



PARKHOUSE FARMHOUSE

Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria

Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North

July 2002

Dr and Mrs Mardel

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) was commissioned to carry out an archaeological watching brief during renovations to a fireplace in Parkhouse Farmhouse, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (SD 3223 4710). The fireplace was to be returned to its original size, which necessitated the removal of several phases of later blocking. Parkhouse Farmhouse is a Grade II* listed building, dating from the sixteenth century, and as such a watching brief was considered necessary during the demolition stage of the renovation.

The watching brief, undertaken in 2002, revealed three main phases of alterations to the fireplace, which had apparently remained in use for the last 400 years. The original fireplace would have been a large open hearth, with a stone arch. This was subsequently blocked and made into an inglenook-style fireplace, with a new arrangement of flues, which led to the abandonment and partial demolition of the original chimney. This fireplace was a more complex arrangement with a large oven to one side, a possible spice oven, and a smaller oven built into the adjoining wall. At a later date this arrangement was also abandoned and a cast iron range was inserted on the left side of the fireplace. The ovens were blocked, possibly at the same time, and so the fireplace remained until the present day.

Analysis of these phases of development show that the kitchen fireplace had been altered in such a way as to keep up with the most current trends and technologies available. The original fireplace was considered to have been a later copy of the one in the parlour, and the kitchen range a later extension to the house. The heavily rebuilt nature of the corresponding chimneybreast, however, makes it difficult to be sure about the relationship between the kitchen wing and the house. The similarity between the parlour and kitchen fireplaces makes it equally likely that they are contemporary. The inglenook-style alteration was likely to have occurred in the eighteenth or early nineteenth century, while the range was probably later nineteenth or early twentieth century in date.

As little archaeological or historical work has apparently previously been carried out at Parkhouse Farmhouse the results of the watching brief form a useful outline analysis of this important building, and give some indication as to the level and phases of alteration that might have taken place elsewhere in the building.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to extend thanks to Malcolm Craig of Craig and Green Partnership for his help and information, and to the numerous contractors on site for their helpfulness and patience on site. Particular thanks are due to Dr and Mrs Mardel for their assistance, interest and useful information.

Daniel Elsworth undertook the watching brief and the drawings were produced by Kat Hopwood and Daniel Elsworth. The report was compiled by Daniel Elsworth and was edited by Alison Plummer, who also managed the project.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Listed building consent was granted to Dr Simon and Mrs Susan Mardel to carry out alterations to the fireplace within the kitchen of Parkhouse Farm, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (SD 3223 4710). The alterations would consist of opening out the fireplace, which had been narrowed to fit a later style of structure, by removing the blocking and the range, to allow for the housing of a new Aga cooker. At the same time a window was to be added through the back of the fireplace, cut through the original stonework. Parkhouse Farmhouse is a Grade II* listed building dating from the sixteenth century, with subsequent alterations between the eighteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- 1.1.2 The alterations required the removal of stone and brick blocking from within the original open hearth and reconsolidation of the resulting aperture. New beams were also to be added to support the stonework above. The relatively high level of value placed on the building by its grade of listing led to Barrow Borough Council, following consultation with Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) in its former guise as Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU), recommended a watching brief during the rebuilding work. This was intended to record any features of note, in particular those which would help to give a greater understanding of the development of the building as a whole. OAN was commissioned to undertake this work in June of 2002.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document, which outlines the findings and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OAN following a request by Craig and Green Partnership, on behalf of Dr and Mrs Mardel, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during alterations to the fireplace in the kitchen of Parkhouse Farmhouse. 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 (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.
- 2.1.2 The analysis included an examination of those parts of the west elevation of the kitchen which would be directly affected by the proposed work, in order to provide information about the plan, form, function, age and development of this part of the building. A watching brief was also to be maintained for those areas where masonry removal was proposed, in order to establish whether any further information relating to the development of the fabric of the building could be gained.
- 2.1.3 The investigation of the related parts of the building was undertaken to the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments for England (RCHM(E)) Level II-type survey standard, while the watching brief was carried out using standard OAN *proforma*. In both cases the investigation consisted of written records, photographs (black and white and colour slide 35mm prints, as well as colour digital pictures where necessary) and plans annotated from the architect's survey.

2.2 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional 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 Barrow Record Office on completion of the project.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Parkhouse Farmhouse is situated a rural surrounding to the east of the large urban area of Barrow-in-Furness (Fig 1). It lies within ½km south of the medieval site of Furness Abbey in a gently undulating landscape made up of a mix of medium to large fields, divided by banked hedges (Countryside Commission 1998, 27). The main Barrow to Lancaster railway runs to the east, as does Red Beck, after having passed through Furness Abbey.
- 3.1.2 The solid geology lies on the boundary between Triassic New Red Sandstone (Barnes 1978, 1), which outcrops further to the north where it was utilised in the building of Furness Abbey as well as Parkhouse Farm, and Carboniferous limestone (Bolton 1869, 34). This is overlain by drift geology consisting of glacial boulder clay beneath a typical brown earth (Ordnance Survey 1983).

