



FRECKLETON STREET LINK, PHASE 1 ADVANCE WORKS, BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief



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Prepared by: Vickie Jamieson
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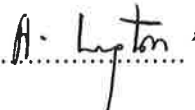
Checked by: Adam Tinsley
Position: Project Manager
Date: May 2016

Signed.....



Approved by: Alan Lupton
Position: Operations Manager
Date: June 2016

Signed.....



Oxford Archaeology North

Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Lancaster
LA1 1QD
t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

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Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

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SUMMARY

Wade Group, on behalf of their client Blackburn with Darwin Borough Council, commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) North to undertake an archaeological watching brief on two blocks of land on King Street and Chapel Street, Blackburn (NGR SD 67882 27800).

The series of archaeological investigations form part of a wider planning application (ref. 10/08/0187) for the construction of a new link road between the Freckleton Street railway crossing, and King Street where it meets Montague Street, which was subject to a photographic survey of the route corridor in 2009. A desk-based assessment (DBA), carried out in 2007 by Egerton Lea Consultancy Ltd, had identified a number of potential heritage assets, including Nos 53 and 61 King Street, which were recorded by historic building investigations (OA North 2008; 2013) prior to demolition.

The DBA also suggested that the southern half of the road corridor within the King Street block was formerly occupied by a Catholic Chapel and burial ground (Egerton Lea 2007; 2008). However, a limited programme of trial trenching to the rear of 53 King Street conducted by OA North in 2008 encountered no evidence for a burial ground.

No previous below-ground works within the Chapel Street block have been undertaken. The Egerton Lea DBA (2007) did, however, identify four known heritage assets. The most significant of these were small houses along the Chapel Street frontage. The three further heritage assets, including a Spiritualist Chapel, identified by Egerton Lea represented standing buildings that were recorded by OA North in 2014 prior to demolition.

The watching brief produced evidence of below ground structures in the form of cellars and two wells, in both the King Street and Chapel Street blocks, with much of the made ground identified as relating to the demolition of these structures. No sign of burial activity was identified, although the possibility that other areas to the east of the road scheme were utilised for such purposes cannot be entirely discounted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OA North would like to thank John Wade of Wade Group for commissioning the project and Doug Moir of Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) for providing the verbal specification.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Vickie Jamieson, who also wrote the report. The drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, while Adam Tinsley edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Wade Group, on behalf of their client Blackburn with Darwin Borough Council, commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) North to undertake an archaeological watching brief ahead of phase one development works relating to the construction of a new link road.
- 1.1.2 The series of archaeological investigations form part of a wider planning application (ref. 10/08/0187) for the construction of the link road, between the Freckleton Street railway crossing and King Street where it meets Montague Street, which was subject to a photographic survey of the route corridor in 2009. A desk-based assessment, carried out in 2007 by Edgerton Lea Consultancy Ltd had identified a number of potential heritage assets that will be affected by the development.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the watching brief in the form of a short document outlining the findings of the site work, which was carried out over 14 days in March and April 2015.

1.2 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The site is located off King Street, Blackburn, and transverses two blocks of land (NGR SD 67882 27800), which are both bound by Freckleton Street and Byron Street to the east and west respectively. The block to the north (henceforth the King Street block) is defined by King Street and Chapel Street to the north and south respectively, whilst the block to the south (henceforth, the Chapel Street block), is bound to the north and south by Chapel Street and St Peter Street respectively. The site is located less than 0.5km to the south-west of Blackburn town centre.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology comprises Carboniferous Lower Coal Measures Formation that consists of mudstone, siltstone, and sandstone. The superficial geology consists of Devensian glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2016). The soils of the area are freely draining slightly acid sandy soils of low fertility (landis.org.uk).

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The following background is a précis extracted from the desk-based assessment and addendum (Edgerton Lea 2007; 2008) concerning the area proposed for archaeological investigation, together with the results of the investigations undertaken by OA North.
- 1.3.2 Prior to the mid-eighteenth century, King Street was a significant route into Blackburn from Preston, being the town's first turnpike established in 1755, and was surrounded by fields. Blackburn was a centre for cotton cloth

manufacturing and, until the arrival of the railway in the town in 1846, it relied on provisions from Preston by road. However, from the mid-eighteenth century King Street, then known as Preston Old Road, became a focus for cloth merchant's mansions and fine houses, and King Street was synonymous with some of the most well-known families in Blackburn. By the end of the eighteenth-century, houses of a slightly lesser status were infilling along King Street, being built for the middle classes. These houses were still quite large, with stepped frontages indicating cellar space below ground.

- 1.3.3 By the 1820s King Street, although still a middle class area, was becoming less of a select address, particularly towards its western end, as industrial development increased. The recent investigation of 61 King Street revealed that the origins of the building date to around this time, when a number of smaller town houses were built between 53 King Street and the corner of Byrom Street to the west (OA North 2013). Similarly, to the rear of King Street, on Chapel Street, smaller houses had been built by 1824, and by the mid-nineteenth century, the Ordnance Survey maps show some infill development in the rear yards. Indeed, the houses on Chapel Street and to the rear of King Street include a significant proportion of back-to-back dwellings.
- 1.3.4 53 King Street was built some time in the 1830s and had been an open space prior to its construction. Houses had been built to the west and east of it, and indeed those to the east were demolished to make way for the County Police Station in the late nineteenth-century. Originally built as a dwelling, 53 King Street became the headquarters for the County Police force by 1843, accommodating a total of 25 men. In 1872, plans had been submitted and passed for the construction of the County Police Court on King Street adjacent to and within the garden of number 53, with two constables' dwellings to the rear. Number 53 subsequently became the Superintendent's residence. The new building was large, with a central archway and passage leading through to a drill yard and the two constables' houses to the rear. Facing the building, there was a public entrance on the left, leading to the police offices which had a charge room, Superintendent's office, four cells, an exercise ground (presumably for prisoners), and stairs up to the dock. To the right of the central passage was a store room, the weights and measures office, a waiting room, and separate stairs for the magistrates and advocates. The court house and offices were upstairs. Although not shown in detail, the building appears to have been built on substantial piles and was not cellared, although the rooms facing King Street appear to have a shallow cavity beneath where the building was terraced into the ground. Although number 53 stood until recently, and was listed in 1987, the neighbouring police station and court has been demolished. The front of the building survives to the bottom of the bay windows, and the remainder appears to have just been levelled. The constables' houses to the rear may have survived as office buildings for the builder's yard, until recently, but it would seem that these too have now been demolished.
- 1.3.5 On the corner of King Street and Freckleton Street was a house known as the Vicarage, which was believed to be one of the largest houses on the street, built by the Freckleton family originally as a gentleman's residence in the late

eighteenth-century. Documentary evidence showed it to have been a three-storey brick-built house with cellars (Cole 1996, 14). The original vicarage to St Mary's parish church stood in the churchyard, but this was replaced, along with the old Grammar School, in 1820 by the new church. It is likely that the Vicarage was relocated to the house on King Street as a result in 1829. It was known as the Old Vicarage by 1894 and was demolished sometime between 1906 and 1924.

- 1.3.6 The site of the watching brief would appear to first have been developed as a Roman Catholic chapel and associated burial ground in the late eighteenth-century, although the exact chronology of events and location of the structures is slightly unclear from the historical sources (within Egerton Lea 2007a). Blackburn's Catholics had met first in Wensley Fold, and from 1773, in a house on Old Chapel Street, near Penny Street (Duckworth 1999, 124-5). From 1781 a chapel to the rear of King Street was in use until it became too small for the congregation over 40 years later, but it would appear that these functions were served by two separate structures (Child 1999, 125). The earliest building referred to as a cottage in 1831, when it had become an office of the Overseers of the Poor and the Surveyors of the Highways (Egerton Lea 2007a), may have combined the function of priest's house on one floor and religious observance on the other. The cottage is said to have stood adjacent to Chapel Street (Egerton Lea 2007a,) and may be an L-shaped structure shown to the east of the putative burial ground on Gillies' map of 1824 and the Ordnance Survey (OS) first edition of 1848. As such, any archaeological remains of this building are likely to lie beneath the twentieth-century buildings on Chapel Street to the east of the watching brief area. The purpose-built Roman Catholic chapel was constructed on land to the rear of numbers 45-47 King Street (Egerton Lea 2007a, 9), and next to the cottage, and may be a structure shown to the east of the present site of investigation on historic maps (Gillies 1824; OS 1848). Along Chapel Street (within the southern end of the present investigation) these maps show the development of late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century structures, which are far less grand than the King Street edifices.
- 1.3.7 By 1826, the expanded congregation had moved to a new church, St Albans, at Larkhill and the King Street chapel appears to be used as a place of residence for the priest, who was registered as living at the old chapel in 1826 (LRO QDL/1826/B/10 in Egerton Lea 2007a); by 1877 the old chapel was being used as workshops (*ibid*). The 1894 OS map would indicate that the chapel, the cottage, and the modest dwellings within the present site of investigation had been demolished, with the site labelled as the County Police Station. By the time of the survey for the 1939 OS map, further buildings were constructed around the margins of the site, seemingly corresponding with the extant warehouses and storage sheds. Some credence is lent to the interpretation of the present area of investigation as a putative burial ground, as the area has remained an open space throughout its history. The site for the watching brief, including the churchyard, was more recently under a builder's yard, and was subject to a limited trial-trench evaluation (OA North 2008), but no evidence of the area being used as a graveyard was observed.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; *Appendix 1*), approved by Doug Moir of Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS), and was consistent with the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and English Heritage guidelines (CIfA 20014a, 2014b, 2014c; English Heritage 2006).

