

Stock Green Farm, Bracewell

Lancashire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology North

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Robert Kandt

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the restoration of a wall at Stock Green Farm, Bracewell, Lancashire (SD 8682 4898). The proposed development is on the site of a deserted medieval village and the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The archaeological works were required as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent. The work was carried out in June 2003.

Stock is the site of an important deserted medieval village (SMR 3299). The Stock Green Farm house is believed to be on the site of the former manor house and there is an extensive field system extending out from hollow ways, linked into clearly defined house platforms. Considering the archaeological sensitivity of the site, and because the development works were in the immediate vicinity of the farm house, English Heritage required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in the course of the establishment of the footings for the new wall.

A permanent presence was maintained during all excavations in the course of the establishment of the footings for the new wall. A full photographic record in colour print and monochrome formats was made. Section drawings and plans were made of relevant areas of the trenches at appropriate scales. The trenches were located using taped measurements from existing walls.

The footings for the new wall were dug in two sections so as to leave room for a gate to provide access to the field. The southern section of footings was 7.2m in length, the northern section was 11m in length. The only archaeological feature encountered was in the northernmost of the two trenches, and consisted of the foundations for a dry-stone wall, which had plastic fertiliser bags below the lowest course of the wall. No finds were recovered in the course of the watching brief.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Robert Kandt for commissioning the work and for help in the initial stages. Thanks are also expressed to Peter McCrone of Lancashire County Archaeological Service and also Andrew Davison and Caron Newman of English Heritage for their advice in the course of the project

The watching brief was undertaken by Paul Gajos. Emma Carter produced the drawings, and the report was written by Paul Gajos. Jamie Quartermaine edited the report and managed the project.

1. BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the restoration of a wall at Stock Green Farm, Bracewell, Lancashire (SD 8682 4898). The proposed development is on the site of a deserted medieval village and the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The archaeological works were required as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent. The work was carried out in June 2003.

1.2 LOCATION

1.1.2 The site is located c5km to the north of Barnoldswick Lancashire (SD 8682 4898), towards the bottom of the north facing slope of a relatively sheltered coombe. At the time of the watching brief, the area of the development was partially under pasture and partially under the yard of Stock Green farm house.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 Stock is the site of an important deserted medieval village (SMR 3299), and has been described as the most impressive set of medieval settlement earthworks in the country (Newman 1996). The site was surveyed by Rick Turner in 1979, while employed by the University of Lancaster, the forerunner of Oxford Archaeology North. The Stock Green Farm house is believed to be on the site of the former manor house and there is an extensive field system extending out from hollow ways, linked into clearly defined house platforms (Fig 2). Considering the archaeological sensitivity of the site, and because the development works were in the immediate vicinity of the farm house, English Heritage required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in the course of the establishment of the footings for the new wall.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

1.4.1 *Project Design:* a project design for an archaeological watching brief of the study area (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in accordance with a verbal brief from Caron Newman, English Heritage (EH). Following formal acceptance of the project design by EH, OA North was commissioned by Robert Kandt to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and with generally accepted best practice.

1.4.2 *Watching Brief:* a permanent presence was maintained during all excavations in the course of the establishment of the footings for the new wall.

- 1.4.3 Recording was by means of OA North's standard context recording system, with trench records and supporting registers and indices. A full photographic record in colour print and monochrome formats was made. Section drawings and plans were made of relevant areas of the trenches at appropriate scales. The trenches were located using taped measurements from existing walls.
- 1.4.4 **Archive:** a full archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office.

2. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

2.1 RESULTS

- 2.1.1 The footings for the new wall were dug in two sections so as to leave room for a gate to provide access to the field. The southern section of footings was 7.2m in length, the northern section was 11m in length, both sections were approximately 1.4m wide. A gap of 4.7m was left between the two sections (Fig 2).
- 2.1.2 The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil to a depth of 0.3m, overlying a dark-yellow-brown silty clay which was seen to be at least 0.7m deep and extended down beyond the limit of excavation.
- 2.1.3 The only archaeological feature to be encountered was in the northernmost of the two trenches, and consisted of foundations for a dry-stone wall. The wall ran from north to south approximately along the same alignment as the new wall and would appear to have served much the same function. Plastic fertiliser bags were seen to lie below the lowest course of the wall in the foundation trenches.
- 2.1.4 ***Finds:*** no finds were recovered in the course of the watching brief.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological features relating to the medieval settlement of Stock were encountered during the establishment of the footings for the new wall.