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical background is largely compiled from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments of the farmhouse rather than the surrounding area, emphasizing the overall development of the building. Much of this background information was gathered from the listed building information (Ref 708-1/4/105; *Appendix 2*) and the earlier assessment report (LUAU 2000).
- 3.2.2 There is surprisingly little recorded information about Parkhouse Farmhouse itself. The listed building information (Ref 708-1/4/105) states only that it is probably sixteenth century in origin with seventeenth and eighteenth century alterations (*Appendix 2*). It is described as one of several 'ancient sites' in the Yarlside area (Farrer and Brownbill 1915, 306). It was occupied by William and Hannah Bolton in 1829 (Parson and White 1829, 712), and there was extensive iron mining in the immediate area to the east as part of the massive industrial expansion that took place in Furness during the mid nineteenth century (Kelly 1998, 218-219).
- 3.2.3 The twelfth century Cistercian Abbey of St Mary is less than 1km to the north, and it is certain that this area would have been under its control (Wood *et al* 1998, 26). The farmhouse itself most probably originated as an abbey property, some time in the sixteenth century (LUAU 2000, 1). Indeed, Barnes states that by the time of the Dissolution of the Abbey (1539) there were only a few lands 'held by the monks themselves and worked by their own servants' (Barnes 1978, 30), including a Park Farm, although it is not clear if this is the same site.

4. WATCHING BRIEF AND BUILDING INVESTIGATION RESULTS

4.1 THE FIREPLACE

4.1.1 The remodelling comprised removal of the infilling of the original open-hearth fireplace, returning it to something like its original form. In its present state the fireplace consists of a cast iron range within the reduced opening, which has been partially filled with a mix of sandstone and brick. On the right hand side of the range, where the paint and plaster has been removed, a large blocked opening, 0.62m wide, is visible and there is a smaller one above this, 0.4m wide, extending to the base of the arch. The main arch of the original opening is a sandstone chamfered arch with joggled voussoirs, just visible beneath the paint (*Appendix 3*). Some work had already taken place before the watching brief began; the remnants of the range had been removed and the larger, lower aperture had been unblocked. The latter was filled with loose stone rubble fronted with dressed stone courses. As the remainder of the stone blocking was removed the demolition was observed and structural details noted.

4.1.2 This part of the farmhouse is a long rectangular wing mainly comprising the kitchen, extending from the parlour, and linked to the main part of the house via the cross passage (Figs 2 and 3). It is considered to be a later addition, butted onto the chimneybreast of the house (LUAU 2000). The kitchen range is orientated roughly north/south with the fireplace on the west side at the north end.

4.2 INTERNAL DETAILS (Fig 4)

4.2.1 **Fabric:** the majority of the building is constructed in red sandstone, and there is a strong probability that some of the material is reused from the remains of Furness Abbey. The original fabric (*101*) is well-dressed blocks, laid in ashlar courses. The area of blocking within the fireplace (*105*) consists mostly of sandstone but in more random courses and less well finished, with the occasional brick also being used.

4.2.2 The fireplace, following the removal of the range and unblocking of the aperture to the right, consisted of a large opening to the left (south) where the range had been (*102*), with a stone lintel supporting stone infilling above (*105*) (Plate 1). A further RSJ-type lintel also supported this (*107*), although it was largely concealed behind the stone arch. The back of this opening was sandstone, part of the original wall (*101*), although a large hole was broken through it for the new window. The aperture (*106*), once cleared, could be seen to be an oven or smoke room, as there was a slate lined flue linking it to the main flue of the chimney to the south. The aperture was formed by the addition of the stone infill, *105*, above and to the right, and a brick pillar (*104*) to the left, with a stone lintel. South of this brick pillar was another, one brick thick (*103*), which had presumably been added to fit the range. The back of the oven utilised the original stone wall of the fireplace, although it had been augmented by the addition of bricks to support the slate flue, and there was a further small opening above the lintel (*110*), apparently linking into the flue, although it was not clear how (Plate 2). This aperture was blocked with a mix of

brick and stone, with timber wedges around the edges, which would have originally supported a doorframe, and may have been a spice cupboard (Denyer 1991, 20). At the base of the lower, larger aperture (**106**), there were large unfinished sandstone blocks c 0.3m higher than the floor level, which presumably indicate the level of the base of the oven.