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 A permanent archaeological presence was maintained during groundworks, which were carried out using a 360°, hydraulically-powered, mechanical excavator, equipped with various sized toothless buckets. The machine was under the direction of the client, but was monitored at all times by a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist. The purpose of monitoring these works was to identify, investigate, and record any archaeological remains encountered.

2.2.2 The watching brief consisted of observing the excavation of the proposed new road through two key areas. The King Street block (Area A) and the Chapel Street block (Area B). The excavations covered the entire proposed road scheme, which, in places, extended to a maximum depth of 2m and removed elements of natural sand. A series of eleven test pits and five inspection pits measuring on average 1.7m in length, 1.2m in width, and 2.1m in depth, was excavated to check the various soil conditions and compactions.

2.2.3 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 former Centre for Archaeology. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout.

2.3 ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current CIfA and English Heritage guidelines (CIfA 2006; English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Preston Record Office on completion of the project, and a paper copy will be sent to the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, Preston.

3. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the results of the archaeological watching brief. As per the methodology outlined in *Appendix 1*, the surviving below ground structures were recorded in detail in both the King Street and Chapel Street blocks. A number of test pits and inspection pits were recorded in both blocks in less detail from the surface of the investigation.

3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 Mechanical stripping in the investigation area revealed the well preserved foundations and cellars of a number of properties in both Area A (the King Street block) and Area B (the Chapel Street block). Context numbers relating to these remains have been grouped into three overarching structural groups, numbered 1-3, and will be discussed relative to these groups in an order progressing from north-west to south-east.

3.2.2 **Area A; King Street Block:** was bracketed to the north-west by former King Street, to the south-east by Chapel Street, to the south-west by former Byrom Street and to the north-east by Freckleton Street (Fig 3). The primary deposit across the area (**1003**) comprised a layer of loose dark brown and black clayey silty sand, forming a made ground layer containing large quantities of rubble, brick, metal etc. It was of varying depths and in-filled the surviving below ground structures. The deposit probably represents material deriving from the demolition of the former buildings occupying the site. Extant structural remains were identified in two locations and have been grouped together and identified as Structure 1 and 2.

3.2.3 **Structure 1:** was located in a position fronting onto former Kings Street, just off centre and to the west of Area A (Fig 3). The structure comprised a number of walls (contexts **2001**, **1008**, **1017**, **1014**, **1015** and **1016**), which defined several internal rooms relating to a number of properties previously identified on the first edition OS map of the area, numbers 53, 55, and 57 King Street. The various aspects of the structure are described below as they occur from west to east.

3.2.4 Wall **1014** represented the western limit of the structure and can be related to cellars of former 57 King Street (Fig 3; Plate 1). The cellar was divided into three rooms, with stair access most likely situated in the southern corner, but were not uncovered during the course of the investigation. A flagstone floor was observed, surviving in a good condition, placed directly onto the natural sand **1004**. The building itself was constructed in a combination of dressed sandstone and red brick. The sandstone blocks varied in size, while the bricks were un-frogged and hand-made, and the structure bonded with a white lime mortar. Evidence survives on some of the walls of a lime rendering. The structure measured a total of 9.25m long and 5m wide, with a surviving height of 1.8m in places. Structure **1014** can be located on the 1848, 1894 and 1911

OS maps, whereas by the 1931 map it appears to have merged with number 55 King Street.

- 3.2.5 Structure **1015** represent the north-western limit of the cellars associated with former 55 and 57 King Street (Fig 3; Plate 2). It was constructed from both dressed sandstone blocks of varying size and un-frogged red brick, bonded with a white lime mortar. Evidence of a lime render was found on some of the surviving walls. Part of a flagstone floor survived in the north-west corner of the structure. It may have originally been divided into more than one room, but this was obscured by re-deposited natural deposits that were not removed during the course of excavations. It measured 4.75m long, but continued under the re-deposited natural to the south-east. It was 6m wide and had a surviving depth of 1.8m. Again, it can be related to buildings identified on the 1848, 1894, and 1911 OS maps as an individual dwelling, but by 1931 it appears to have merged with number 57 King Street.
- 3.2.6 Wall **1016** represents the remains of the largest cellar area uncovered during the course of the current investigation, located immediately to the east of and adjoining wall **1015**, with a length of 15.75m and a width of 10.5m (Fig 3; Plate 3). The maximum height of the surviving walls was 2m. Structure **1016** represents the remains of 53 King Street and, as such, can be associated with the previous use of the building as a police station. It can be located on all historic OS maps from 1848 through to 1931. It was constructed of dressed sandstone blocks of varying size and un-frogged red bricks, bonded with a white lime mortar. Again, evidence of a lime render was observed on some of the walls. Part of a dividing wall was evident as a scar on the north-west wall, and would have extended on a north-west/south-east alignment. The remains of a flagstone staircase survived in the north-east corner of the building, but the floor itself was completely missing. A further structure (**1008**), representing a second well, occupied the southern corner of the structure and was again keyed into the wall.
- 3.2.7 Well **1008**, was recorded in the southern corner of structure **1016** (Fig 3), which formed the rear of 53 King Street. It was 'D' shaped and elements of the brickwork had been keyed into the south-west and south-east walls of **1016**. It was formed of un-frogged red bricks with no bonding material. It had a diameter of 0.8m and a minimum depth of 2m. It had been substantially damaged during the course of the previous demolition phase.
- 3.2.8 Wall **1017** was located immediately south-east of wall **1016** (Fig 3), and represents a series of four rooms with a combined measurement of 11.5m in length and 10m wide, with a minimum surviving height of 1.15m (Plate 4). It was constructed of dressed sandstone blocks of varying size, with occasional un-frogged red brick set within it, perhaps indicative of repairs to the structure, bonded with a grey lime and sand mortar. It was constructed within a construction cut truncating the natural sand **1004** and had been heavily damaged on the north-east side by the disused fuel tanks associated with the former builders' yard. A stone-lined drain was observed in the north-east room extending on a north-east/south-west alignment. No floors were preserved for this particular structure. The north-west wall formed part of the cellar associated with structure **1016**, while the south-east wall was represented by

wall **1002**. These cellars are possibly part of the former constables' dwellings to the rear of 53 King Street.