4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Newman, R, 1996 Medieval Rural Settlement, in R Newman (ed) *The Archaeology of Lancashire*, Lancaster

APPENDIX 1
PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford
Archaeology
North

June 2002

STOCK GREEN FARM, BRACEWELL

LANCASHIRE

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
PROJECT DESIGN**

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request by Robert Kandt in accordance with a verbal brief by Caron Newman, English Heritage, for an archaeological watching brief at Stock Green Farm, Lancashire.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This project design is offered in response to a request by Mr Robert Kandt for an archaeological watching brief in the course of the restoration of a wall at Stock Green Farm, Bracewell, Lancashire (NY 554 253). The site is within the extent of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and the proposed archaeological programme is required as mitigation for the development. The proposal is in accordance with a verbal brief from Caron Newman, English Heritage.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND:

- 1.2.1 Stock is the site of an important deserted medieval village (SMR 3299), and has been described as the most impressive set of medieval settlement earthworks in the country (Newman 1996). The site was surveyed by Rick Turner in 1979, while employed by the University of Lancaster, the forerunner of Oxford Archaeology North. The Stock Green Farm house is believed to be on the site of the former manor house and there is an extensive field system extending out from hollow ways, linked into clearly defined house platforms. Considering the archaeological sensitivity of the site, and in the immediate vicinity of the farmhouse, English Heritage are requiring that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken in the course of the establishment of the foundations for the new wall.

1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) (formerly Lancaster University Archaeological Unit) has considerable experience of the archaeological evaluation of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 18 years. Evaluations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.3.2 OAN has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OAN and all its members of staff operate subject to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct and OAN is an IFA registered organisation (no 17).

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed in accordance with a verbal brief by Lancashire County Council Archaeological Service to enable a watching brief during the ground works for the development area. The required stages to achieve the project objectives are as follows:

2.2 PERMANENT PRESENCE WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 To record accurately any surviving archaeological features or deposits by means of detailed observation and recording. To record the presence of buried features by appropriate recovery techniques, where applicable.

2.3 ARCHIVE/REPORT

- 2.3.1 A full written report will assess the significance of the data generated by the entire programme of work, in a local and regional context, and will be suitable for deposition as a permanent archive of the work undertaken.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

- 3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work outlined above.

3.1 PERMANENT PRESENCE WATCHING BRIEF

3.2.1 **Methodology:** a permanent programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features within the ground works for the proposed wall construction. This work will comprise the observation of the process of excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of works, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.

3.2.2 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). All archaeological information collected in the course of fieldwork will be recorded in standardised form, and will include accurate national grid references. Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously. The recording techniques and procedures employed by OAN for such detailed recording represent current best practice.

3.2.3 It is assumed that OAN will have the authority to stop works for up to one hour to enable the recording of important deposits, and to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified. This would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and English Heritage and would require a variation to costing. 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.

3.3 ARCHIVE/REPORT

3.3.1 **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 (*The 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. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork to the appropriate level. OAN conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OAN practice is to deposit appropriate elements of 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. The actual details of the arrangements for the deposition/loan and long term storage of this material will be agreed with the landowner and the receiving institution.

3.3.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client within five weeks of completion of fieldwork, and a further copy submitted to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record following any comments from the Client. The report will include a copy of the agreed 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 and the potential of the site for palaeoenvironmental analysis will be considered. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.

- 3.3.3 This report will identify areas of defined archaeology. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the site within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map, section drawings, and plans.