4.2.3 After brick pillars **103** and **104** had been removed and the lintels forming **102**, **106** and **110** had been taken down, it was possible to examine in more detail the interior of the fireplace opening. It was clear that the stone and brick infill (**105**) was far more extensive than was evident from outside. The reduced opening above **102** was even further reduced at the top to form a funnel-like flue or canopy. This in turn linked into the flue from **106** and also turned southward into the wall, presumably connecting with the chimney above the internal gable to the south (Fig 3; Plate 3). Once the majority of the infill had been removed it was evident that it had not only been infilled but also partially broken into the original wall, presumably to provide support for the weight of stone above. The result was that in places fabric **101** was unrecognisable from the fine finish seen elsewhere in the building. Indeed, in the back of the chimney, through the back of the fireplace, the wall was almost ruinous and only covered by modern timber boards, which form what appears to be an outshut roof externally (see Section 4.3.1).

4.2.4 To the right of **106**, but still within the original fireplace opening, was an area of apparent rebuilding and voids within **101**. This was not exposed during the renovation but further investigations revealed it to be a probable oven (**109**), blocked with loose sandstone (**108**). This appeared to be a later addition, inserted into the wall, as the stone finish was very poor compared to the rest of **101**. The oven was 0.5m wide and 0.34m deep, with a U-shaped plan and roughly finished faces, all in sandstone (Plate 4), and there was at least one hole drilled into the surrounding stonework, perhaps to support a doorframe.

4.3 EXTERNAL DETAIL

4.3.1 *The chimney:* examination of the relative external elevations revealed several features of interest. It was clear that there had originally been a large chimneybreast on this side of the building, like that attached to the parlour, connected to the kitchen fireplace. In this case, however, it had been significantly reduced in height to only 12 courses of poorly finished ashlar blocks with quoined corners. It had evidently been remodelled at least once as the stonework appeared to butt the main wall, covering a plinth course, and incorporated a reused gargoyle (presumably a part of the Abbey) (Plate 5). The reuse of material from the Abbey would suggest a late sixteenth century date, at the earliest, for rebuilding of the chimney.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 5.1.1 The rebuilding work revealed some interesting features relating to the development of the fireplace, which have implications not only for understanding the development of the kitchen but the whole house. Three main phases of alteration are evident, with a fourth, more recent phase of repairs.
- 5.1.2 The original fireplace would have appeared like that in the parlour: a large open hearth with a chamfered sandstone arch with a large chimney above. At a later stage, the majority of this opening was filled with rough sandstone courses and some brick and slate to form a smaller, inglenook-style fireplace with associated oven or smoke room. A canopy-style flue was added, and the small oven (109) cut into the wall on the north side is also likely to have been added at this time. It would seem likely that the majority of the chimney was also taken down at this point, and the smoke redirected to the south-east to meet a new central chimney. More recently an iron range was added, narrowing the required opening still further, and probably leading to the blocking of the earlier ovens. Most recently some repair work has evidently been carried out to the roof over what is left of the chimney, although it is not clear what effect this had on the structure of the fireplace.

5.2 INTERPRETATION

- 5.2.1 Despite the limited nature of the investigation it is possible to place these alterations into broad historical periods, and to consider them in a wider regional context. The apparent later date of the kitchen range based on its physical relationship to the main house (LUAU 2000, 1) is doubtful, given the level of rebuilding observed within the fireplace. The similarity in style of the fireplaces in the parlour and kitchen would suggest that they are contemporary, and likely to be sixteenth century in date (Miller 1995, 19). The position of the cross-passage, which provides direct access into the kitchen, and the position of the spiral staircase, which connects to the upper floors above the house and kitchen and is accessed from the kitchen (Fig 3), suggests that the kitchen wing and house are contemporary.
- 5.2.2 The infilling of the original fireplace generated what is essentially an inglenook fireplace, typical of the late seventeenth/early eighteenth century (Brunskill 1978, 130-131). The oven cut into the side wall (109) is of a type common in the Lake District prior to the late eighteenth century (Rollinson 1974, 40). It would be used for slow cooking food, especially wheat bread, which did not become common until the mid eighteenth century (Denyer 1991, 26). Ovens of this type did not need flues as they were used by stacking hot ash within the body of the oven until the brick or stone lining was heated; this was then removed, the bread was added, and the door closed (Rollinson 1974, 40; Denyer 1991, 27).
- 5.2.3 The range was probably added in the late nineteenth or even early twentieth century (LUAU 2000, 1), when such things became more common (Rollinson 1974, 40).