- 3.2.9 Wall **1002** was recorded in the centre of Area A, to the north-west of the proposed graveyard, and to the rear of the former police station. It consisted of yellow sandstone, hand carved and dressed stones of varying size, with a white lime mortar. It extended on a north-east/south-west alignment for 7.5m and had a width of 0.2m. A minimum of ten courses survived, measuring 1.2m high, and was cut into the natural dark orange sand **1004**. The wall itself had a concrete floor butting it on the north-west side, which is most likely a later addition. Once the concrete floor had been removed, a former cellar, structure **1017**, was revealed underneath. The wall can be observed on the 1848 and 1894 OS maps.
- 3.2.10 **Structure 2**: was recorded in Area A, approximately 20m to the south-east of Structure 1, in a position formerly fronting onto Chapel Street (Fig 3). From west to east, it comprised wall **1005**, **1006**, **1007**, and **1001** and associated features.
- 3.2.11 Wall **1005** represented a seemingly independent rectangular brick structure, located a short distance to the north-west of, but possibly associated with Structure 2. It was constructed of a mixture of red frogged and un-frogged bricks that were both machine and hand-made. The whole structure was bonded with a light grey sand and limestone mortar and cut into the natural sand **1004**. It measured 2.35m in length, 1.4m in width, and had a depth of 1.15m. The hand-made bricks may represent the reuse of earlier materials from the site, although, most likely, the structure probably represents an earlier building subsequently heavily modified or repaired. The north-east facing section of the south-west wall had been rendered and scored as though ready for plaster, but this appears never to have been applied. The structure itself had then been in-filled with dark grey cobbles, possibly from the demolition phase on site. The function of the structure remains uncertain as it is not recorded on any of the OS maps.
- 3.2.12 Walls **1006** and **1007** represent the remains of two cellars that were once joined properties fronting onto Chapel Street (Fig 3; Plate 5). They can be located on the 1848, 1893, and 1911 OS maps. By the 1931 OS map they appear to have become one single dwelling. Both structures were constructed with red un-frogged hand-made bricks, that had noticeably been poorly fired. They were bonded by a pink and white sand and lime mortar and had a lime render on the surviving internal surface. Both buildings measure 7.5m in length, while **1006** is 2m in width, **1007** is slightly larger at 2.55m in width. They were preserved to a minimum of 2.3m in depth and had a concrete floor. Both cellars were accessed via several stone flag stairs. The stairs to **1006** lay to the north-west, while the stairs to **1007** lay to the north-east of the building. Evidence of a dividing wall survived in fragments, although this had clearly been removed, most likely when the buildings had been amalgamated into a single dwelling.
- 3.2.13 Wall **1001** was recorded to the south-east of the investigation area and fronted on to Chapel Street. It consisted of red frogged bricks with a dark grey sand

mortar, running on a south-west/north-east alignment. Only 5m of the wall remained *in situ* and is most likely late nineteenth to twentieth-century in origin, possibly associated with the recent builders' yard. It is not evident on any of the OS maps.

- 3.2.14 **Area B; Chapel Street Block:** was located to the south-east of Area A, bracketed to the north-west by Chapel Street, to the south-east by land associated with the former St Peters Church, to the south-west by Byrom Street, and to the north-east by Freckleton Street (Fig 3). Extant structural remains identified in the area formed a single continuous block located towards the centre of the area, collectively identified as Structure 3. A single smaller structure (**1013**) was identified immediately to the north-east of Structure 3. As in Area A, the primary overburden deposit across the area consisted of layer **1003**, which represented a demolition deposit of varying depth, overlaying and infilling the various extant structures.
- 3.2.15 **Structure 3;** from west to east the various elements of Structure 3 can be identified as wall **1009**, **1010**, **1011**, and **1012**. Collectively the structures represent the remains of various cellars forming back to back housing in the centre of Area B (Plate 6). They were constructed from a combination of dressed sandstone blocks of varying sizes and un-frogged red bricks, bonded with a light pink mortar. Each cellar measured 6.8m in length, while their width varied between 4.6-4.7m, and, on average, survived to a height of 1.3m in relation to the outer walls. The internal dividing walls for each cellar were constructed of a single skin of un-frogged red brick with only small fragments of them surviving. Evidence of a lime rendering was observed on some of the walls. A partial floor composed of un-frogged red brick and sandstone flags was recorded within the cellar defined by wall **1011**, however, the floors for the other cellars were absent. No evidence for staircase access to the cellars was observed. This may indicate that the subterranean areas were reached via internal wooden staircases that have not survived. Evidence of windows was recorded for all four cellars, set within the north-west range of walls, while cellar **1011** was unique in retaining the remains of a window in the south-east wall. The four cellars can be located on the early 1848 OS maps.
- 3.2.16 Structure **1013** lay to the north-east of the cellar defined by wall **1012**, and represents a well, probably servicing and contemporary with Structure 3. It was constructed of un-frogged red bricks. No mortar bonding was evident and the bricks were stacked stretcher side on (Plate 7). The well itself was oval in shape with a length of 1.6m and a width of 1.4m. From the top of the surviving structure to the top of the water measured 5.5m in depth. A large granite capstone lay over the top of the well and may have been placed at a later date to cover the well while the houses were demolished and the whole area concreted over.
- 3.2.17 **Test Pits:** A series of eleven test pits were excavated in both areas A and B, in order to check soil conditions and compaction along with the depth of differing deposits. Their locations are noted on Figure 2.
- 3.2.18 **TP02:** was located in Area B, measured 2m in length and 1.1m in width, and extended to a total depth of 2.3m below the current ground surface. Deposits

observed within the pit consisted of made ground **1003** for a depth of 1.2m overlying natural sand **1004** for a minimum of 1.1m in depth. See Plate 8 as an example of what the majority of test pits looked like.

- 3.2.19 **TP03:** was located in Area B, measured 2.2m in length and 0.9m in width, and extended to a total depth of 2.6m below the current ground surface. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of made ground **1003** for a depth of 2.2m overlying natural sand **1004** for a minimum of 0.3m in depth.
- 3.2.20 **TP04:** was located in Area B, measured 1.6m in length and 0.9m in width, and extended to a total depth of 2.9m below the current ground surface. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of 0.3m of concrete overlying made ground **1003** for a depth of 1.3m, which in turn overlies natural sand **1004** for a minimum of 1.3m in depth.
- 3.2.21 **TP05:** was located in Area B, measured 1.5m in length and 0.8m in width and extended to a total depth of 2.9m below the current ground surface. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of modern concrete for a depth of 0.8m overlying made ground **1003** for a minimum of 2.1m in depth.
- 3.2.22 **TP06:** was located in Area B, measured 1.5m in length and 0.8m in width, and extended to a total depth of 1.3m below the current ground surface. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of 0.2m of modern concrete overlying made ground **1003** for a depth of 0.95m, which in turn overlay natural sand **1004** for a minimum depth of 0.2m.
- 3.2.23 **TP07:** was located in Area A, measured 1.7m in length and 1m in width and extended to a total depth of 1.9m below the current ground surface. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of made ground **1003** for a depth of 1.1m overlying natural sand **1004** for a minimum of 0.8m in depth.
- 3.2.24 **TP08:** was located in Area A, measured 1.6m in length and 1.3m in width, and had a total depth of 3m. It consisted of made ground **1003** for a depth of 0.35m overlying natural sand **1004** for a minimum of 2.5m in depth.
- 3.2.25 **TP09:** Is located in Area A. It measured 2m in length and 1.6m in width and extended to a total depth of 2.8m below the current ground surface. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of made ground **1003** for a depth of 1.02m overlying natural sand **1004** for a minimum of 1.8m in depth.
- 3.2.26 **TP10:** was located in Area A, measured 1.5m in length and 1.3m in width and extended to a total depth of 2.5m below the current ground surface. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of made ground **1003** for a depth of 2.2m overlying natural sand **1004** for a minimum of 0.3m in depth. TP10 contained part of a wall on the south-west edge that was constructed of un-frogged red bricks with a white lime mortar bonding. The wall had a depth of 0.5m from the top of the current ground level.
- 3.2.27 **TP11:** was located in Area A, measured 2.4m in length and 1.7m in width, and extended to a total depth of 2.8m below the current ground surface. Deposits

observed within the pit consisted of made ground **1003** for a depth of 2.4m overlying natural sand **1004** for a minimum of 0.8m in depth.

- 3.2.28 **TP12:** was located in Area A, measured 0.9m in length and 0.9m in width, and extended to a total depth of 1.5m below the current ground surface. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of 0.3m of concrete overlying made ground **1003** for a depth of 0.3m, which in turn overlies natural sand **1004** for a minimum depth of 0.9m.
- 3.2.29 **Inspection Pits:** A series of five inspection pits were also excavated, with three in Area A and two in Area B.
- 3.2.30 **IP02:** was located within area A, measured 1.55m in length and 1.3m in width. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of made ground **1003** with a thickness of 0.52m overlying natural sand **1004** with a minimum thickness of 1.8m. The south-west end of IP02 cut through a previous evaluation trench from the 2008 phase of works.
- 3.2.31 **IP03:** was located within Area A, measured 1.5m in length and 1.1m in width. Deposits observed within the pit consisted wholly of made ground **1003** for a minimum depth of 1.1m. On the north-east side a modern red brick wall with pink sand mortar bonding sitting on a concrete plinth was observed in the section. The wall was a minimum of three courses wide and was nine courses high below the current ground level.
- 3.2.32 **IP04:** was located within Area B. It measured 1.4m in length and 1.2m in width, extending to a total depth of 1.5m below the current ground surface. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of 0.12m of concrete overlying made ground **1003** with a thickness of 0.95m, which in turn overlies natural sand **1004** with a minimum depth of 0.4m.
- 3.2.33 **IP05:** was located within Area A, measured 1.7m in length and 1.6m in width. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of made ground **1003** for a depth of 1.2m. The north-west section had part of a wall protruding from it. The wall was constructed of un-frogged red brick with a white lime mortar bond. It most likely forms part of a cellar wall associated with number 53 King Street.
- 3.2.34 **IP06:** was located within Area B, measured 1.7m in length and 1.6m in width. Deposits observed within the pit consisted of part of the rectangular stone cobbled surface that ran from Byrom Street to the current property situated on the corner of Freckleton Street and St Peter's Street. This in turn overlay a yellow sandstone flag floor and two service pipes. These overlay made ground with a thickness of 0.55m above natural sand **1004** with a minimum depth of 0.35m.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The watching brief revealed that a number of below ground structures of the former nineteenth-century streetscape have survived, although no evidence of a former eighteenth-century graveyard was observed.