3.4 GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 3.4.1 **Health and Safety:** full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services) during the survey, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. The OAN Health and Safety Statement conforms to all the provisions of the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) Health and Safety manual. Risk assessments are undertaken as a matter of course for all projects. The Unit Safety Policy Statement will be provided to the client, if required.
- 3.4.2 **Confidentiality:** the report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client for the particular purpose as defined in this project design, and should be treated as such. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties or for any other explicit purpose can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.
- 3.4.3 **Project Monitoring:** any proposed changes to this project design will be agreed with the client, and English Heritage. If required a meeting with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments and the client can be established at the outset of the project.
- 3.4.4 **Insurance:** the insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the unit and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of OAN, in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of OAN or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £10m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.1 The phases of work would comprise:
- 4.2 **Permanent presence watching brief**
Monitoring of excavation of trenches, and observation and recording of any archaeological features and materials revealed. The timescale of this phase will be dictated by the construction programme.
- 4.3 **Archive/Report**
LUAU generally calculates a 1:0.5 ratio of fieldwork: post-fieldwork (archive, analysis, and report preparation).
- 4.4 LUAU can execute projects at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client. The date for completion of the works would be dictated by the site construction programme. The report will be submitted to the Client within three weeks of the completion of field work.
- 4.5 The project will be managed by **Jamie Quartermaine, BA Hons Surv Dip** (Unit Project Manager), to whom all correspondence should be addressed. All Unit staff are experienced, qualified archaeologists, each with several years professional expertise.