Essentially, the fireplace has simply been changed to follow the current fashion or technology. This demonstrates that, unlike the fireplace in the parlour, which appears to have remained relatively unchanged (although it was not examined in detail during this assessment), the fireplace in the kitchen has remained a working fireplace throughout its long history, and that the current renovations mean that it will go on doing so into the future.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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6.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: General Site Plan

Figure 3: Ground Floor Plan Showing Position of Fireplace

Figure 4: Detailed Plan of Fireplace

PLATES

Plate 1: Fireplace following the removal of the range and unblocking of oven **106**, looking west

Plate 2: Detail shot of the smaller aperture **110**, looking west

Plate 3: Detail of the brick and slate construction of the flue within **106**

Plate 4: The chimneybreast from the outside, showing the gargoyle and relationship to the parlour, looking north-east

Plate 5: Inside of side oven **109**, looking north

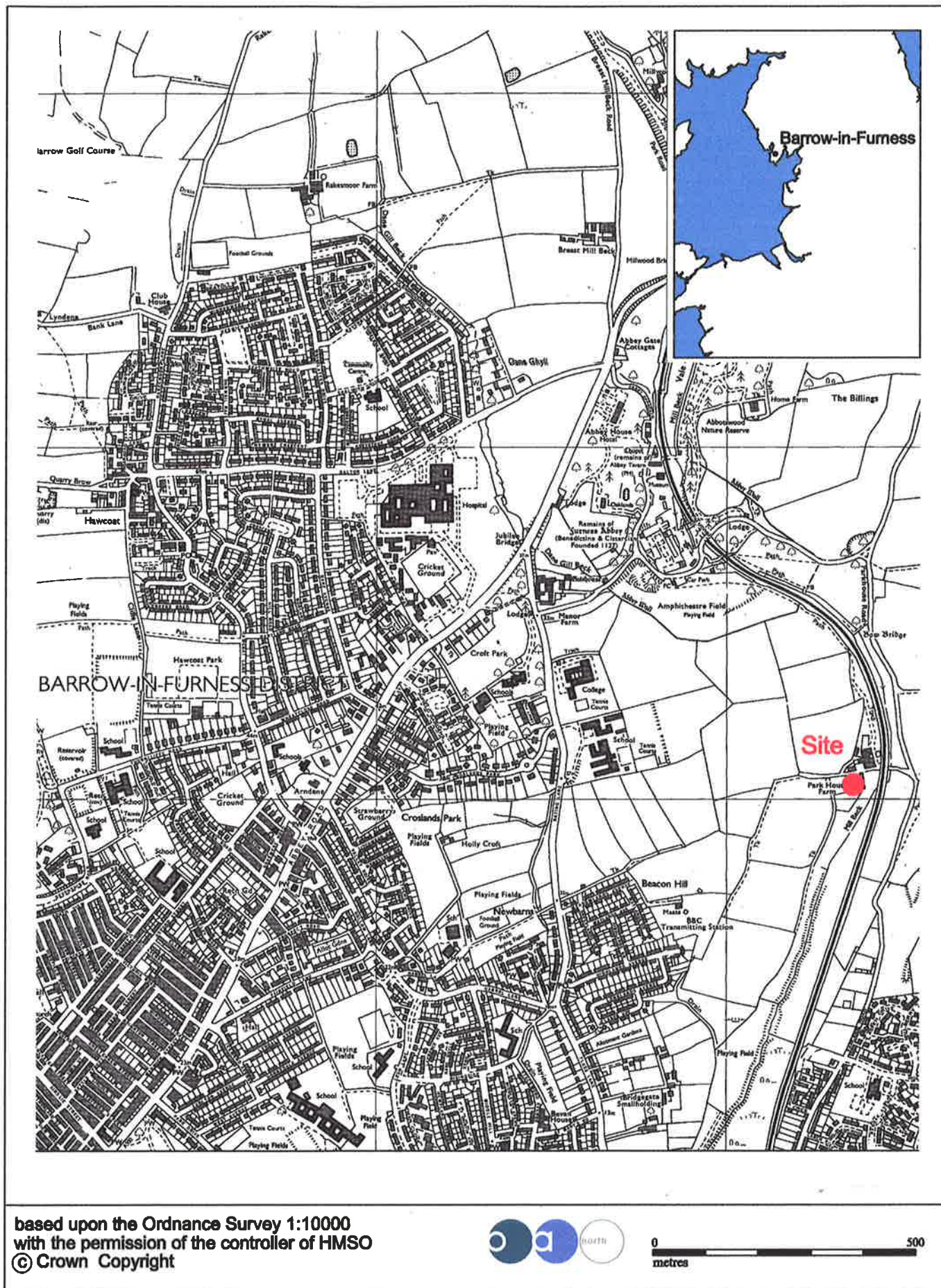


Figure 1: Location Map

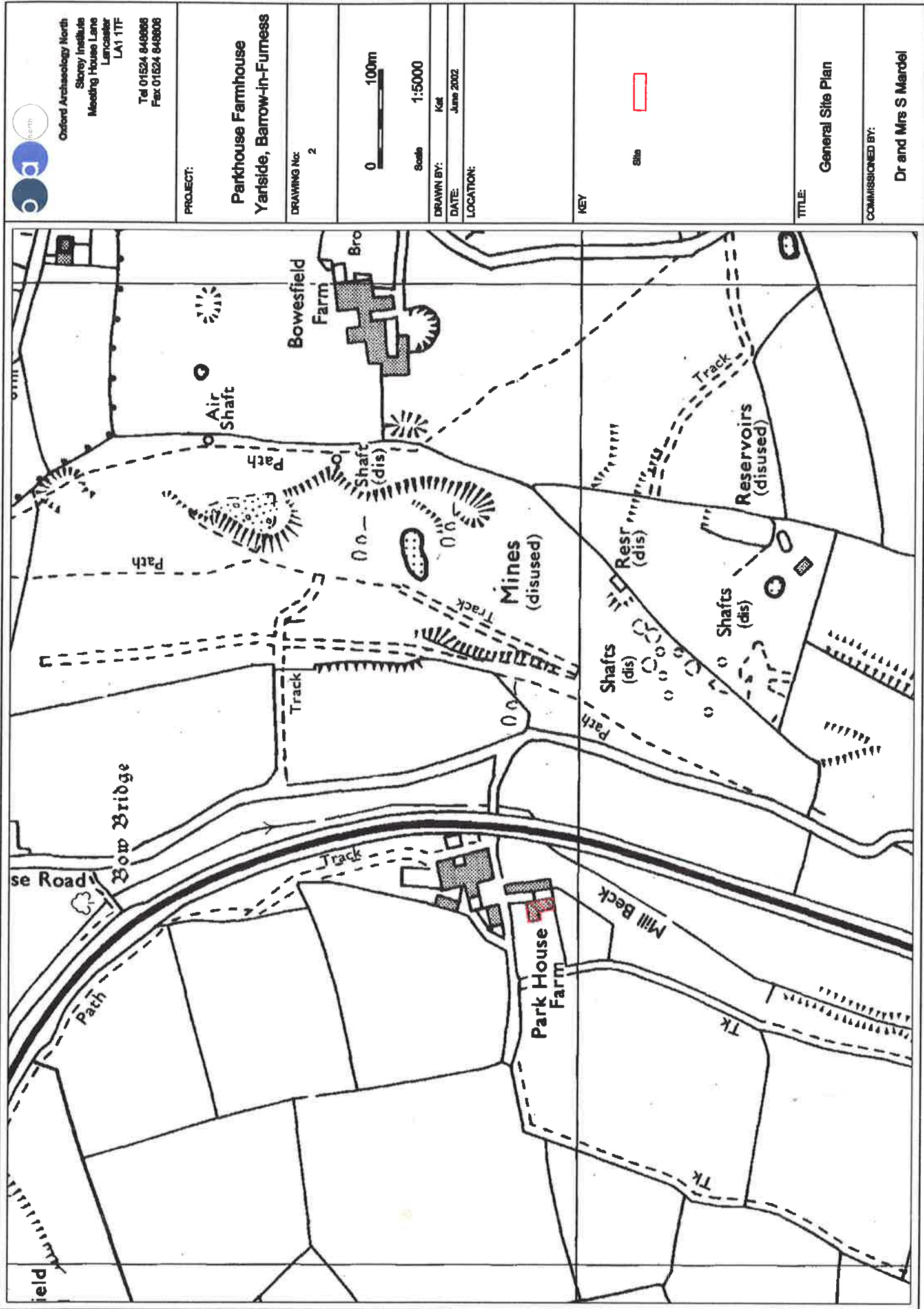


Figure 2 : General Site Plan



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PROJECT:

Parkhouse Farmhouse
Yarlside, Barrow-in-Furness

DRAWING No: 3

0 3m

Scale 1:150

DRAWN BY: Kd

DATE: June 2002

LOCATION:



KEY



TITLE:

**Ground Floor Plan Showing
Position of Fireplace**

COMMISSIONED BY:

Dr and Mrs S Mardel

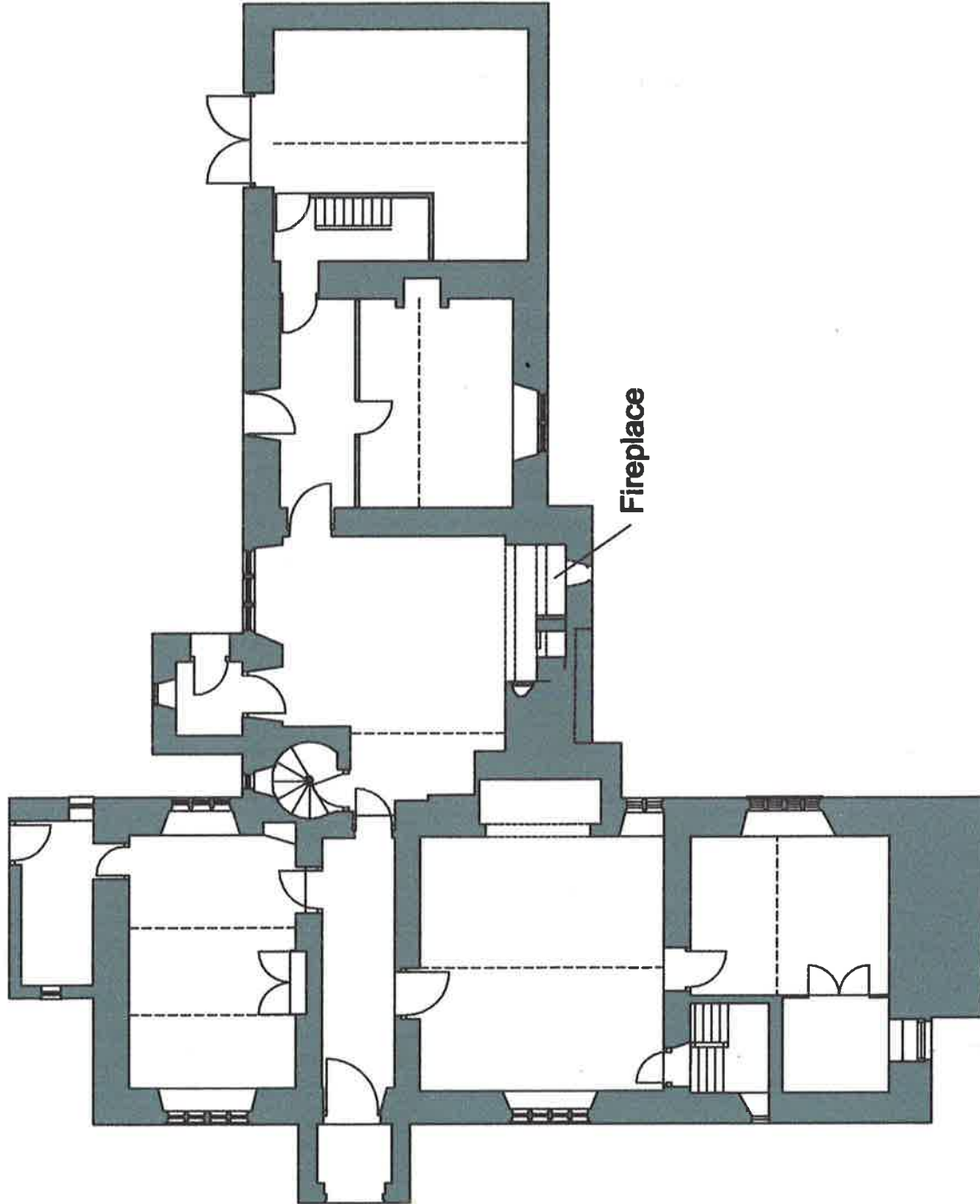


Figure 3 : Ground Floor Plan Showing Position of Fireplace

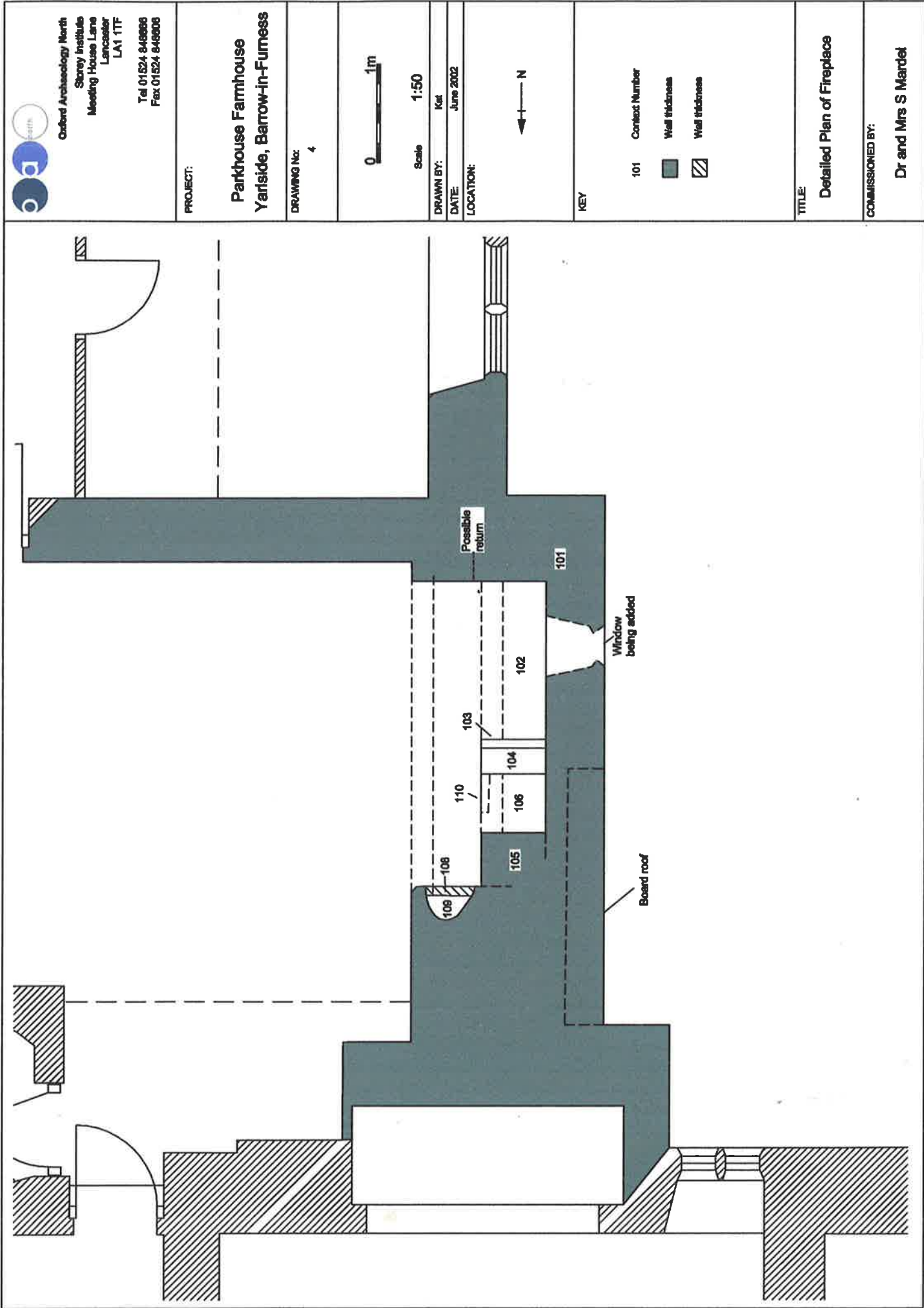


Figure 4 : Detailed Plan of Fireplace



Plate 1: Fireplace following the removal of the range and unblocking of oven *106*, looking west



Plate 2: Detailed shot of the smaller aperture, *110*, looking west



Plate 3: Detail of the brick and slate construction of the flue within *106*



Plate 4: Inside of side oven **109**, looking north



Plate 5: The chimneybreast from the outside, showing the gargoyle and relationship to the parlour, looking north-east

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Listed Building Consent has been granted to Dr Mardel (hereafter the client) for the dismantling of an internal wall at Parkhouse Farmhouse, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (SD 27SW) for the purpose of adapting the inglenook fireplace to house an Aga cooker, and alteration work to form a new window opening. The Listed Building Consent, approved by Barrow Borough Council is subject to a condition specifying a watching brief.
- 1.2 Parkhouse Farmhouse is a Grade II* Listed Building with sixteenth century origins, seventeenth century alterations and nineteenth century additions. The survival of some internal features, and the adherence to the plan of a hall, cross passage and service room suggests an early date.
- 1.3 Oxford Archaeology (North) OAN has considerable experience of watching briefs of historic buildings of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 20 years. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. OAN has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency.
- 1.4 OAN is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) **registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to evaluate the archaeological and architectural features to be affected by the proposed development. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:
 - 2.1.1 ***Permanent Presence Watching Brief:*** archaeological monitoring during the opening up works.
 - 2.1.2 ***Report and Archive:*** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3. METHODS STATEMENT

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

3.2 PERMANENT PRESENCE WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.2.1 The watching brief will be maintained for the section of the kitchen wall associated with the inglenook, which is to be disturbed by the development.
- 3.2.2 A permanent programme of observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features within the area of the inglenook in the course of the proposed development. This work will comprise observation during the opening up works to form the kitchen window or the removal of the existing brick pier and lintels, and the accurate recording of all archaeological or architectural features, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 3.2.3 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, or as grid co-ordinates 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 and annotated on to a large scale plan provided by the Client.
- 3.2.4 It is assumed that OAN will have the authority to stop works for up to one hour to enable the recording of significant archaeological deposits.
- 3.2.5 **Health and Safety:** OAN provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.
- 3.2.6 OAN 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.

3.3 REPORT AND ARCHIVE PRODUCTION

- 3.3.1 **Archive:** the results of Stage 3.2 will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.
- 3.3.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files (as appropriate). The paper archive will be deposited with the Cumbria Record

Office within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. The material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) will be deposited with an appropriate museum following agreement with the client. A synthesis of the archive will also be available for deposition in the National Monuments Record.

3.3.3 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of the report will be submitted to the client within twelve weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A further copy of the collated final report will be submitted to the County SMR within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. The final report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above, and will include recommendations for any further mitigation works and details of the final deposition of the project archive.

3.3.4 **Confidentiality:** the final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

4.1 The various stages of the project outlined above will fall into two distinct phases, which would follow on consecutively, where appropriate. The phases of work would comprise:

4.1.2 **Permanent Presence Watching Brief:** the development programme will dictate the timescale of this phase. OAN generally calculates a 1:0.5 ratio of fieldwork: post-fieldwork (archive, analysis, and report preparation) if the level of archaeology observed is low or 1:1 if the level of archaeology is high.

4.1.3 **Archive/Report:** the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be submitted within twelve weeks of completion of the fieldwork and the archive deposited within six months.

5. OUTLINE RESOURCES

5.1 The project will be managed by **Alison Plummer, BSc (Hons)** (OAN senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

5.2 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing exactly who will be carrying out each specific task, but all elements of the project are likely to be supervised by an OAN project supervisor experienced in this type of project. All OAN project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.

6. MONITORING

- 6.1 Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by a representative of the Borough council
- 6.2 Access to the site for monitoring purposes will be afforded to monitor at all times.

APPENDIX 2: EXTRACT FROM LISTED BUILDING ENTRY

SD27SW

708-1/4/105

Parkhouse Road

Farmhouse. Probably sixteenth century origin, rebuilt seventeenth century and with nineteenth century additions. Red ashlar sandstone graduated slate roof. L-shaped plan. Two storeys and attic, four windows to 1st floor; two storey wing to rear left.

Stone porch to left of centre with chamfered round arch, plaque dated 1831 and ashlar gable copings; part-glazed door within has chamfered segmentally-arched head and hoodmould. To each side are four-light double-chamfered mullion windows with plain casements, king mullions and hoodmoulds; small single-light window to right. 1st floor: similar windows of three, three and two-lights, the right hand pair set higher. Massive external stack to left end.

Rear: four-light window (as front) on left of tall two-light window (altered); external stack in angle has offsets and later brick shaft; three-light mullioned windows to 1st floor. Reused medieval gargoyle in rear wall of wing. Left return: wing has early nineteenth century mullioned windows of three-lights to ground floor and two, three and one-lights above.

Interior: front door leads to cross-passage with service room to left having two doorways (one blocked). Hall on right has large sidewall fireplace, its chamfered, segmental arch with joggled voussoirs. Room to rear right with seventeenth century panelling and door. Rear wing has a chamfered side wall fireplace to kitchen, and a crown post truss cut off below the springing of the struts. Stone spiral staircase to 1st floor. Plank-and-muntin panelling divides right-hand two rooms. Oak, solid-tread stair to attic; six principal-rafter trusses with curved struts, collars and two curved wind braces.

The survival of some internal features and the adherence to the medieval plan of the hall, cross-passage and service room suggests an early date. Close proximity to the ruins of Furness Abbey would have allowed rebuilding in stone before this became the norm.

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT LIST

- 101** – original build of the house. Sandstone, well-finished ashlar blocks in regular courses.
- 102** – position of the cast iron range within the fireplace.
- 103** – brick pillar forming the right side of the range. Single skin of yellow bricks.
- 104** – brick pillar forming the left side of oven **106**. Double skin of red brick.
- 105** – stone infill containing **106**, **110** and probably **109**. A mix of roughly-finished sandstone courses and the occasional brick, with brick and slate forming the flue linking **106** to the main chimney. Included sandstone lintels over **102** and **106**. Also forms a canopy-style flue within the main chimney. Bonded into **101** but later.
- 106** – oven formed between **104** and **105**. 0.62m wide, 0.7m deep, 1.6m high. Flue in the top links it to the main chimney and possibly to **110**.
- 107** – RSJ-type lintel, supporting **105**.
- 108** – loose sandstone blocking side oven **109**.
- 109** – small side oven, 0.5m wide by 0.34m deep. U-shaped plan, stone lined and probably inserted into **101**.
- 110** – small aperture above **106**, 0.4m wide by 0.5m tall. Unclear function but appears to link to the flue from **106**. May have been a spice cupboard, blocked with brick and stone.



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