4.2 DISCUSSION

- 4.2.1 The excavation of the King Street block revealed no evidence for burial or any other archaeological remains potentially associated with a graveyard. Although the uppermost deposits of sterile sand appeared to have been disturbed by the events which created the demolition rubble/made ground layer and the laying of the hardstanding for the builder's merchant yard, it seems highly unlikely that any such truncation was sufficient to remove individual burials, let alone every trace of grave cuts, disarticulated bone or loose coffin fittings. It seems more likely that the excavated road segment part of site was never used for inhumation, rather than that any burials had been exhumed when the chapel had fallen out of use and the congregation had moved on. Indeed, given that the only positive identification of the putative burial ground derives from an unsubstantiated late nineteenth-century source, and would appear not to have been named as such on any deeds (Egerton Lea 2008), the possibility remains that the site might never have been used for burial.
- 4.2.2 A number of preserved structural remains and associated features were observed during the excavation of both the King Street block and the Chapel Street block. These can all be observed on the early edition 1848 OS map for the area. The demolition of these structures and the redistribution of the resultant material has given rise to made ground layer **1003**, which petered out on the Chapel Street block away from the former buildings.
- 4.2.3 Structures **1005**, **1006** and **1007** belong to cellars within the King Street block fronting onto Chapel Street, whilst structures **1014**, **1015** and **1016** belong to the cellars of the former buildings of 57, 55 and 53 King Street respectively. The structure **1017** have been attributed as possibly belonging to the former constables' dwellings to the rear of 53 King Street. All the buildings were constructed within cuts made directly into the natural sand **1004**, and it is unlikely that they mask any additional archaeological features or deposits. Within the Chapel Street block, structures **1009**, **1010**, **1011** and **1012**, formed the remains of cellars relating to back to back housing that had been infilled with demolition rubble **1003**, which was subsequently overlain by modern concrete hardstanding.

4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.3.1 No further investigation of remains within the road scheme is required as they have subsequently been destroyed. However, should further works be conducted outside the perimeter of the new road a watching brief would be required, as the area to the east of the site may still be a viable location for the former burial ground.

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APPENDIX 1: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 As part of the Freckleton Link Scheme, central Blackburn, Wade Group requested that Oxford Archaeology (OA) North produce this Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of archaeological works. Those works will be enacted as part of the preparation of the footprint of the Freckleton Link Road as it traverses two blocks of land (NGR SD 67882 27800), which are both bound by Freckleton Street and Byrom Street to the east and west, respectively. The block to the north (henceforth the King Street Block) is defined by King Street and Chapel Street to the north and south, respectively, whilst the block to the south (henceforth, the Chapel Street block), is bound to the north and south by Chapel Street and St Peter Street, respectively.

1.1.2 **Proposals for the King Street and Chapel Street blocks:** this WSI outlines how OA North and Wade Group will operate together while groundworks within the King Street and Chapel Street blocks are enacted. It is based on the OA North document formulated in consultation with Capita (which forms the basis of the specification for archaeological works issued with the contract data for *Freckleton Street Link Road, Phase 1 Advance Works*), and with Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS; the county council's and unitary authority's body responsible for advising planning authorities on heritage matters), and has been compiled to meet all the requirements and standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and within the framework of MoRPHE (EH 2006). Although prior to the recent demolition works much of both blocks was derelict, there is potential to gain an understanding of the eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century development of the blocks from any well-preserved below-ground remains that could be exposed by the proposed development groundworks. Therefore, the following programme of work provides opportunity to investigate and record such remains in line with the National Planning Policy Framework guidelines (DCLG 2012) before they are removed. Essentially, the works will comprise:

- The removal, under archaeological supervision, of all surfaces and deposits down to the formation level of the road;
- suitable recording, and, if necessary, investigation, of an appropriate selection of archaeological remains. Selection criteria are outlined in *Section 4.2.1*;
- the undertaking of a programme of post-excavation works, archiving and reporting that is commensurate with the scale and significance of the findings from the site.

1.1.3 **Heritage Assets in the King Street Block:** a desk-based assessment (DBA) of the proposed link road, carried out in 2007 by Egerton Lea Consultancy Ltd, identified a number of potential heritage assets within the King Street block. An addendum to the DBA (Egerton Lea 2008) provides further details on the activities and people associated with those assets during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

1.1.4 These included several standing structures, including Nos 53 and 61 King Street, which were recorded by historic building investigations (OA North 2008; 2013) prior to demolition. No 53 King Street stood roughly within the centre of the proposed road corridor at its junction with King Street, and, during demolition, was the subject of an archaeological watching brief. It is not proposed that any further works on that building should be undertaken.

1.1.5 Several other heritage assets, potentially preserved as below-ground remains, were identified by the DBA (Egerton Lea 2007; 2008). From east to west along the King Street frontage they comprise Nos 45-49 King Street (late eighteenth century), the former County Police

Station (built *c* 1872, probably on the site of an eighteenth-century building) and late eighteenth-century terraced housing associated with 61 King Street. Of those, only a significant proportion of the footprint of the Police Station is likely to lie within the road corridor, whilst smaller elements of the others may be partially overlain, or clipped, by the edges of the road corridor as it widens to join King Street. Significant elements of the terraced housing associated with 61 King Street were archaeologically recorded following a programme of monitoring that was undertaken when demolition works were undertaken along the Byrom Street Frontage (OA North 2014). The Freckleton Street frontage was formerly occupied by Vicarage House/the Old Vicarage, originally an eighteenth-century gentleman's residence (Egerton Lea 2007; 2008). This area is likely to fall outside of the road corridor.

- 1.1.6 The heritage resource within the remainder of the road corridor through the King Street block is less clearly defined. The DBA identified several areas of early nineteenth-century cottages on the Byrom Street and Freckleton Street corners of Chapel Street, but again, it seems probable that these will lie mostly, if not wholly, outside of the proposed road corridor. Parts of what are likely to be those structures on the corner of Byrom Street were identified and recorded during the monitoring of demolition works at that location (OA North 2014).
- 1.1.7 The DBA and addendum suggest that the southern half of the road corridor within the King Street block was formerly occupied by a Catholic Chapel and burial ground, perhaps in use between *c* 1781 and *c* 1826 (Egerton Lea 2007; 2008). The chapel and its associated cottage are thought to lie close to the eastern edge of the road corridor. The location, and indeed, the existence, of the burial ground is less certain, however, and it is not annotated on any of the historical maps reviewed by the DBA (including Gillies' Map of 1822). It has been suggested that the burial ground may have occupied a walled plot to the south of 53 King Street (*ie*, more or less in the centre of the road corridor; Egerton Lea 2007; 2008). However, a limited programme of trial trench evaluation to the rear of 53 King Street encountered no evidence for a burial ground, instead identifying only natural sand sealed by thick deposits of made ground (OA North 2008).
- 1.1.8 ***The Chapel Street Block:*** no below-ground works within the Chapel Street block have been undertaken and, accordingly, there is only a limited understanding of the nature of the potential archaeological resource within that area. The Egerton Lea DBA (2007) identified four known potential heritage assets. The most significant of those were small houses or structures along the Chapel Street frontage, within the north-west part and centre of the development area, and which are shown on Gillies' map of 1824. These are likely to be working-class houses and cottages, at least some of which may have had cellars, and potentially occupied by handloom weavers. Gillies' map and the first edition OS map indicate that the St Peter's Street frontage was not developed until some point between 1824 and 1848. The three further heritage assets identified by Egerton Lea along the street frontage there represent standing buildings. Prior to demolition, appropriate structures, including a Spiritualist Chapel, were recorded by OA North in 2014.