ILLUSTRATIONS

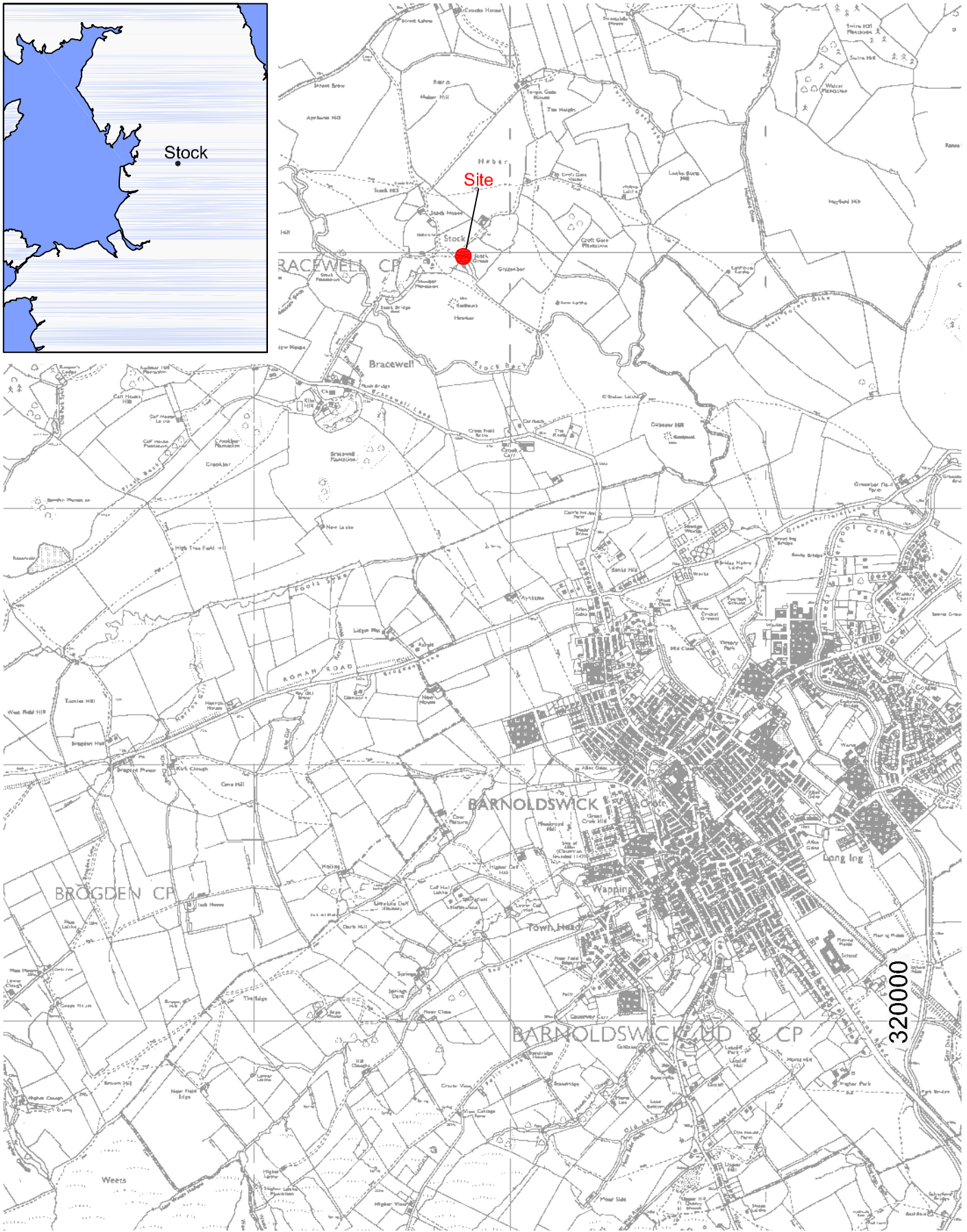
Figures

Fig 1 General Location Plan

Fig 2 Detailed Location Plan after archive survey by R Turner (1979)

Plates

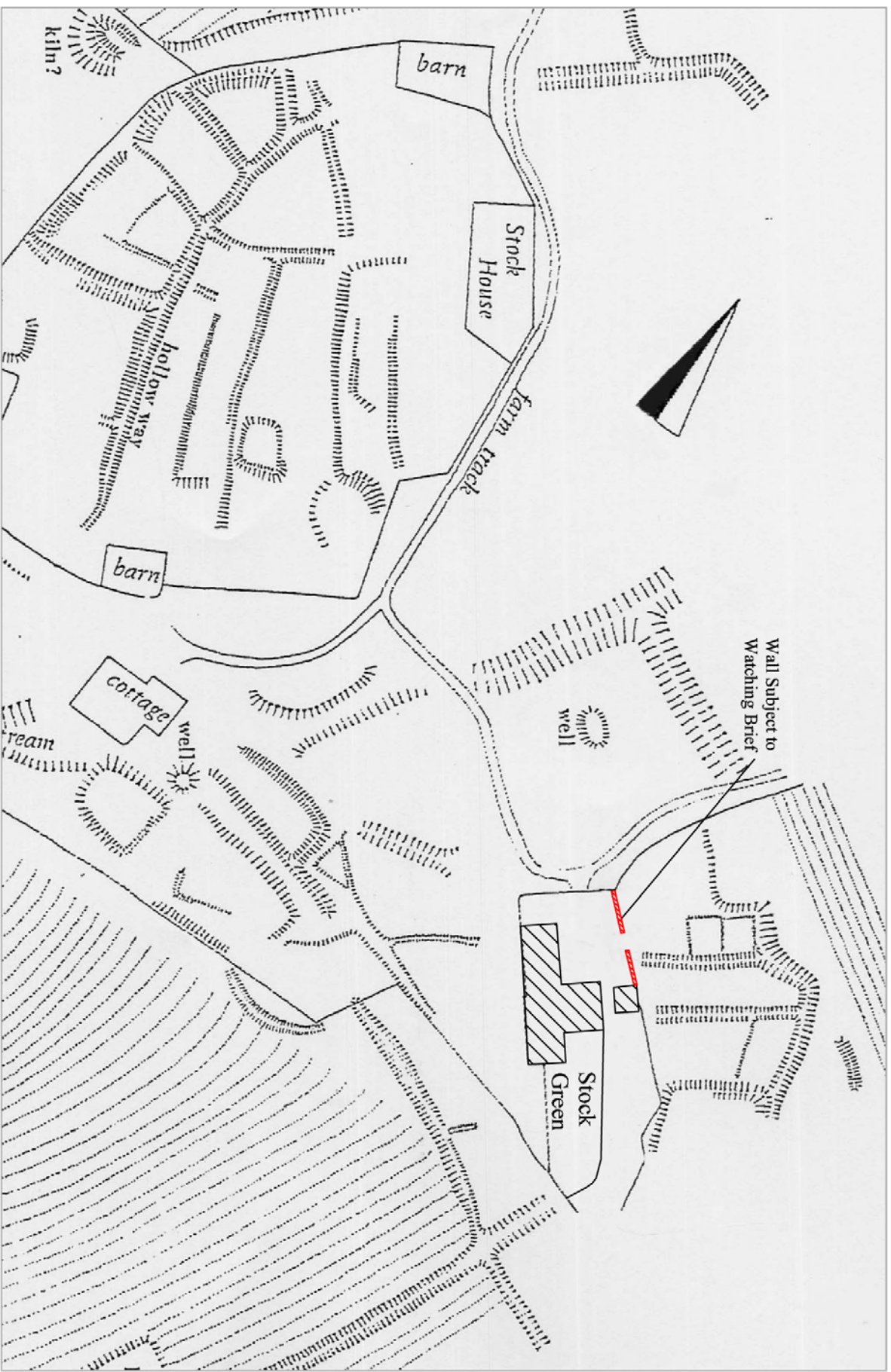
Plate 1: The excavated wall foundation trench looking east



