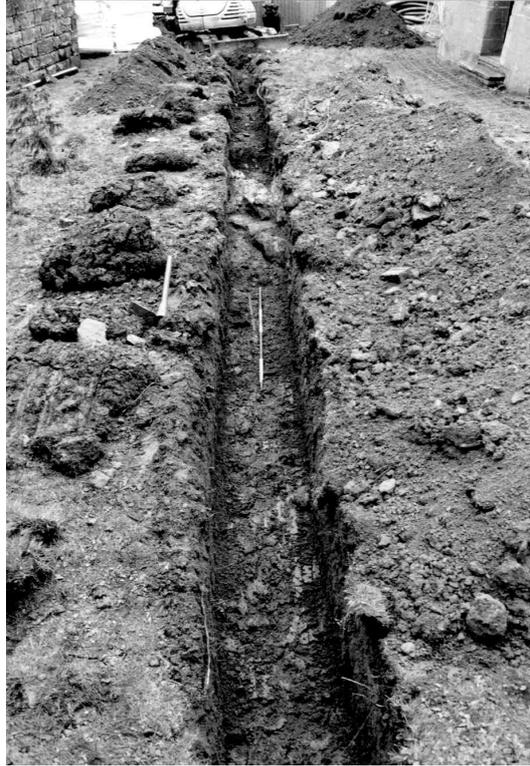


Plate 3 Wall seen in Area 3 and its surroundings: looking north-east

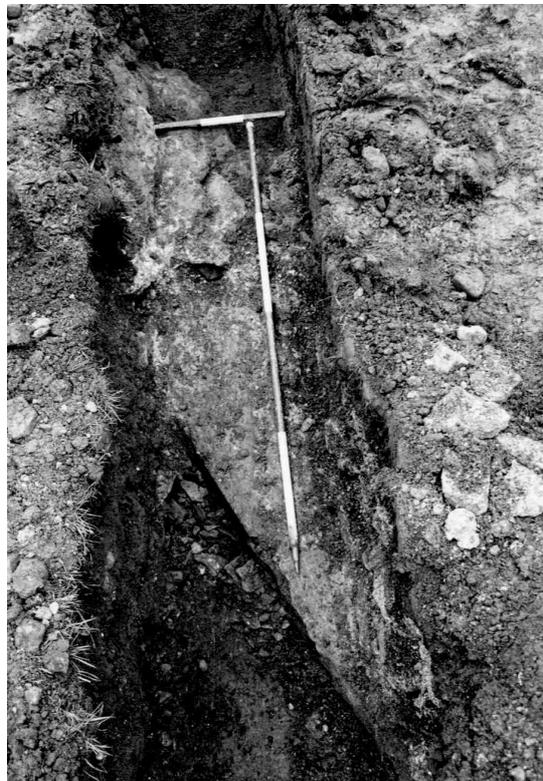


Plate 4 Close up of south face of wall: looking west