1.2 SITE CONDITIONS

- 1.2.1 The development sites are derelict plots in central Blackburn. King Street, Freckleton Street, and Byrom Street are major components of the busy Blackburn one-way system. The site is currently secured with heras fencing, with a wide entrance suitable for plant and deliveries on Chapel Street. Surfaces in the area of road corridor comprise areas of hard standing, possibly reinforced concrete, as well as looser surfaces that appear to overlie areas of cobbles. To the west of the road corridor within the King Street block, there is a sharp step, as the land has been terraced. There, the ground comprises demolition debris and loose material that has been used to backfill post-medieval cellars and more recent structures demolished during an earlier stage of the programme. To the east of the road corridor, the ground appears to comprise irregular demolition debris. It is understood that other localised demolition spoil heaps within the works area have been removed.

- 1.2.2 Car crime is an issue in the area, and trespassers may be a problem during the works. Small amounts of asbestos were observed in cellars to the west of the road corridor, so contractors should be prepared to deal with such material during works on the road.

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The following background is a précis extracted from the desk-based assessment and addendum (Egerton Lea 2007; 2008) concerning the area proposed for archaeological investigation, together with the results of the investigations undertaken by OA North.

- 1.3.2 Prior to the mid-eighteenth century, King Street was a significant route into Blackburn from Preston, being the town's first turnpike established in 1755, and was surrounded by fields. Blackburn was a centre for cotton cloth manufacturing and, until the arrival of the railway in the town in 1846, it relied on provisions from Preston by road. However, from the mid-eighteenth century King Street, then known as Preston Old Road, became a focus for cloth merchant's mansions and fine houses, and King Street was synonymous with some of the most well-known families in Blackburn. By the end of the eighteenth century, houses of a slightly lesser status were now infilling along King Street, being built for the middle classes. These houses were still quite large, with stepped frontages indicating cellars.

- 1.3.3 Development on the north side of Chapel Street began in the late eighteenth century, and included the first purpose-built Roman Catholic Chapel. Although the plain brick structure on Chapel Street is said to have been the first Blackburn chapel, the first place of worship was in a house on Old Chapel Street, near Penny Street. In 1781, on acquiring its first resident priest, the congregation move to the new chapel in Chapel Street. The priest lived in a house next to the chapel, to the rear of 47 King Street, and its churchyard is thought to have lain to the rear of number 53. The chapel remained in use for over 40 years, but eventually became too small for its congregation. In 1824, the foundation stone was laid for a new church, St Albans, at Larkhill, which opened in 1826. The priest is still registered as living at the old chapel, described as being in King Street, in 1826, and in 1877, the old chapel was still standing, and used as workshops. The site, including the churchyard, was more recently under a builder's yard, and was subject to a limited trial-trench evaluation (OA North 2008) but no evidence of the area being used as a graveyard was observed.

- 1.3.4 By the 1820s King Street, although still a middle class area, was becoming less of a select address, particularly towards its western end, as industrial development increased. The recent investigation of 61 King Street revealed that the origins of the building date to around this time, when a number of smaller town houses were built between 53 King Street and the corner of Byrom Street to the west (OA North 2013). Similarly, to the rear of King Street, on Chapel Street, smaller houses had been built by 1824, and by the mid-nineteenth century, the Ordnance Survey maps show some infill development in the rear yards. Indeed, the houses on Chapel Street and to the rear of King Street include a significant proportion of back-to-back dwellings.

- 1.3.5 Number 53 King Street was built some time in the 1830s and had been an open space prior to its construction. Houses had been built to the west and east of it, and indeed those to the east were demolished to make way for the County Police Station in the late nineteenth century. Originally built as a dwelling, 53 King Street became the headquarters for the County Police force by 1843, accommodating a total of 25 men. In 1872, plans had been submitted and passed for the construction of the County Police Court on King Street adjacent to and within the garden of number 53, with two constables' dwellings to the rear. Number 53 subsequently became the Superintendent's residence. The new building was large, with a central archway and passage leading through to a drill yard and the two constables' houses to the rear. Facing the building, there was a public entrance on the left, leading to the police offices which had a charge room, Superintendent's office, four cells, an exercise ground (presumably for prisoners), and stairs up to the dock. To the right of the central passage was a store room, the weights and measures office, a waiting room and separate stairs for the magistrates and advocates. The court house and offices were upstairs. Although not shown in detail, the building appears to have been built on substantial piles and

was not cellared, although the rooms facing King Street appear to have a shallow cavity beneath where the building was terraced into the ground. Although number 53 stood until recently, and was listed in 1987, the neighbouring police station and court has been demolished. The front of the building survives to the bottom of the bay windows, and the remainder appears to have just been levelled. The constables' houses to the rear may have survived as office buildings for the builder's yard, until recently, but it would seem that these too have now been demolished.

- 1.3.6 On the corner of King Street and Freckleton Street was a house known as the Vicarage, which was believed to be one of the largest houses on the street, built by the Freckleton family originally as a gentleman's residence in the late eighteenth century. Documentary evidence showed it to have been a three-storey brick-built house with cellars (Cole 1996, 14). The original vicarage to St Mary's parish church stood in the churchyard, but this was replaced, along with the old Grammar School, in 1820 by the new church. It is likely that the Vicarage was relocated to the house on King Street as a result in 1829. It was known as the Old Vicarage by 1894 and was demolished sometime between 1906 and 1924.

1.4 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH (BASED IN LANCASTER)

- 1.4.1 With over 40 years of commercial experience, Oxford Archaeology is the leading archaeological and heritage practice in the country, and is an educational charity under the guidance of a board of trustees. We are the largest employer of archaeologists in the country (we currently have more than 300 members of staff throughout three regional offices in Oxford, Cambridge and Lancaster), and can thus deploy considerable resources with extensive experience to deal with any archaeological obligations you or your clients may have.
- 1.4.2 OA has enormous experience of linear infrastructure projects and has a large team of archaeologists with extensive experience, capable of efficiently tackling sites that are complex, both archaeologically and logistically, in a manner that represents excellent value for money to clients, and satisfies local curators and planning authorities. Such a team can be rapidly deployed if significant remains are identified, allowing the speedy remediation of the remains to tight timetables that minimise delays to the development. We ensure that our teams are well equipped to maximise speed and efficiency, with the use of DGPS for rapid survey and on-site internet computing for rapid data-processing and communications. We can also offer fast mobilisation and set-up times. We have a great deal of experience of working flexibly alongside various stages of remediation and construction works on CDM-registered schemes, and of the stringent health, safety and environmental requirements necessary under such circumstances. All of our field staff are CSCS-qualified, most have EUSR cards, and many have specialist skills (first aiders, banksmen, machine-signallers, *etc*) appropriate to a project such as this.
- 1.4.3 OA has undertaken tens of thousands of archaeological investigations of all types, scales and periods, from desk-based assessments to major open-area excavations. OA has particular experience of working closely with principal contractors, consultants, and curators to undertake high-quality archaeological works within the tight timetables and high-pressure environments of major infrastructure schemes. In recent years, OA has been involved with some of England's most significant transport developments, including Heathrow Terminal 5 and the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, as well as major schemes in all corners of the country. In particular, our Lancaster office has enacted the archaeological works associated with the M6 to Heysham Link (Lancaster), the Carlisle Northern Development Route, the A1(M) DBFO Road Scheme in West Yorkshire, the A66 improvements between Greta Bridge and Scotch Corner, Co Durham, and the Beverley Southern Relief Road, East Yorkshire, as well as three major natural gas pipelines across east and north Yorkshire. Significant archaeological remains were identified on all of those schemes, and OA North was able to investigate and record them within time and budget, and to a high standard that satisfied the local curatorial bodies responsible for advising on heritage matters in the planning process.
- 1.4.4 Of particular relevance is the fact that, to date, OA North has undertaken all of the

archaeological works associated with the Freckleton Link, including historic building investigations of structures demolished in advance of the works, trial-trench evaluations, and a strip, map and record exercise within the western part of the King Street block. In addition, OA North compiled the Archaeology WSI for the Advance Works. As such, OA North has unparalleled understanding and experience of the development site. Moreover, in the case of the Redearth Road Primitive Methodist Burial Ground, Darwen, OA North has undertaken the only scientific excavation of a post-medieval burial ground in the Borough.