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10000
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Figure 1: Location Map



based upon the archive survey drawing by Rick Turner 1979
 Copyright Lancaster University

Figure 2: Detailed Location Plan after archive survey by R Turner (1979)

0 100
 metres



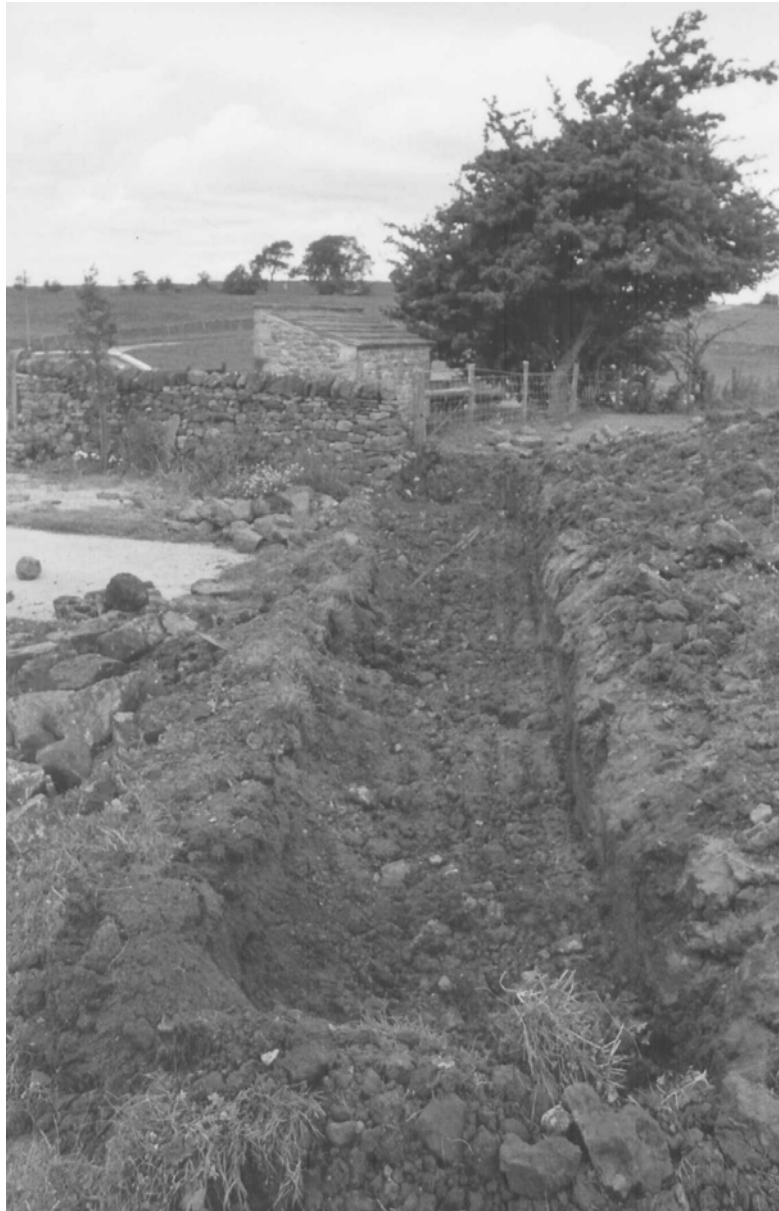


Plate 1: The excavated wall foundation trench looking east