- 1.4.5 Our competence in the field is matched by the excellent quality of our post-excavation works, culminating in our exemplary publication record. We employ a raft of specialists in a wide range of fields, including geoarchaeologists, palaeobotanists, palynologists (pollen), malacologists (molluscs), zooarchaeologists (animal bones) and human osteologists as well as various finds experts and illustrators). We also maintain close links with external specialists in pedology (soil formation processes), insect remains, conservation, local ceramics, and scientific dating
- 1.4.6 Finally, we are happy to undertake outreach for the project. Although it is rarely possible to have open days during the fieldwork stages of infrastructure projects, OA North has been involved with open days, school visits, Q and A sessions and local society talks. Not only do these help to disseminate information, they satisfy local curiosities and demonstrate positively that construction work is undertaken in a responsible way that allows archaeological site to be identified, investigated and understood in a way that might not be otherwise possible.
- 1.4.7 ***OA Heritage Burial Services (HBS)***: over the past 30 years OA has worked extensively in the fields of church and burial archaeology, excavating literally thousands of burials ranging in date from the Neolithic period (c 4000 BC) to the twentieth century. The past 15 years have seen a particularly marked increase in the demand for burial archaeology, and in order to respond efficiently to this increasing demand, OA created a dedicated burials department known as Heritage Burial Services (HBS). This is headed by Dr Louise Loe, a human osteologist and a specialist in many areas of burial archaeology. It also employs several specialist osteoarchaeologists, all of whom are fully qualified archaeologists and human osteologists, and are experienced in general archaeological fieldwork (particularly pertaining to burials) and in the study of human remains. Recent projects have comprised desk-based assessments, project designs, evaluation, excavation and watching briefs, during which it has been possible to employ successfully new and innovative methodologies.
- 1.4.8 ***Post-medieval and industrial-period investigations***: as forerunners in the field, HBS has extensive experience in the evaluation, excavation, and clearance of post-medieval and industrial-period churchyards, crypts and vaults. The funerary archaeology of these periods presents special constraints and requirements, including:
- The very sensitive nature of the work which can arouse strong public feeling;
 - working conditions that are usually restricted (*eg*, crypts) and present a unique set of logistical issues;
 - a range of health hazards, including those that can be associated with preserved human tissue and coffin materials, the possibility of viable pathogens, lead dust, *etc*;
 - generally more restrictive directions for the treatment of the human remains issued with the licence/faculty (for example, such documents might require human remains to be immediately re-buried, or prevent the removal of remains from site);
 - the sheer volume and concentration of burials within many post-medieval and industrial-period cemeteries.
- 1.4.9 Such conditions would challenge traditional archaeological methods with often unnecessarily onerous recording techniques. However, HBS has been able to adapt and develop methodologies in the adoption of an innovative, rapid, pragmatic approach that allows the highly efficient utilisation of resources on site, the maximisation of the data recovered and the presentation of the results within an academically valid format. Such a

strategy allows suitable levels of scientific recovery and analysis to meet the potential of this highly significant archaeological resource, whilst still observing all appropriate health and safety, ethical and legal requirements and considerations and maintaining development timetables and cost-effective budgets (Sidell, 2011, 16).

- 1.4.10 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 a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the CIfA *Code of Conduct* (2012).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 AIMS

- 2.1.1 **Archaeology:** the main research aim of the investigation, given the nature of the development, will be to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains on the site and, if present, compile an appropriate record to mitigate their removal during the course of the development in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG 2012).

- 2.1.2 **Wade Group:** the principal aim for Wade Group is to prepare the site for the construction of the road. Accordingly, they will remove all existing surfaces and deposits within the road corridor down to construction level.

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES

- 2.2.1 The objectives of the project may be summarised as follows:

- To supervise the removal of surfaces and deposits down to the base of the road formation level, the uppermost archaeological horizon, or to the top of the natural geology, whichever is encountered first;
- to undertake supervision of groundworks for drainage and service channels in areas where the base of the road formation level has not reached natural deposits;
- to map any archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks and characterise their nature, extent and significance, with particular regard to the criteria outlined in *Section 4.2.1*;
- to undertake, where necessary, suitable investigation and recording of an appropriate sample of the archaeological remains;
- to undertake a programme of post-excavation works, archiving and reporting that is commensurate with the scale and significance of the findings from the site.

- 2.2.2 To these ends, the following programme of archaeological work has been designed, in accordance with English Heritage (1991) and CIfA (2008a, b and 2012) standards and guidelines. The results will provide information as to whether more detailed works are required during the fieldwork or post-excavation stages of the project.

3 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 3.1 **CDM regulations:** Wade Group will operate as the principal contractor under CDM regulations. They should produce a health and safety plan and method statements as appropriate, as well as task-specific risk assessments. All machines should have insurance records and up to date inspection certificates.

- 3.2 **Traffic management:** Wade Group will work with Capita to ensure that all deliveries, collections and removals of arisings are undertaken in line with an agreement traffic management plan.
- 3.3 **OA North:** OA North maintains a Company Safety policy and a written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement, with copies made available on request to all interested parties. All archaeology site procedures will be in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997).
- 3.4 **Services and other constraints:** full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the investigation, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. Copies of all service plans for the area of groundworks will be made available by Capita prior to the commencement of the works. As a matter of course, a competent member of the Wade Group team will use a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) and Signal Generator prior to any excavation to test for services.
- 3.5 **Contamination:** any known contamination issues or any specific health and safety requirements on site should be made known to OA North and Wade Group by Capita to ensure all procedures can be met, and that the risk is dealt with appropriately. Should any presently unknown contamination be discovered during excavation, it may be necessary to halt the works and reassess the risk assessment. Should it be necessary to supply additional PPE or other contamination avoidance equipment this will be costed as a variation.
- 3.6 **Staff:** all project staff will be CSCS qualified, proof of which can be provided in the form of CSCS cards. All plant operators will hold a valid UK driving licence and CITB ticket for the machine they are driving.
- 3.7 **Welfare:** Wade Group will provide sufficient on-site welfare facilities for their team and for up to three archaeologists. This should include, as a minimum, storage, messing facilities, a toilet and hot-water hand-washing facilities.
- 3.8 **Fencing requirements:** the site should be kept secure at all times, with the gates either manned or kept locked. It is understood that hoarding or security fencing has been erected around the whole proposed construction site. Areas of deeper excavation, for example, for drainage, decontamination, removal of hard points, may also require fencing by Wade Group.
- 3.9 **Insurance:** OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

4 METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 STRIPPING AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT GROUNDWORKS (STAGE 1)

- 4.1.1 **Plant and Staff:** Wade Group will provide one or more 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a range of buckets, including a wide toothless bucket, and, if necessary, a breaker. They may choose to deploy one or more dumpers to assist with the management of arisings. One archaeologist will be deployed to supervise each mechanical excavator engaged with ground reduction; no intrusive machine work will be carried out in the absence of an archaeologist.
- 4.1.2 **Stripping Methodology:** operating under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist, the plant will break-out, lift, and strip surfaces and overburden deposits in a systematic and logical manner. As far as is reasonable and practical, the machine will use long, shallow sweeps of the bucket to remove materials in successive level spits of a depth of c 0.2m or less across as wide an area as possible. The supervisor should ensure that, where practicable, the excavator does not rut, compact or otherwise damage buried or exposed archaeological features and deposits by crossing previously stripped areas or by digging too deep across a

limited area. All machine stripping will be carried out at a speed which will leave a good standard of finished surface, *ie* a smooth, even and clean surface, with a minimum of smearing, polishing and rutting.

- 4.1.3 All arisings should be appropriately banded in a suitable part of the site. Materials should be kept separate where appropriate (*ie*, contaminated demolition debris banded separately from topsoil), and all bands should be sealed at a safe height and angle of repose. Where necessary, materials should be removed from site and disposed of in the correct manner.
- 4.1.4 Supervised stripping will proceed in successive spits until whichever of the following is encountered first:
- the uppermost horizon of significant archaeological remains;
 - the base of the road construction level;
 - the base of any service runs;
 - the upper surface of the natural geology. Once groundworks reach the unadulterated natural geology, no further archaeological works within that area will be required, and groundworks in that area can resume unmonitored.
- 4.1.5 **Archaeological inspection:** the stripped areas, including the edges if necessary, will be inspected for archaeological remains and, if required, they will be cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features. Mechanically excavated spoil will be monitored in order to recover artefacts that will assist in meeting the aims of the project, before being removed to a designated storage area. It should be borne in mind that over the course of several days, archaeological features can 'weather-out' and become visible as the minerals within their fills oxidise (*ie* rust) upon exposure to the air. This means that features such as ditches and pits may only be visible after several days. For these reasons, it may be some days before an archaeologist is able to sign-off seemingly archaeologically blank areas of the site.
- 4.1.6 **Significant archaeological discoveries:** during supervision of the machining, should archaeological remains be identified, the archaeologist will stop the machine so that they can examine what has been revealed. In the very rare event that the findings are extremely fragile, the archaeologist may cease excavation within that part of the site. The archaeological features or deposits will be demarcated with netlon fencing or candy tape. Wade Group, Capita, and LCAS will be informed of the discovery of the features. Ordinarily, the archaeologist will utilise the machine to strip the soil from around the feature of archaeological interest, gradually expanding this area until the limits of the archaeological find are defined.
- 4.1.7 Any (*ie*, funerary) remains thought to relate to the putative former Catholic burial ground will be covered over with appropriate screening, and their presence reported to Wade Group, Capita and to LCAS immediately (*see Section 4.2.9*). Until a plan of action has been agreed with Capita and LCAS, no work should take place in the immediate area of such remains. Under no circumstances should publicity be sought.
- 4.1.8 All archaeological features thus exposed will be sufficiently cleaned to allow a pre-excavation plan to be produced. The area will be planned digitally by experienced surveyors utilising GPS to record the sites according to Ordnance Survey (OS) coordinates. A Leica differential GPS will be employed that uses real-time (RTK) corrections using mobile SmartNet technology to achieve an accuracy of $\pm 0.01\text{m}$. The accuracy of the OA North GPS system provides for a quick and effective means of recording the position and extent of sites. The digital survey data will be transferred, via Leica Geo Office (V.4), as shp files into a CAD system (AutoCAD Map 2004), and superimposed onto the embedded digital OS data. Should coverage prevent the use of GPS, an EDM Total Station will be used, based on a site grid related to the national grid obtained from client base mapping. The resultant plan will be

used in consultation with Capita and LCAS to agree a strategy for any detailed investigation and recording that may be required (Section 4.2).

- 4.1.9 **Daily reporting:** at the end of each day, OA North will provide a report on the progress of the archaeological works, including information on progress and findings, together with any other salient information.

4.2 SAMPLE EXCAVATION (STAGE 2)

- 4.2.1 **Selection Criteria:** following a review of the findings with Wade Group, LCAS and Capita, it may be necessary to undertake some form of further archaeological investigation of some of the remains identified within the development area in order to mitigate any damage associated with the development. When selecting any such remains, the following criteria would be considered:

- ❖ Can the remains be preserved *in situ*, wholly or in part? *ie*, do they:
 - lie outside the three-dimensional zone of impact, and are sufficiently robust that they would not be affected by groundworks and the overlying brick structure?;
 - can they be understood by recording and investigating only those parts that do lie within the impact zone and an appropriate buffer?;
- ❖ What information can the remains add to our current understanding of the development, use, and articulation of the block and of the history of the King Street area? *ie*:
 - are they well preserved?;
 - do they show evidence of phasing that cannot be deduced from historic mapping;
 - do they retain elements that allow them to be interpreted and aspects of their historical use to be understood?
 - are they remains that are not represented by those recorded during the Strip, Map and Record exercise along the Byrom Street frontage of the block?

- 4.2.2 Overall, any sample will be appropriate and proportional to the importance, quantity, and complexity of the archaeology exposed, as well as its perceived research value. Once LCAS and Capita have agreed the scope of works associated with any sample excavation, it may be necessary for OA North to revise this WSI. The following sections must, therefore, be seen as provisional.

- 4.2.3 Any archaeological investigation will be designed to recover data sufficient to allow for “preservation by record” as a form of mitigation, and establish the extent, date, character and significance of the archaeological remains. The primary aims would be:

- to characterise the overall nature of the archaeological resource and to understand the process of its formation;
- to create a detailed plan of all archaeological features;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces; to establish in outline a dated sequence of structures and/or deposits and thus to define changes in site organisation over time;
- to recover, where appropriate, representative ecofactual and palaeoenvironmental samples to provide evidence of function and past landuse.

- 4.2.4 Selected archaeological deposits, features, and/or structures will be excavated to the extent that they are sufficiently characterised and understood, particularly in terms of extent, date and function; this will involve cleaning and excavating a representative range of components. Selected discrete features, such as pits and postholes, would be subject to 50% examination (*ie* half-sectioned), linear features will be subject to a 25% sample where the fill is found to be non-uniform, and 10% where the fill is uniform, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled before mechanical removal. All relationships will be ascertained. All excavation will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features where preservation *in situ* has been agreed.
- 4.2.5 Cut features identified against the edges of the excavation will not be excavated below a safe working limit unless it is confirmed by LCAS that they are of exceptional importance. Should any particularly deep-cut feature, such as a well pit, be revealed this will be manually excavated to a safe working limit. Thereafter, if LCAS wishes to see the further excavation of any such feature, this could be achieved by reducing the general area of the feature (*ie* a 1m 'cordon') using a machine to allow further safe manual excavation.
- 4.2.6 **Recording Strategy:** 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, and in accordance with ClfA standards (2008b), with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections, and photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times. Results, comprising a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, will be recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets, and will be accompanied with sufficient pictorial record to identify and illustrate individual features. Sections will be generated and features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales. An indexed photographic record, utilising high-resolution (5 megapixels minimum) digital imaging, will be undertaken simultaneously and all frames will include a visible, graduated metric scale. 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 IfA guidelines (2008a)) in order to minimise deterioration.
- 4.2.7 **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, likely to be the Museum of Lancashire. 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.
- 4.2.8 **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.
- 4.2.9 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. Capita, LCAS, and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential, the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Ministry of Justice licence, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. It is likely that the discovery of human remains will necessitate a revision to this project design and to the present agreed resources. The removal of human remains will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations.
- 4.2.10 **Environmental sampling for plants, faunal remains, technological remains and artefacts:** the recovery of adequate samples of environmental material can provide useful information for an understanding of processes acting upon the site and for placing the site within a wider ecological context. Bulk sediment samples of *c* 40 litres will be collected from any suitable (undisturbed, uncontaminated and of non-modern origin) deposits or features of demonstrable anthropological origin for the recovery of plant and faunal remains.

- 4.2.11 **Samples for scientific dating:** should deposits, or material within deposits, suitable for radiocarbon assay be encountered, samples will be taken wherever possible. These would include well-stratified artefacts and ecofacts, but also suitable material collected from environmental samples through flotation and, in the case of ceramics, from any bulk sieving, wet-sieving and hand-collection.
- 4.2.12 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with LCAS as to the extent of further works to be carried out. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design. In the event of environmental/organic deposits being present on site, it would be necessary to discuss and agree a programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling and or dating with LCAS.

4.3 REPORT (STAGE 3)

- 4.3.1 Reporting will be undertaken in two sub-stages. The first will comprise the compilation of the *Watching Brief Findings Report*, as set out in the *Specification for Archaeological Works* within the Capita tender documents. This will comprise a brief overview of the findings, a summary of the collated archive, a rapid assessment of the analytical potential of the different elements of the archive, and a proposal and programme for any appropriate analysis. Capita and LCAS will be consulted prior to, and during the preparation of this document. As allowed by the scale of the works and the level of, and programme for any specialist assessments, a draft copy of the report in digital and paper formats will be submitted to Wade Group, Capita, BwDBC, and to LCAS approximately two weeks after the completion of the fieldwork.
- 4.3.2 The complete results of the investigation, including any analysis undertaken, will be presented within a document that the Specification for Archaeological Works refers to as the *Site Summary Report*. Dependent on the requirement for more detailed excavation and subsequent programme of post-excavation work, which is beyond the scope of this project design, digital and paper copies of the draft report will be submitted to Wade Group, Capita, BwDBC, and LCAS within approximately four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork, depending on any outstanding specialist reports. 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 dates on which each phase of the programme of work was undertaken;
 - an explanation to any agreed variations to the brief, including any justification for any analyses not undertaken;
 - a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained;
 - plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of deposits and finds located;
 - photographs as appropriate;
 - a list of and dates for any finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified;
 - a description of any the results obtained;

- a summary of the impact of the development on any archaeological remains and, where possible, a model of potential archaeological deposits within as-yet unexplored environmental or other specialist work undertaken and areas of the development site;
- 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;
- a summary of the archive.

4.3.3 This report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on CD, if required. Recommendations concerning any subsequent mitigation strategies and/or further archaeological work following the results of the field evaluation will be provided in a separate communication.

4.3.4 **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.

4.4 ARCHIVE

4.4.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (1991). The project archive will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, which will be catalogued by context.

4.4.2 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is essential and archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Lancashire HER, Preston (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects with the appropriate Record Office (in this instance, that at Preston).

4.4.3 All artefacts will be processed to MAP2 standards and will be assessed by our in-house finds specialists. The deposition and disposal of any artefacts recovered in the evaluation will be agreed with the legal owner and an appropriate recipient museum. Discussion regarding the museum's requirement for the transfer and storage of finds will be conducted prior to the commencement of the project, and LCAS will be notified of the arrangements made.

4.4.4 **OASIS:** an OASIS form will be completed as part of the works.

5 WORK TIMETABLE

5.1 STAGE 1

5.1.1 **Strip and map fieldwork:** the duration of the first phase of site work will be dictated by the schedule of Wade Group, but is currently estimated at no longer than six weeks.

5.1.2 **Consultation:** following the strip and map fieldwork, approximately one week will be required to a) draw up the digital plan of the archaeological features, which will be used during b) consultation with LCAS as to the second phase of site work, recording the necessary features. The requirement for monitoring meetings will be established with the

Capita, BwDBC and the archaeological curator at the outset of the project. Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by LCAS, who will be afforded access to the site at all times.

5.2 STAGE 2

5.2.1 **Sample excavation and recording of features:** the time required to investigate any archaeological features is not possible to predict presently, given that the quantity and nature of any below ground remains is not currently known.

5.2.2 **Reinstatement:** it is assumed that reinstatement of the area covered of archaeological fieldwork will not be required given the ongoing construction works.

5.3 STAGE 3

5.3.1 **Report and archive:** approximately four weeks will be required for the compilation of the report and archive following the completion of the fieldwork, unless more detailed excavation has been undertaken and a more formal post-excavation process is required. In which case a programme of post-excavation will be necessary. An interim statement on any salient results can be produced sooner, if required. The archive will be submitted within approximately six months.

5.3.2 **Lead-in time and mobilisation:** OA North can execute projects at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the Client.

6. STAFFING PROPOSALS

6.1 OA NORTH STAFF

6.1.1 The project will be under the overall charge of **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. The fieldwork will undertaken under the direction of an OA North project officer who will be a highly experienced field archaeologist, used to working within on-site plant, and capable of running sites of all sizes. Due to scheduling requirements it is not possible to provide these details at the present time. All OA North field staff hold CSCS cards and the vast majority are qualified to degree and often, to post-graduate level.

6.1.2 Health and Safety advice will be provided by Dan Poore (OA South Senior Project Manager).

6.1.3 Assessment of any finds from the excavation will be undertaken by OA North's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis** (OA North Finds Manager). Christine has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England, and is a recognised expert in the study of post-medieval artefacts.

6.1.4 Any palaeoenvironmental assessment will be carried out under the auspices of OA North's palaeoenvironmental team, led by **Dr Denise Druce**. Denise has extensive knowledge of the North West through her work on numerous archaeological sites in the region.

6.1.5 Any osteological work will be overseen by **Dr Louise Loe BA, MSc, MCifA**, who is a member of the British Association of Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology (BABAO), and of the Palaeopathology Association. Louise is also an Honorary University Fellow of the University of Exeter (Archaeology Department). She has considerable experience in the post-excavation analysis of human skeletal remains from a range of archaeological (Neolithic to post-medieval) and forensic contexts and of the management of excavation and/or post-excavation phases of large projects (including 858 early medieval burials from Llandough, South Glamorgan, Wales (Loe and Robson-Brown 2005; Loe

forthcoming b), c 280 post-medieval skeletons from St Hilda's Churchyard, South Shields, Tyne and Wear (OA North 2011c), c 300 late Roman skeletons from Lankhills, Winchester (OA forthcoming b) and 250 soldiers from World War One mass graves in Fromelles, France (Loe 2010).

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ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

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Figure 2: Location of trial pits and investigation pits

Figure 3: Structure locations

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Plate 1: North-west-facing view of cellar **1014**, formally 57 King Street

Plate 2: North-west-facing view of cellar **1015**, formally 55 King Street

Plate 3: North-west-facing view of building **1016**, formerly 53 King Street

Plate 4: North-east-facing view of cellars **1017**

Plate 5: East-facing view of cellars **1006** and **1007**

Plate 6: South-west facing view of cellars **1009**, **1010**, **1011** and **1012**

Plate 7: West-facing view of well **1013**

Plate 8: South-east-facing view of **Test Pit 02**

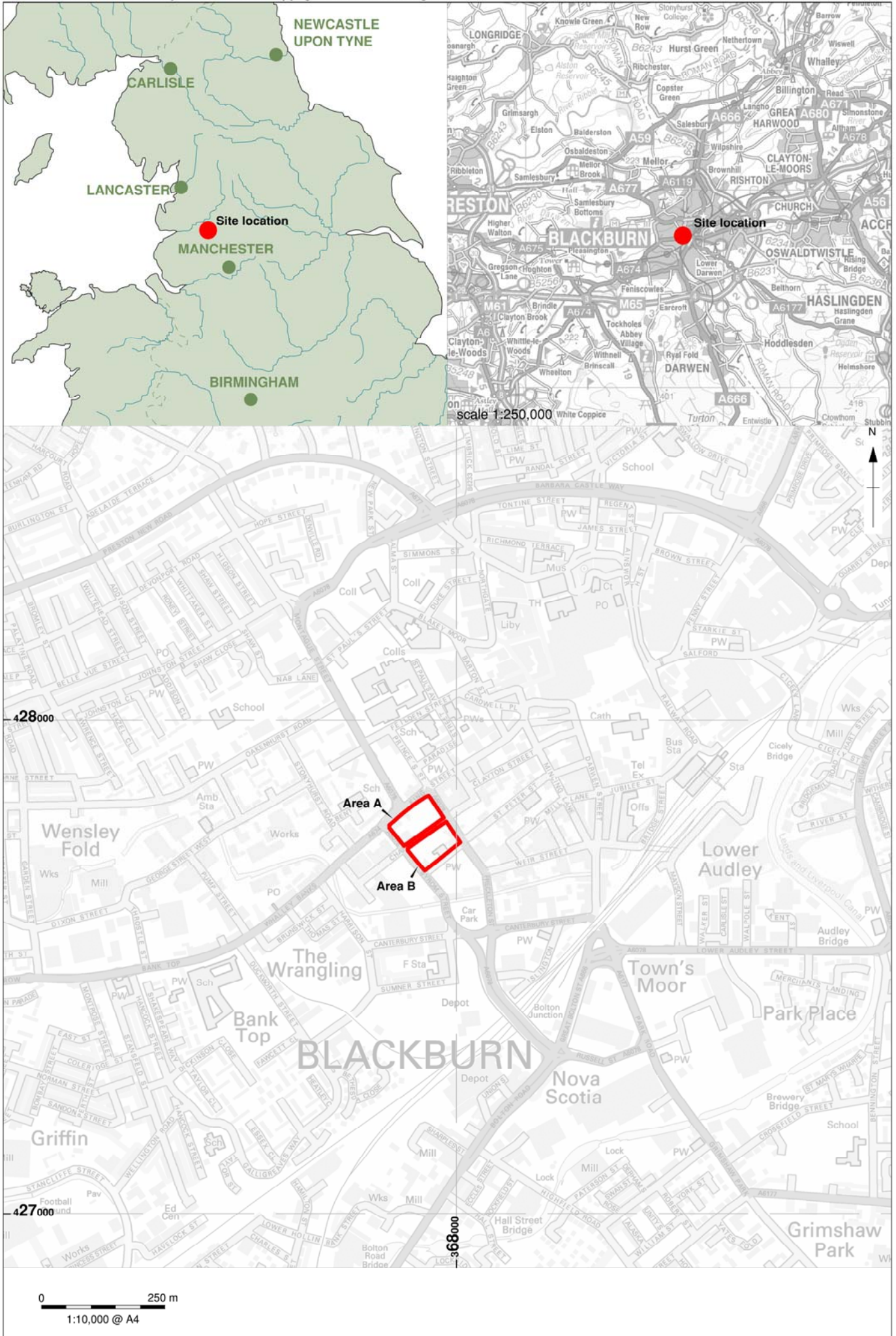


Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Location of trial pits and investigation pits

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Figure 3: Structure locations



Plate 1: North-west-facing view of cellar 1014, formally 57 King Street



Plate 2: North-west-facing view of cellar 1015, formally 55 King Street



Plate 3: North-west-facing view of building 1016, formerly 53 King Street



Plate 4: North-east-facing view of cellars 1017



Plate 5: East-facing view of cellars 1006 and 1007



Plate 6: South-west-facing view of cellars 1009, 1010, 1011 and 1012



Plate 7: West-facing view of well 1013



Plate 8: South-east-facing view of Test Pit 02



Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD
t: (01524 541000
f: (01524) 848606
e: oanorth@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

Director and Chief Executive:
Gill Hey BA PhD MifA FSA

Private Limited Company Number: 1618597

Registered Charity Number: 285627

Registered Office: Oxford Archaeology Ltd.
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES