



CHEQUERS HOTEL, DALTON-IN- FURNESS, Cumbria

Archaeological Desk- Based Assessment and Watching Brief



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SUMMARY

Following a request by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (CCCAS), Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), undertook a rapid desk-based assessment and archaeological watching brief during the construction of a conference room at Chequers Hotel, 10 Abbey road, Dalton-in-Furness, Cumbria (centred on SD 2265 7384). The work was undertaken on the 18th November 2004.

Chequers Hotel is located within the historic town of Dalton-in-Furness, and lies close to the Church of St Mary (SMR 2284), Dalton Castle (SMR 4381), and the medieval market place. The hotel also stands on the site of a free school founded in 1622 for children of the town (SMR 2283). The site is therefore located in an area of some archaeological potential. As a result of this, CCAS recommended that a watching brief should be maintained during the ground works for the conference room.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to express its thanks to Karl Benn, manager of the Chequers Hotel for commissioning the work, and to Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist, and Jo Mackintosh, Historic Environment Records Officer, both of Cumbria County Council Archaeological Service, for their assistance. The staff of Barrow Record Office are also thanked for their helpfulness.

Dave McNicol undertook the fieldwork, and Dave McNicol and Matthew Town compiled this report. Drawings were produced by Kathryn Blythe. The report was edited by Alison Plummer and Stephen Rowland. Alison Plummer managed the overall project.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In November 2004, a rapid desk-based assessment and watching brief was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), at Chequers Hotel, Dalton-in-Furness, Cumbria (SD 2265 7384; Fig 1), following a request by Karl Benn, the hotel manager. A brief outlining this work was issued by Cumbria County Council's Archaeology Service (CCCAS) (*Appendix 1*).
- 1.1.2 Chequers Hotel stands on the site of a free school for children of the town, which was founded in 1622 (SMR 2283). The site is also located close to the Church of St Mary, which stands on the site of its medieval predecessor (SMR 2284), Dalton Castle (SMR 4381), and the medieval market place of Dalton-in-Furness. Consequently, there was potential for the ground works uncovering significant archaeological deposits.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the rapid desk-based assessment and watching brief in the form of a short document. This outlines the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 In response to a request from Karl Benn, manager of the Chequers Hotel (henceforth, the client), OA North was commissioned to undertake a desk-based assessment and watching brief in accordance with a brief prepared by CCCAS (*Appendix 1*), during construction of a conference room to the rear of the hotel. The brief was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project brief. The study area consisted of a 0.5km radius centred on the proposed development site. The principal sources of information consulted were the Sites and Monuments Record, and cartographic secondary sources, in order to establish the extent and character of sites of archaeological interest already known within the study area.

2.2.2 *Sites and Monuments Record, Kendal (SMR)*: the SMR, a database of archaeological sites within the county, was accessed. A brief record, including grid reference and description, was obtained for the various sites within a 0.5km radius centred on the study area (see Fig 2). Each record was studied and information concerning the study area was gathered. Aerial photographs of the area were also studied where these were available.

2.2.3 *County Record Office (Barrow) (CRO(B))*: the County Record Office in Barrow was also visited to consult documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and Tithe maps, were examined. A search was made for any relevant historical documentation, particularly regarding the use of the area, drawing on the knowledge of the archivists. Several secondary sources were also consulted.

2.2.4 *Oxford Archaeology North (OA North)*: various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the OA North library and any undeposited archives of the sites themselves were examined.

2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

2.3.1 A programme of field observation was undertaken during the groundworks to record the location, extent and character of any surviving archaeological features and deposits that may be revealed during the ground disturbance.

2.3.2 The site had been previously cleared of a concrete surface with the use of a mechanical excavator. Eight 1m x 1m piled footings were excavated by machine to a maximum depth of 0.9m (Fig 2). A 1m wide trench was

machine-excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m between footings **1, 2, 3** and **4**, located on the western edge of the site.

- 2.3.3 **Recording:** during the watching brief, recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of features and materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features were planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan provided by the Client. A monochrome and colour slide photographic record was maintained throughout.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA, UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Cumbria Record Office, Barrow, on completion of the project. Copies of the report will be deposited with the Cumbria County SMR in Kendal.

3. RESULTS OF THE DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 **Location:** the study area is located on the south side of the village of Dalton-in-Furness, Cumbria. The parish of Dalton-in-Furness occupies the south-west corner of Furness having, at its outside limits, the Isle of Walney. To the north of the town a range of hills begins on to the border of the parish at Kirby Ireleth. Down the valley of the east side of this range flows the beck known as the Poaka Beck, and later by various other names as it passes by Dalton and Furness Abbey on its way south. The site is currently occupied by Chequers Hotel. The study area lay at approximately 31m OD.
- 3.1.2 The south of Cumbria is largely dominated by undulating fells, from which a pastoral landscape with substantial woodland has developed. The southern limit of south Cumbria is defined by the broad expanse of Morecambe Bay and the surrounding limestone lowlands, which are penetrated by the valleys and estuaries of the Rivers Duddon, Leven, and Kent, all of which support wetland environments in their lower reaches (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).
- 3.1.3 **Geology:** the underlying solid geology consists of Silurian Ludlow greywakes (Coniston Grits) and banded mudstones and siltstones, with Urswick and Park carboniferous limestone on the margins of the study area. This limestone contains vast pockets of haematite, which were extensively mined during the later nineteenth century, and its margins define the area known as the Dalton Iron Field. The Silurian rocks are thought to have formed over 400 million years ago and are amongst the oldest in the world. Substantial deposits of Pleistocene till overlie much of the solid geology, particularly in the lower lying areas, and consist of stiff boulder clay mixed with sand and glacial boulders (Countryside Commission 1998).

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this section reviews the existing knowledge of Dalton-in-Furness and its environs. All CSMR sites within the nearby area are considered, and are cited using the site number allocated to them in the Gazetteer (*Appendix 3*). Significant sites lying further afield are also referred to as appropriate.
- 3.2.2 **Palaeolithic period:** around 9000-8000 cal BC, rapid climatic amelioration and the retreat of the ice-sheets which had covered the Furness peninsula were accompanied by the gradual colonisation of typical tundra vegetation (lichens, grasses, and dwarf shrubs). By 5000 cal BC most of the landscape (below 500m) was covered by trees, mainly birch, pine, hazel, elm, and oak, although the valley bottoms were colonised by varieties such as willow and alder. Elk, wolves and deer are thought to have roamed this primeval forest (Trescaheric 1993; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). There is evidence for marine transgressions affecting the area; the third transgression, dating to around 4000 cal BC,

would have seen land around the Duddon estuary inundated up to 5m above the present Ordnance Datum (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).

- 3.2.3 There is no conclusive evidence for Palaeolithic occupation within the area, though possible Upper Palaeolithic evidence has been uncovered at Bart's Shelter, Scales (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).
- 3.2.4 **Mesolithic period:** current evidence suggests that settlers first occupied the region during the Mesolithic period, between 5000 BC and 3500 BC (*op cit*, 34). During iron extraction and quarrying in the nineteenth century, several sites were disturbed, often without being fully recorded other than by a newspaper article, and artefacts were often discarded (Barnes 1968). Archaeological evidence has shown the importance of coastal exploitation, particularly centred on large parts of the west coast of Walney Island, with sites, consisting mainly of casual flint finds from exposures, located on sand dunes. Flint concentrations show that people were working beach pebbles, which probably originated from Antrim or were washed up from a reef under the Irish Sea (Barnes 1968; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000), into microliths. Coastal midden deposits, mainly of shell-fish, are thin, suggesting seasonal occupation on the coastal plain where food was more plentiful. The population followed hunter-gatherer exploitation patterns, the seasonal round involving following the movement of animals; Mesolithic activity would have encompassed the creation of small-scale clearings and the use of fire to provide grassland to attract game.
- 3.2.5 Fieldwalking in Furness has demonstrated a less intensive lithic distribution pattern than that found on Walney Island, suggesting that Mesolithic activity was concentrated in favoured parts of the landscape. Recent work has shown that groups of hunter-gatherers were present in the Furness Peninsula in the immediate post-glacial period, with cave sites excavated near Ulverston producing remains dated to the ninth millennium BC (Young 2002, 20). The use of cave sites seems to have been common, but rarely intensive; excavations at such sites have uncovered a meagre amount of evidence for activity, including a bone harpoon point from Bonfire Scar Cave, Scales (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 35). Other research from south Cumbrian cave sites such as Levens Park and Kirkhead, would tend to suggest that periodic Mesolithic activity centred around the cave, with small bands of hunter-gatherers exploiting local coastal resources and engaging in small-scale tree clearance (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).
- 3.2.6 **Neolithic period:** there is evidence for activity within Furness throughout the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, from 3500 cal BC onwards; though scarce, pottery and arrowheads of both periods are found side by side. The main artefacts recovered are polished stone axes, adzes and axe-hammers, which are found scattered throughout the area; approximately 90% have been shown by petrological analysis to have been made from volcanic tuff, which was extracted on a seasonal basis from the axe factories of Great Langdale (Barnes 1968; Edmonds 1995; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). Stone hammers have been found across the study area, including a perforated stone implement (Site 03) found in Dalton, which have parallels across the peninsula, including those found in the moss fringes at Lindale (OA North 2003). The findspots within

the study area also comprise three Langdale celts, two axes and an adze (Sites **02**, **04** and **05**).

- 3.2.7 There is limited evidence of cultivation of the land during the early Neolithic period, but it seems likely that Neolithic peoples would have continued to exploit the wetland areas on a seasonal basis. Fragments of Neolithic trackways were uncovered during excavations in south Cumbria, and evidence from excavations in Bardsea found the remains of a red deer, scavenged by a dog but originally probably brought to the shore by Neolithic hunters (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).
- 3.2.8 The absence of monuments and settlement on the coastal plain is notable, though recent pastoral and agricultural activity may have seriously affected the known distribution pattern (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). An early Neolithic occupation site has recently been discovered at Roose Quarry to the south-west of Dalton and, at Holbeck Park Avenue, on the eastern edge of Barrow-in-Furness, an assemblage of regional significance was recovered, comprising 106 fragments of early Neolithic pottery, 40 fragments of struck flint and a copious quantity of charcoal along with carbonised grain and hazelnut (OA North 2002).
- 3.2.9 **Bronze Age:** during this period, evidence can be seen of more extensive settlement across the peninsula, when expansion out from the established Neolithic settlements on the West Coast resulted in the establishment of high densities of cairnfields and settlement on the adjacent, marginal areas of the South West fells. A detailed and comprehensive survey programme of the Lake District, undertaken by OA North in its former guise as Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU), has recorded over 14,000 monuments from 85sqkm of the region's marginal uplands (Quartermaine and Leech forthcoming).
- 3.2.10 A significant concentration of later Bronze Age artefacts has been found around the village of Urswick, an area of low coastal hills to the east of Dalton (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 45). Close to Dalton, large enclosures such as those at Skelmore Heads and Stainton may have their origins at this time (Barnes 1968). Bronze Age finds from this area include an axe hammer from Dowdales School (Site **12**). Two corroded copper weapons, possibly Bronze Age battle-axes, were discovered around 1805 on the Hags to the west of the survey area, since lost (Walton 1984, English Heritage 2003). A Middle Bronze Age spearhead was recovered from the wall of Dalton Castle where it had been used as building material (Site **06**).
- 3.2.11 A large number of burial mounds within the study area are dated to this period. The late Bronze Age inhumation burials at Butts Beck and Goldmire Quarry, to the north of Dalton-in-Furness provide evidence of later Bronze Age activity in the vicinity of Dalton. However, the inhumations themselves are extremely rare, as cremation burials appear to be more common in this period. A further potential Bronze Age site is represented by the recovery of a single fragment of a Bronze Age urn, to the south-west of the site in the modern settlement of Roose (Jones 2001).

- 3.2.12 **Iron Age:** Iron Age activity is not well represented within the archaeological record for the region. Bucket-shaped pottery, with parallels to artefacts found on Scottish Iron Age broch sites, has been found on some sites, and flint-working of beach pebbles appears to have also carried on into the Iron Age (Barnes 1968). Some substantial Iron Age stone-built settlements and hillforts, such as the hillfort at Castlehead, near Meathop, are also found to the east of the area.
- 3.2.13 **Romano-British period:** Barnes (1968) states: ‘evidence of Roman occupation in Furness is entirely wanting’, and little more is known. The archaeological evidence for the Romano-British period around Dalton-in-Furness consists mostly of findspots, with no structural remains having as yet been found. A postulated Agricolan Roman fort was suggested in 1775 by Father Thomas West, thought to have been located on the raised plateau north of the study area, now occupied by the site of church of St Mary. A series of earthworks (Site 08) were excavated by William Close, a local historian prior to their being levelled during extensions to the churchyard in 1850; he concluded they were undated but probably medieval and could represent the site of a plague pit (English Heritage 2003). No subsequent evidence has been recovered (Walton 1984), though a single putative Roman coin was found in a garden on the east side of Scalegate in 1804 (Site 01). Human skeletons with associated Roman coins were also found within mine workings at Elliscales ‘before 1835’ to the north of Dalton (English Heritage 2003).
- 3.2.14 Shotter (1995) has argued that the relatively large number of Roman coins found in south Cumbria, particularly in the Furness Peninsula, suggests a large degree of interaction between the Romans and the native population, and raises the possibility that a fort may yet be discovered. Finds of coins include sites at Castlehead hillfort near Meathop, which has produced a large number of artefacts, and a considerable number of Roman artefacts in the parish of Cartmel, in particular a coin hoard of 524 pieces, the latest minted in AD 250. This suggests some contact with local tribes, perhaps by trading. Burial cairns on Sizergh Fell, and bracelets and other finds in a cave at Haverbrack, provide evidence of an indigenous population in the Romano-British period (Satchel 1983). Other finds include a tombstone from Lindale (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).
- 3.2.15 The remains of what is widely considered to be the principal Roman thoroughfare from the Furness peninsula into Cumberland were uncovered by workmen digging a drain at Thwaite Flat in 1803 (West 1805, 9). The ancient metalled surface was found to extend across the meadow in the swampy vale of Goldmire, close to Goldmire Bridge, 10m to the north of the present route of Hawthwaite Lane.
- 3.2.16 **Early Medieval period:** as is the case throughout Cumbria, evidence for early medieval activity is extremely limited. English speaking people had begun to enter the eastern parts of the country from the fifth century onwards and were successful in implementing their authority to the east of the Pennines. The presence of Anglo-Saxon speakers in the area is traceable through local place names, which show particular influence from the kingdom of Northumbria, and, later, Scandinavian influence in the ninth and tenth centuries. Dalton, Ulverston, Aldingham and Bardsea are of Anglian derivation (Dalton coming

from *dael tun* meaning ‘valley farmstead’ – English Heritage 2003), whilst Biggar, Hawcoat and Scales are of Viking origin (Armstrong *et al* 1950). The Vikings are thought to have established coastal bridgeheads, such as Barrow (derived from the Scandinavian *Barrai* – Barnes 1968), before settling in the higher regions of Furness.

- 3.2.17 The early settlement at Dalton was thought to have focussed at the western end of the current village, centred on the land where the castle, church and market place now stand; no evidence of this early settlement now exists, though Collingwood speculates that the earthworks in the churchyard (Site **08**) levelled in 1850 could relate to this early settlement (cited in English Heritage 2003).
- 3.2.18 **Medieval period:** the Domesday Book of 1086 records that Earl Tostig, brother of King Harold, had held a large estate until 1065, which focused on *Hougun*, encompassing the Furness peninsula, and whose caput manor was at Haume north of Dalton (*‘in Hougun Manor, Earl Tostig had...in Daltune 2 Carucates’* - English Heritage 2003, 6). *Daltune* was one of the twenty-six townships which constituted the manor of *Hougun* (Baines 1825). In the immediate post-Conquest period, the separate manors were united under the overlordship of Lancaster, and Dalton was chosen as the manorial seat. This estate was then part of the Yorkshire region of Amounderness.
- 3.2.19 In 1127, the then king Stephen, gave his forest of Furness (almost all of lower Furness and parts of upper Furness) to Ewan D’Avranches, a monk based at Tulketh near Preston, but originally from the Abbey of Savigny in France (Farrer and Brownbill 1906). The grant of land in Furness, combined with the possibilities of the resources of stone, timber, iron and lead, caused Ewan and a group of Savignac monks to move the abbey to Dalton (Baines 1825), to Beckansgill one mile south of the town; a start was made on the construction of the great Abbey of St Mary, now known as Furness Abbey (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 57).
- 3.2.20 It seems likely that the abbot, as overlord of Furness from 1227, had his administrative headquarters at Dalton, and it is probable that an earlier building on the site of the castle at Dalton (Site **06**) was used for this purpose. A courthouse, prison and the castle are first mentioned in a document dated 1257 (English Heritage 2003).
- 3.2.21 A royal charter was obtained in 1239 for weekly market in Dalton and a fair between the 31st October and 2nd November and, in 1246, a second royal grant was made for another fair on the 12th–14th October (English Heritage 2003). The abbey prospered under successive kings, and with it the town of Dalton prospered, becoming the market town for the area. In 1283, the abbot of Furness Abbey objected to the establishment of Ulverston market as it was having a detrimental effect on trade at Dalton (English Heritage 2003). In 1306, the town was taxed for the only time as a borough (*ibid*). In the *Coucher Book of Furness Abbey* (Brownbill 1916; 1919), an account is given of the lands and tenements in the town, and mentions 96 burgages, which seem similar in plan to those shown on nineteenth century maps.

- 3.2.22 The power of the Abbey was unchallenged in Furness by the end of the twelfth century. The Abbey became wealthy through farming and trade, particularly in wool and grain. Farms were also let to tenants; the local populace served the Abbey, and claimed benefits such as food, education and employment from the Abbey in return (Barnes 1968). Dalton was the chief secular centre for the abbey both for trade and administration, and acted as the parish and market focus for the region until the dissolution of the monastery, whereupon the settlement declined and Ulverston took over as the market centre (Walton 1984). The economy and industry of the town was enhanced by mills, of which the abbey owned five in Bekansgill by 1537.
- 3.2.23 The earliest accounts of medieval iron mining in the locality come from the *Coucher Book of Furness Abbey* (Brownbill 1916; 1919), a domestic account and record of events. The source of ore would have been the red haematite ore of the Furness district, and bloomeries would have been established adjacent to flowing water for washing the ore, though little mention is made in the book regarding how much ironstone was worked, or the sources of fuel (Knoop 1908). Bloomery mounds were encountered on the north fringe of Heathwaite moss during the North West Wetlands Survey (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 57). A considerable quantity of iron would have been used by the Abbey and surrounding tenants, who were bestowed each year with a ton of livery ore for repairing farm equipment (Knoop 1908). Mines are mentioned in documents at Elliscales (recorded in 1271 as ‘Allinscales’), Orgrave (recorded in 1235 and meaning literally ‘ore diggings’), and Marton (recorded in 1396) (Trescaheric 1993, English Heritage 2003).
- 3.2.24 In the fourteenth century, there were several Scottish incursions, perhaps at least in part as a result of the temptation of the iron supplies, which were not available in Scotland (Farrer and Brownbill 1906). The raiders normally attacked north-west England along the fertile Eden valley, but in 1316 they came west from Richmond ‘*laying waste everything as far as Furness, and burnt that district whither they had not come before, taking away with them all the goods of the district, with men and women as prisoners*’ (from the *Chronicles of Lanercost*, cited in English Heritage 2003). The existing Dalton Castle (Site 06) was probably built by the abbots of Furness shortly after these raids, possibly on the site of a courthouse and prison mentioned in 1257, and destroyed by the Scots (Jackson 1990). The actual date is unknown as no licence to fortify was ever issued (English Heritage 2003).
- 3.2.25 The dissolution of the Abbey in 1537 marked the end of the great monastic period. The Abbot was forced to surrender the Abbey to the king, though he was rewarded, and the monks were dismissed with ‘a warning to remember those who had lately been hanged’. The Abbey was dismantled and left to ruin (Farrer and Brownbill 1906); continuous stone-robbing in the area resulted in dressed stone later finding its way into farms and field walls. Dalton Castle (Site 06) also passed to the crown, and by 1545 was ‘in great ruin’, as the abbots had let it decline due to financial considerations. A survey by John Prestons, Deputy Steward of the Liberty of Furness, and William Sandes, Receiver, recorded that ‘all the floors are rotten because the roof of the said castle is also decayed for lack of thatch. The lime of the walls is washed out,

so that the said walls are partly decayed at the corners, and other places, the cost of the repair estimated at £20 at least'; repairs were eventually made using material from Furness Abbey in 1546 (Jackson 1990, 52). In the sixteenth century, a school at Dalton is mentioned, though this was probably not in a dedicated building; William Rede, believed to be a former monk, was dismissed in 1533 from keeping school at Dalton because he objected when '*a certain commissary and William Ashburner, one of the clergy at Dalton, had been persuading people to pay Peter's Pence to the Papacy, in defiance of the Act forbidding this*' (English Heritage 2003).

- 3.2.26 **Post-Medieval period:** the town was ravaged by plagues and harvest failure in the sixteenth and seventeenth century. In the earliest parish register for Dalton (between May 1565 and 1648), it is recorded that the harvest failed in 1597 for the fourth year in a row, with the death-rates peaking in the spring and winter of that year; this is suggestive of a plague epidemic (English Heritage 2003). In 1623, 154 deaths are recorded, and in 1624 a further 59 were buried; half the population died within only a few months and all trade and industry ceased (*ibid*). According to tradition, the dead were buried in a common grave at the eastern end of the churchyard, the site marked with a mound (Site 08) (subsequently levelled in 1850 when the churchyard was extended) (*ibid*). During the plague years, the markets were moved to Anty Cross south of the town and operated in a reduced form; this led to the dominance of Ulverston market for trade in the area (*ibid*). After the final plague in the area in 1631, the appearance of the town was improved when many of the old buildings were pulled down and rebuilt.
- 3.2.27 The Civil Wars were marked by brief conflicts near Dalton and Howcoat in 1643-4. On the 11th of May 1643, a Royalist army arrived at Conishead after crossing the sands from Lancaster. The population of Dalton offered no resistance, and the army remained in Furness for three days, plundering whatever they pleased. The army only departed after being paid £500 and disarming the locals (*ibid*). Dalton Castle (Site 06) was used by the Royalists to imprison Parliamentarians during the Civil Wars (Walton 1984). The castle was granted to the Duke of Albermarle in 1662, and then passed to the dukes of Buccleuch who made extensive interior and exterior alterations between 1704 and 1856. The castle was used as a gaol until c1774, and by the nineteenth century served as an armoury for local volunteers (Jackson 1990). The manor courts of the Liberty of Furness were held there until 1925; by this time parts of the ground floor were used as a stables and the castle was in a dilapidated condition (English Heritage 2003).
- 3.2.28 In 1774, Dalton was described as '*a miserable antiquated vill, once the pride, now the shame of Furness...the only trade is a little malting for home consumption*'; in the mid eighteenth century there were only 50 baptisms a year. Furness was essentially a pastoral community; in 1836 there were no manufacturers in the parish except hand-loom weaving at Dalton, along with a small amount of malting (English Heritage 2003).
- 3.2.29 The first school building constructed in Dalton was the Free School, constructed in 1622, on land now occupied by the Chequers Hotel (Site 10). The school was founded by Thomas Boulton, a native of Dalton. In his will

dated 22nd of November 1622, he bequeathed £220 for the purpose, £20 towards the building of the school and remaining £200 to purchase land which was to be rented out. The income from the land paid the wages of the school-master, with a deduction of 20 shillings a year for maintenance of the school. Education for the children of the parish was free of charge; children from outside the parish had to pay an entrance fee of 12 pence (Walton 1984). Between 1845 and 1861 the school was divided into a classical school and a national school. The buildings were demolished in 1861, and a new school opened on the site between 1861 and 1862. This new school is now occupied by the Chequers Hotel (English Heritage 2003).

- 3.2.30 The church of St Mary's (Site 11) was rebuilt in 1883 by Austin and Paley, replacing a church which was described as being poor and indifferent (English Heritage 2003). In 1788, the church is recorded as comprising a chancel, nave, and north and south aisle, with no mention of any earlier fabric other than the font (which is of fourteenth century date), and some ancient stained glass windows. A gallery was also built in 1767. The tower was the oldest part, believed to be Norman in date, and Norman elements were also preserved in the porch (*ibid*). A workhouse was built in 1826 on Goose Green, but was closed by 1836 and the inmates transferred to Ulverston (*ibid*).
- 3.2.31 The exploitation of the Dalton Iron Field, which began in the 1830s, changed the economy of the region dramatically. The area of Whitriggs, north of Dalton, was utilised to fulfil the need for ore, which had the effect of reshaping the landscape, dotting it with shallow pits (McFadzen 1996, 9). The demand for Furness iron brought with it an influx of workmen and capital to the region. The population of Dalton tripled between 1841 and 1871 due to a migration of miners to the iron field, principally from Yorkshire, the Isle of Man, Cornwall, and Wales (Walton 1984). The second half of the nineteenth century saw the transformation of Dalton to a mining town, evidence of which can be seen today in the extant rows of terraced houses built in this period for the miners (Walton 1981). These buildings are now protected as European Urban Areas of Importance, with the south of the town designated as an area of high importance, and the north of the old town as an area of limited importance (English Heritage 2003). In 1839 there were three main firms in the Dalton district: Harrison, Anslie & Co (Linda Moor), the Ulverston Mining Company (Linda Cote), and Thomas Fisher (Butts Beck, Whitriggs). By 1844, ore production had expanded to 50,000 tons *per annum* and by 1855 the number of mining companies in Furness increased to eight, and Dalton was surrounded by mine workings (Knoop 1908).
- 3.2.32 The Furness Railway was first established in 1846 as a mineral line to carry haematite to Barrow, and the branch line which runs up the coast of the Duddon estuary, the Whitehaven and Furness Junction, was completed in 1850 (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 53).
- 3.2.33 The later years of the nineteenth century saw 'depression, reduced dividends, unsuccessful ventures and blighted hopes' for those working in the iron industry (Walton 1987), and by the end of the century the impetus was gone. The Furness Railway had been profitable when carrying a substantial amount of haematite ore, but the ore deposits had been worked out too quickly, and the

railway was taken over by the LMS in 1923. Mines closed and miners emigrated (Trescaheric 1992). The 1914-18 war provided some respite, and Barrow, always the largest works, survived through the Second World War. The ironworks was closed in 1963 and the small steelworks closed in 1984, a tiny remnant of the once largest works in the world (Trescaheric 1992).

4. WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The site had been previously stripped of concrete, and eight 1m x 1m piled footings excavated around the perimeter of the proposed development. A 1m wide trench was excavated between western footings to a maximum depth of 0.35m (Fig 7).
- 4.1.2 The ground consisted of a mid-brown silty-soil with a large number of angular stones throughout, overlying natural bedrock located a maximum of 0.2m below the surface. Examination of the eastern footings revealed post-medieval building debris, but no archaeological features were discovered during the watching brief, and no finds were recovered.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 Despite the site being located on the site a free school founded in 1622, and close to the Church of St Mary, Dalton Castle, and the medieval market place, the watching brief did not reveal any archaeological deposits or features. The absence of archaeological features is most likely due to presence of bedrock so close to the surface of the site.

5.2 IMPACT

- 5.2.1 The watching brief observed the groundworks through to the natural bedrock. Therefore, there will be no impact on below ground archaeological remains by any future development.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

6.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

Maps & Plans

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT CHEQUERS HOTEL, 10 ABBEY ROAD, DALTON-IN-FURNESS CUMBRIA

Issued by the

County Archaeology Service
Environment Unit, Community Economy and Environment



COUNTY COUNCIL

Date of Brief: 16 November 2004

This Design Brief is only valid for 1 year after the above date. After this period the County Archaeology Service should be contacted. Any specification resulting from this Brief will only be considered for the same period.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY

Site: Chequers Hotel, 10 Abbey Road, Dalton-in-Furness

Grid Reference: SD 2265 7384

Planning Application No.: 6/03/1053

Detailed proposals and tenders are invited from appropriately resourced, qualified and experienced archaeological contractors to undertake the archaeological project outlined by this Brief and to produce a report on that work. The work should be under the direct management of either an Associate or Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, or equivalent. No fieldwork may commence until approval of a specification has been issued by the County Archaeology Service.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cumbria County Council's Archaeology Service (CCCAS) has been consulted by Barrow Borough Council regarding a planning application for an extension at Chequers Hotel, 10 Abbey Road, Dalton-in-Furness.
- 2.2 The scheme affects an area of archaeological significance and consequently a programme of archaeological works (a watching brief) during the course of the ground works is required.
- 2.3 This advice is given in accordance with guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (Archaeology and Planning), policy 26 of the County Structure Plan, and policy D29 of the Barrow Local Plan.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site is located within the historic market town of Dalton-in-Furness. It lies close to the Church of St Mary which stands on the site of its medieval predecessor (SMR no. 2284), Dalton Castle (SMR no. 4381), and the medieval market place. Furthermore, the Chequers Hotel stands on the site of a free school for children of the town which was founded in 1622 (SMR no. 2283).

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

- 4.1 *Objectives*
 - 4.1.1 To identify any surviving archaeological remains within the development ground works and to investigate and record any revealed archaeological remains or deposits.
- 4.2 *Work Required*
 - 4.2.1 Before any on site work commences the County Sites and Monuments Record should be consulted and a *rapid* desk-based survey of the existing resource undertaken. This should include an assessment of those primary and secondary sources referenced in the County Sites and Monuments Record.
 - 4.2.2 All topsoil stripping, footings, services trenches and trench cutting must be carried out under archaeological supervision. Any putative archaeological features must then be cleaned by hand and if possible a stratigraphic record made. Finds and environmental samples should be retrieved as appropriate. A reasonable period of uninterrupted access should be allowed to the archaeologist for all necessary archaeological recording.

SPECIFICATION

- 5.1 Before the project commences a specification must be submitted to and approved by the County Archaeologist.

- 5.2 Proposals to meet this Brief should take the form of a detailed specification prepared in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed. 1991, and must include:
- ❖ A description of the methods of observation and recording system to be used
 - ❖ A description of the finds and environmental sampling strategies to be used
 - ❖ A description of the post excavation and reporting work that will be undertaken
 - ❖ Details of key project staff, including the names of the project manager, site supervisor, finds and environmental specialists and any other specialist sub-contractors to be employed
 - ❖ Details of on site staffing, e.g. the number of people to be employed on site per day
 - ❖ A projected timetable for all site work and post excavation work (through to final publication of results)
- 5.3 Any significant variations to the proposal must be agreed by the County Archaeologist in advance.

REPORTING AND PUBLICATION

- 6.1 The archaeological work should result in a report, this should include as a minimum:
- ❖ A site location plan, related to the national grid
 - ❖ A front cover/frontispiece which includes the planning application number and the national grid reference of the site
 - ❖ A concise, non-technical summary of the results
 - ❖ A description of the methodology employed, work undertaken, and the results obtained
 - ❖ Plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of deposits and finds located
 - ❖ A brief photographic record of the site must be included, showing any features of archaeological interest. Where the results of the project revealed no significant archaeological remains a single photograph showing an indicative section of trench will suffice.
 - ❖ A list of, and dates for, any finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified
 - ❖ A description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained
 - ❖ The dates on which the project was undertaken
- 6.2 Three copies of the report should be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within six months of completion of fieldwork. This will be on the understanding that the report will be made available as a public document through the County Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.3 A summary report should be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. If archaeological remains of significance are identified, one or more full reports should also be submitted to a suitable journal or other publication in due course.
- 6.4 *Cumbria SMR is taking part in the pilot study for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> must therefore also be completed as part of the project. Information on projects undertaken in Cumbria will be made available through the above website, unless otherwise agreed.*

THE ARCHIVE

- 7.1 An archive must be prepared in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed. 1991, and arrangements made for its deposit with an appropriate repository. A copy shall also be offered to the National Monuments Record.
- 7.2 The landowner should be encouraged to transfer the ownership of finds to a local or relevant specialist museum. The museum's requirements for the transfer and storage of finds should be discussed before the project commences.
- 7.3 The County Archaeological Service must be notified of the arrangements made.

PROJECT MONITORING

- 8.1 One weeks notice must be given to the County Archaeology Service prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 8.2 Fieldwork may be monitored by the Assistant Archaeologist on behalf of the local planning authority.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to establish safe working practices in terms of current health and safety legislation, to ensure site access and to obtain notification of hazards (eg. services, contaminated ground, etc.). **The County Archaeology Service bears no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief or subsequent specification.**
- 9.2 The Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists must be followed.
- 9.3 The involvement of the County Archaeology Service should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding this Brief, contact

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service to all our clients we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this design brief. Please address them to the Assistant Archaeologist at the above address.

APPENDIX 2: GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site Number	01
Site name	Scalegate Coin
SMR No	2286
NGR	332540 474080
Site Type	Findspot
Period	Roman
Source	SMR
Description	An alleged Roman coin or piece of lead bearing the word “SOL” in Roman letters found in 1804 in a garden on the east side of Scalegate in 1804. Present location unknown.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	02
Site name	Dalton Adze
SMR No	2301
NGR	322930 474040
Site Type	Findspot
Period	Neolithic
Source	English Heritage 2003
Description	A stone adze was found in Market Street, Dalton. It measured approximately 3” long, 2.5” broad, and 1” thick. The hole is approximately 0.75” in diameter. The cutting edge was worn and chipped and approximately 3” long. It had smooth surfaces. It is currently held at Barrow Museum (Acc No 5015).
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	03
Site name	Perforated Stone Axe Hammer, Dalton-in-Furness
SMR No	2302
NGR	322800 474200
Site Type	Findspot
Period	Unknown
Source	English Heritage 2003
Description	A polished perforated stone axe hammer was found at Dalton measuring 8” long, 3.5” wide and 3” thick. It is currently held at Barrow Museum (Acc No 5277). This may be the same one which was found in the garden of 5, Lime Street in 1954.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	04
Site name	Dalton Celts
SMR No	2342
NGR	32300 47400
Site Type	Celts
Period	Neolithic
Source	English Heritage 2003
Description	Two polished chipped stone celts were found at a sale in Ulverston in 1909 and are “presumably local”. They were previously in a collection, which belonged to the North Lonsdale Field Club, but are now at Barrow Museum (Acc No U8, U9). They are made of black stone. One is 7” long and 2” broad, tapering to 0.75”, 1.75” thick, with a cutting edge 2” long. The other is 7” long, 2.5” broad, tapering to 1”, 2” thick, with a cutting edge 2.5” long.
Assessment	It is difficult to assess the potential of this site without a confirmed grid reference.

Site Number	05
Site name	Dalton Celt
SMR No	2707
NGR	323000 474000
Site Type	Celts
Period	Neolithic
Source	English Heritage 2003
Description	A polished stone celt (Langdale stone) was found at Dalton in 1902. It is currently at Barrow Museum Acc No 5283. It measures approximately 11" long, 3" broad and 2" thick.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	06
Site name	Dalton Castle Pele Tower, Prison, Dalton-in-Furness
SMR No	4381
NGR	SD 322610 473940
Site Type	Pele Tower; Prison
Period	Medieval
Listed	Grade I
Source	Baines 1824; English Heritage 2003; OS 6" (1850) Sheet 16
Description	A Pele Tower was built in the mid-14 th century, repaired in 1545, remodelled in 1704 and 1856, and re-roofed in 1907. The monument includes the upstanding and below ground remains of Dalton Castle. It was formerly used as the manorial courthouse of Furness Abbey. Although the precise date of construction of Dalton Castle is unknown, it is considered to have replaced an earlier gaol or courthouse, which was possibly destroyed by Scottish raiders known to have been active in the Furness peninsula in 1316 and again in 1322 under the leadership of Robert the Bruce. Originally built to resist further Scottish invasions, Dalton Castle would have contained a courtroom, gaol, guardrooms, stores and a crenellated parapet. After the dissolution of Furness Abbey in 1537, the castle passed initially to the Crown, then into private hands. However, it continued as a courthouse for over 300 years. An MBA looped spear head, 7 1/8" long with nearly square mid-ribs and decorated with chevrons (type IIIA) was said to have been found in the walls of the castle.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	07
Site name	Dalton Cross, Fish Stone, Stocks, Dalton-in-Furness
SMR No	4382
NGR	322630 473950
Site Type	Cross; Market Cross; Stocks; Fish Stones
Period	Post-medieval
Listed	Grade II
Source	Baines 1824; English Heritage 2003; OS 6" (1850) Sheet 16
Description	St Andrew's Cross stands in the market place next to Dalton Castle. There was a circle of stone benches around the base called fish slabs. Close by to it were the stocks and whipping post. The stocks were removed in 1856, and the whipping post remained until 1859. The cross was replaced in 1869.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	08
Site name	Dalton-in-Furness Earthworks
SMR No	2263
NGR	322600 473900
Site Type	Earthworks, site of
Period	Unknown
Source	English Heritage 2003

Description	Earthworks on the eastern side of Dalton Church, said in 1775 by West to be a Roman station, and thought to be medieval by others. They consisted of a ditch and rampart, but were destroyed c1850. There is also a tradition that part of the rampart was found in the vicarage garden adjacent to the churchyard in the beginning of the nineteenth century. West suggested that 'the area of the castellum had probably been all the churchyard, the ground on which the present castle stands...and from that to the precipice on the west side...steep rocks on the south and a precipice on the west side with a rampart and ditch on the east secured the fort from surprise'. There were no traces of any earthworks when visited in August 2001 by CCC, though the site was acknowledged as a good vantage point over the surrounding area.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	09
Site name	Mary Bank Well, Dalton-in-Furness
SMR No	2264
NGR	322650 473780
Site Type	Well, site of
Period	Medieval
Source	English Heritage 2003; OS 6" (1850) Sheet 16
Description	The site of a medieval well, now covered with a large man-hole cover in the pavement when the road was widened.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	10
Site name	Dalton-in-Furness C of E School, now Chequers Restaurant
SMR No	2283
NGR	322640 473840
Site Type	School
Period	Post-medieval
Source	English Heritage 2003; OS 6" (1850) Sheet 16
Description	Site of a school founded in 1622 as a free school for children of the town, with outsiders paying a fee to attend. Between 1854 and 1861 the school was divided into a classical school and a national school. The buildings were demolished in 1861 as they were inadequate. The new school opened on the same site in 1861-2. No traces of the earlier structure remain. The new school is now used as a restaurant.
Assessment	The site lies within the development area, and will be affected.

Site Number	11
Site name	Church of St Mary, Dalton
SMR No	2284
NGR	322580 473890
Site Type	Church
Period	Post-medieval
Listed	Grade II*
Source	English Heritage 2003; OS 6" (1850) Sheet 16
Description	St Mary's church, on the site of an earlier church pre-1195. The earlier church had been much altered and in 1833 was said to consist of a 'chancel and nave without distinction, with north and south aisles, the latter extending quite to the east end, west tower, and north porch of two storeys containing a plain wooden doorway with an early Norman arch with rudely ornamented figures and arched bands'. The present structure is by Paley and Austin and dates from 1882-5. It is described by Pevsner as one of their most spectacular churches.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	12
Site name	Axe hammer Find, Dowdales School, Dalton-in-Furness
SMR No	6394
NGR	322700 474300
Site Type	Findspot
Period	Bronze Age
Source	SMR
Description	An Early Bronze Age axe hammer was found in a ploughed field at Dowdales School by a workman involved in a landscape project in 1956. Currently held at Barrow Museum.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	13
Site name	Cat Crag Quarry, Dalton-in-Furness
SMR No	16147
NGR	322390 474270
Site Type	Limestone Quarry
Period	Post-medieval
Source	OS 6" (1850) Sheet 16
Description	The site of a Limestone quarry. It is not shown on the OS 1895 2 nd edn map, so presumably it became disused after 1850.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	14
Site name	Orton, Tarn Moor Enclosure
SMR No	15152
NGR	367200 508000
Site Type	Enclosure
Period	Unknown
Source	SMR
Description	An odd-shaped sub-rectangular enclosure, aligned north-south, almost completely turf-covered and not more than a foot high. The track to Sunbiggin Farm goes through it. It measures 26.6m by 35.5m approximately.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	15
Site name	Dalton Pound, Dalton-in-Furness
SMR No	16150
NGR	322630 473790
Site Type	Pound
Period	Post-medieval
Listed	Grade II
Source	English Heritage 2003; OS 6" (1850) Sheet 16
Description	Pinfold, late eighteenth to early nineteenth century date, made of limestone rubble. A circular enclosure approximately 10m in diameter and 1-2m in height. Opening in west side with limestone gate-post and twentieth century iron gate.
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

Site Number	16
Site name	Dalton Gas Works, Dalton-in-Furness
SMR No	16169
NGR	322560 473740
Site Type	Gas Works
Period	Post-medieval
Source	English Heritage 2003; OS 6" (1895) Sheet 16

Description	The earlier gas works is shown on the OS second edition at SD 22622 73729, and there is now a commercial car repair workshop there. Later maps show the gas works on the opposite side of the road. The field is still owned by Transco, but is mainly derelict with only a very small modern building on the site
Assessment	The site lies outside the development area, and is unlikely to be affected.

ILLUSTRATIONS

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Figure 7: Schematic plan of area covered by the watching brief

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Plate 1: View of the site looking north-east

Plate 2: Example of a test pit: Pit 7 facing west



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:100,000
 with the permission of the controller of HMSO
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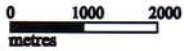


Figure 1: Location Map

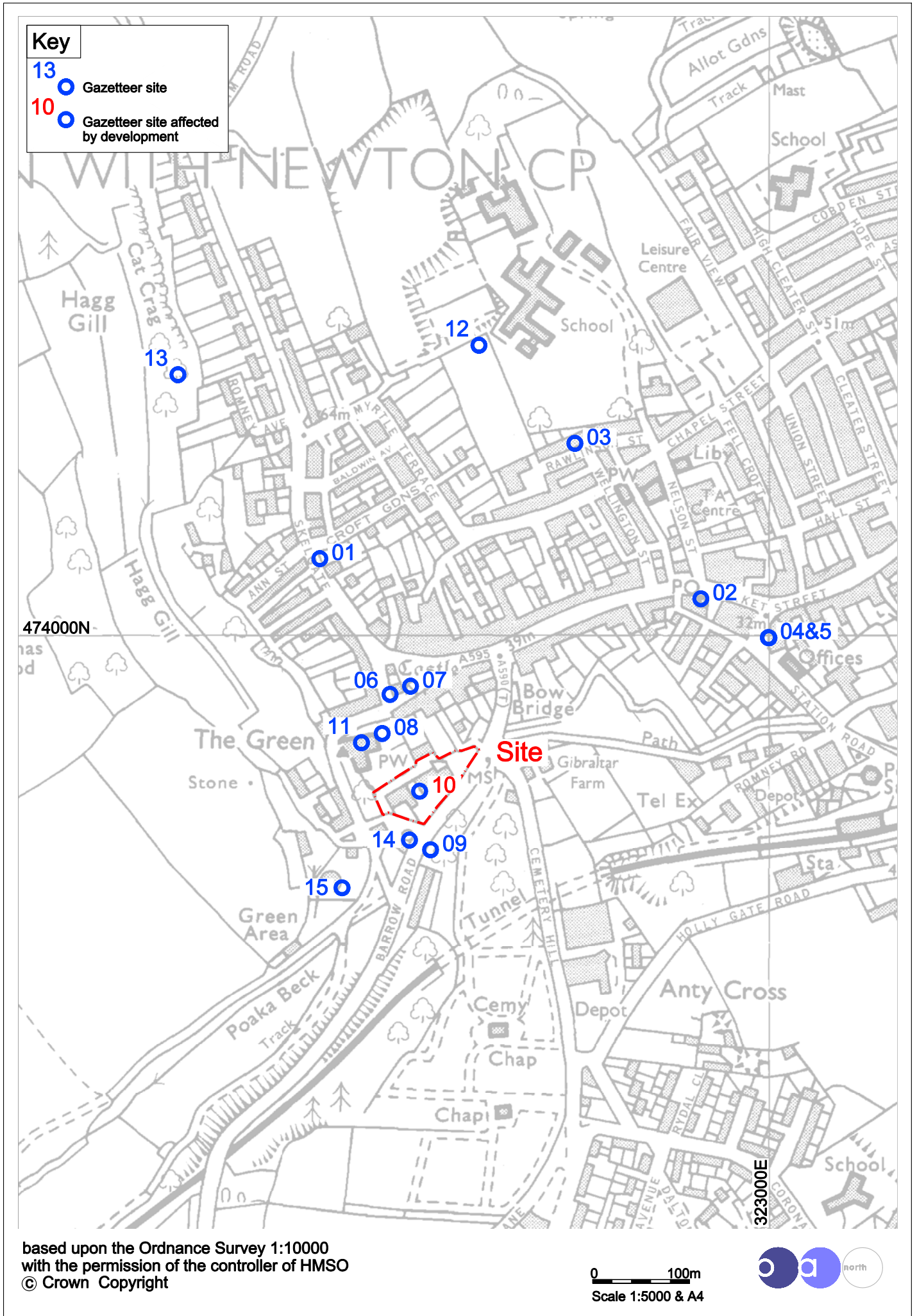
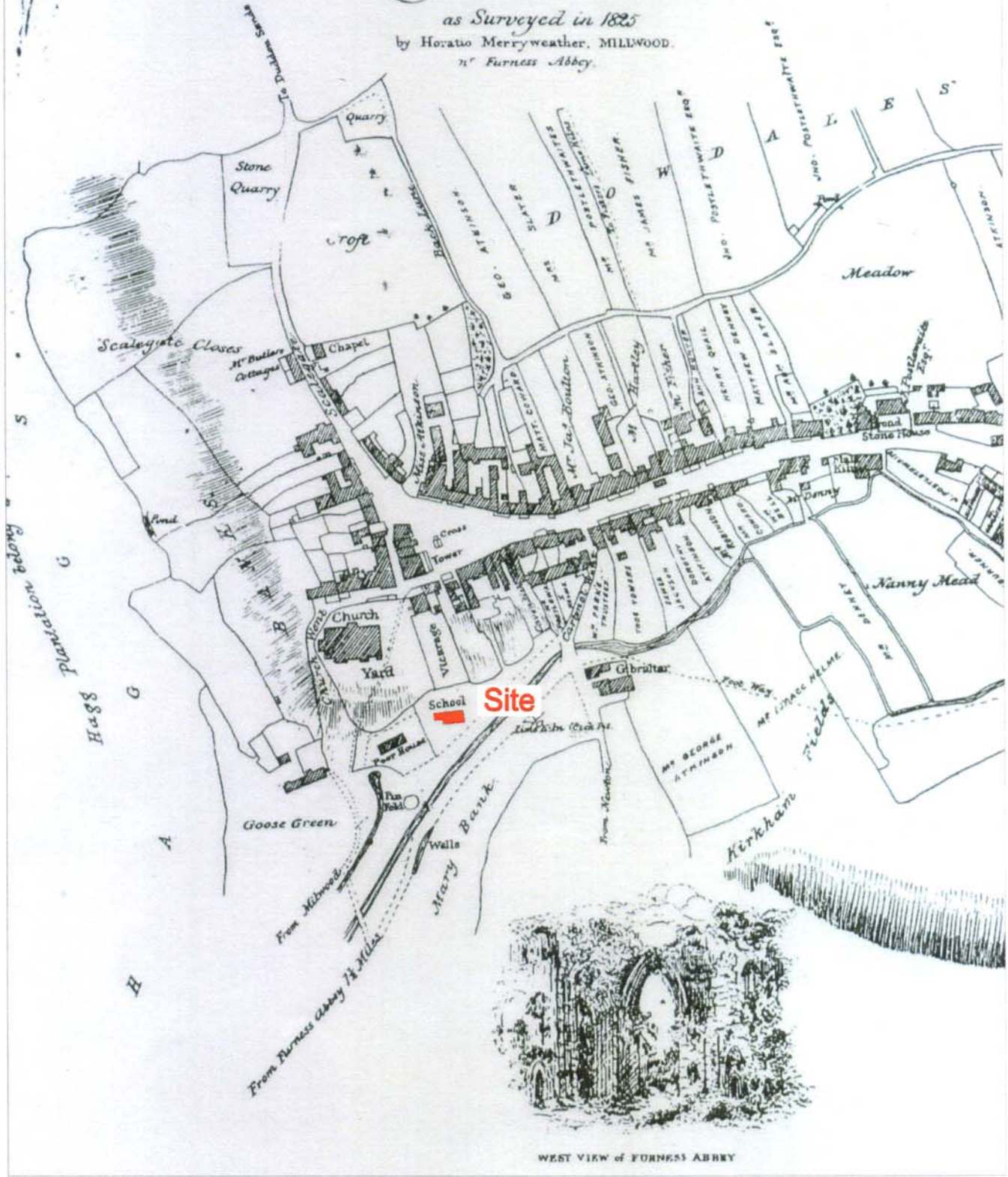


Figure 2: Study area showing gazetteer sites

TOWN OF DALTON

in Low Furness in the
County Palatine of
LANCASTER

as Surveyed in 1825
 by Horatio Merryweather, MILLWOOD,
n^o Furness Abbey.



Not to Scale



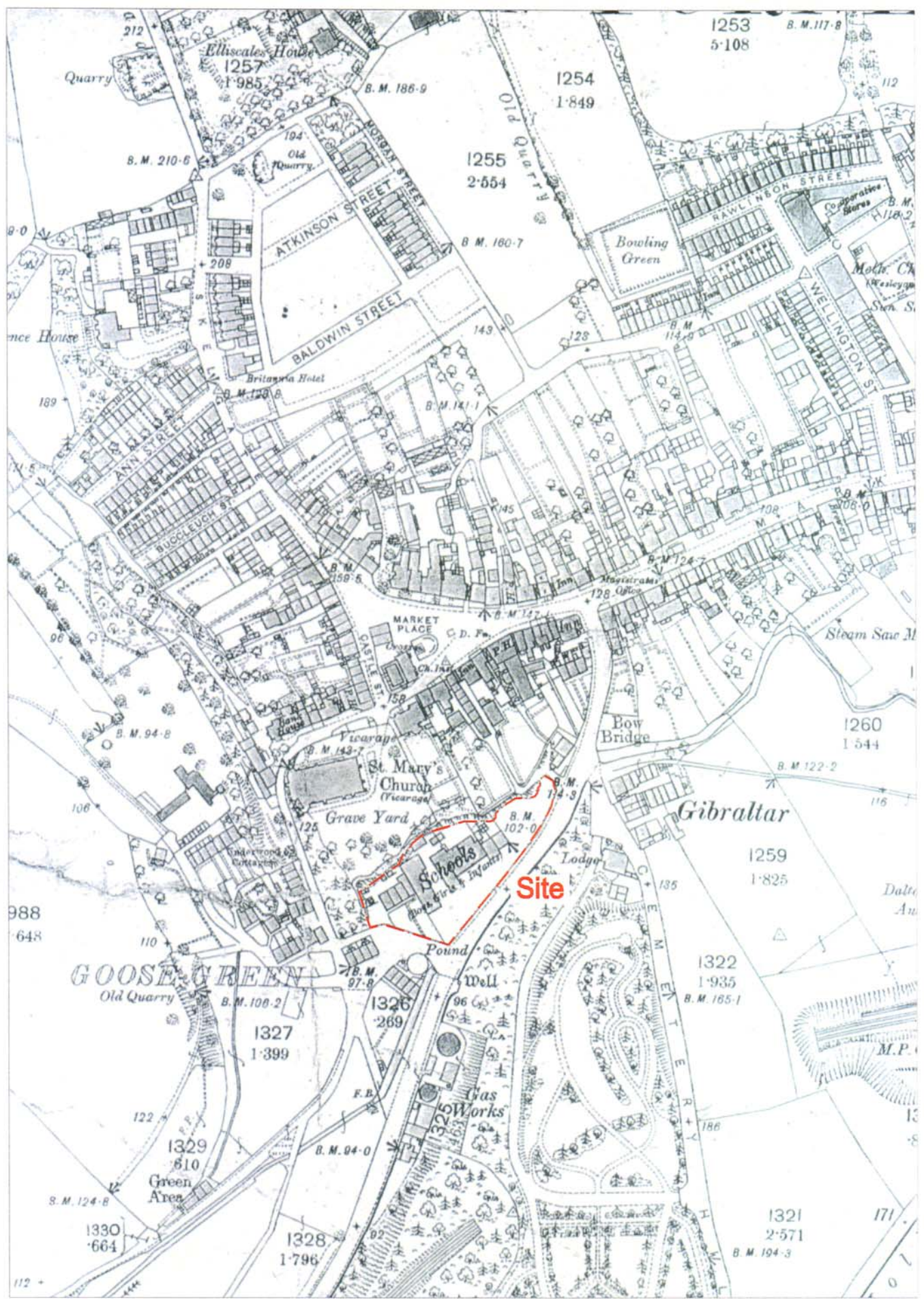
Figure 3: Horatio Merryweather's map of Dalton, 1825



Not to Scale



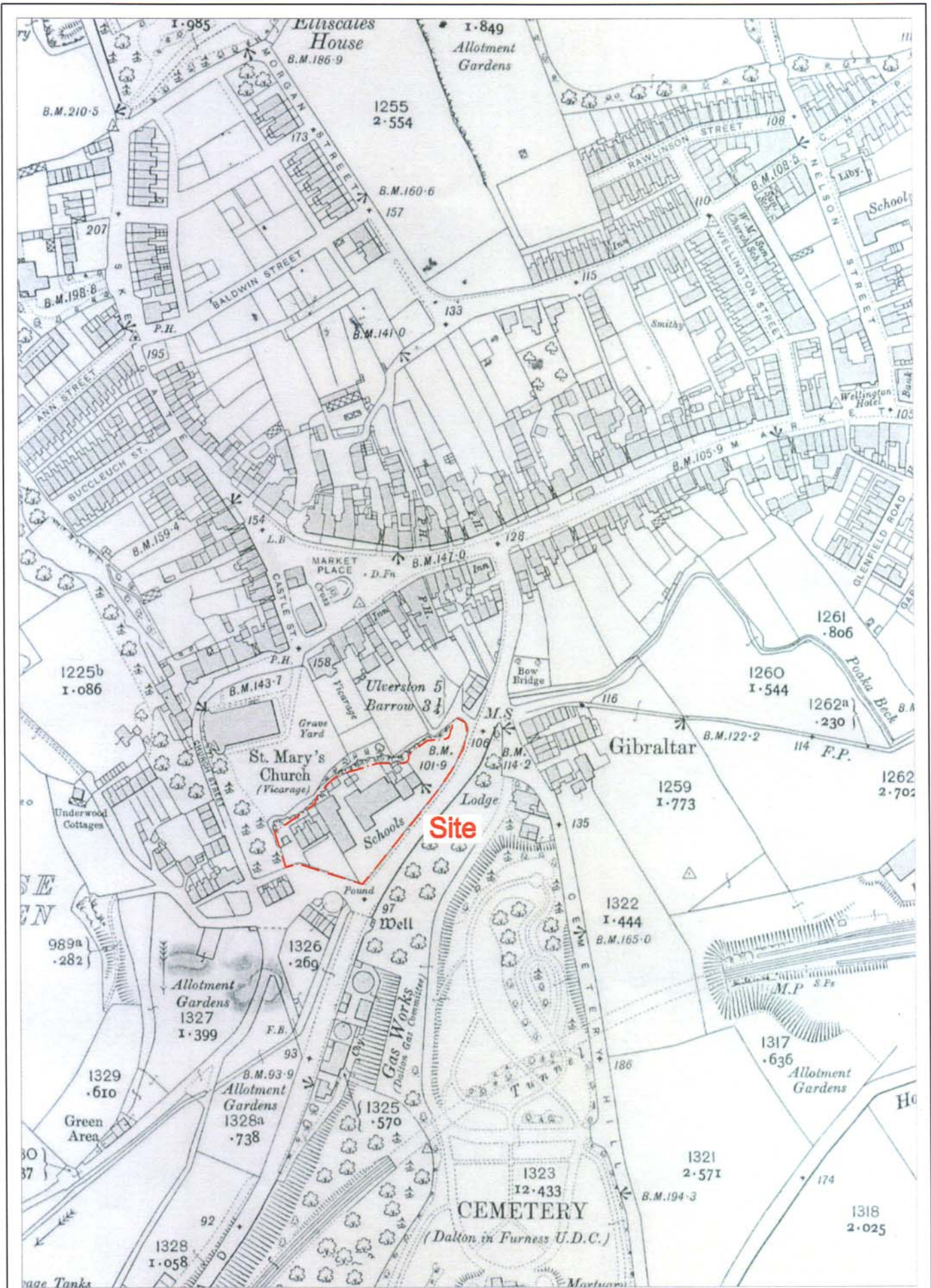
Figure 4: Ordnance Survey first edition map (1851), 6" to 1 mile



Not to Scale



Figure 5: Ordnance Survey first edition map (1890), 25" to 1 mile



Not to Scale



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey second edition map (1913), 25" to 1 mile

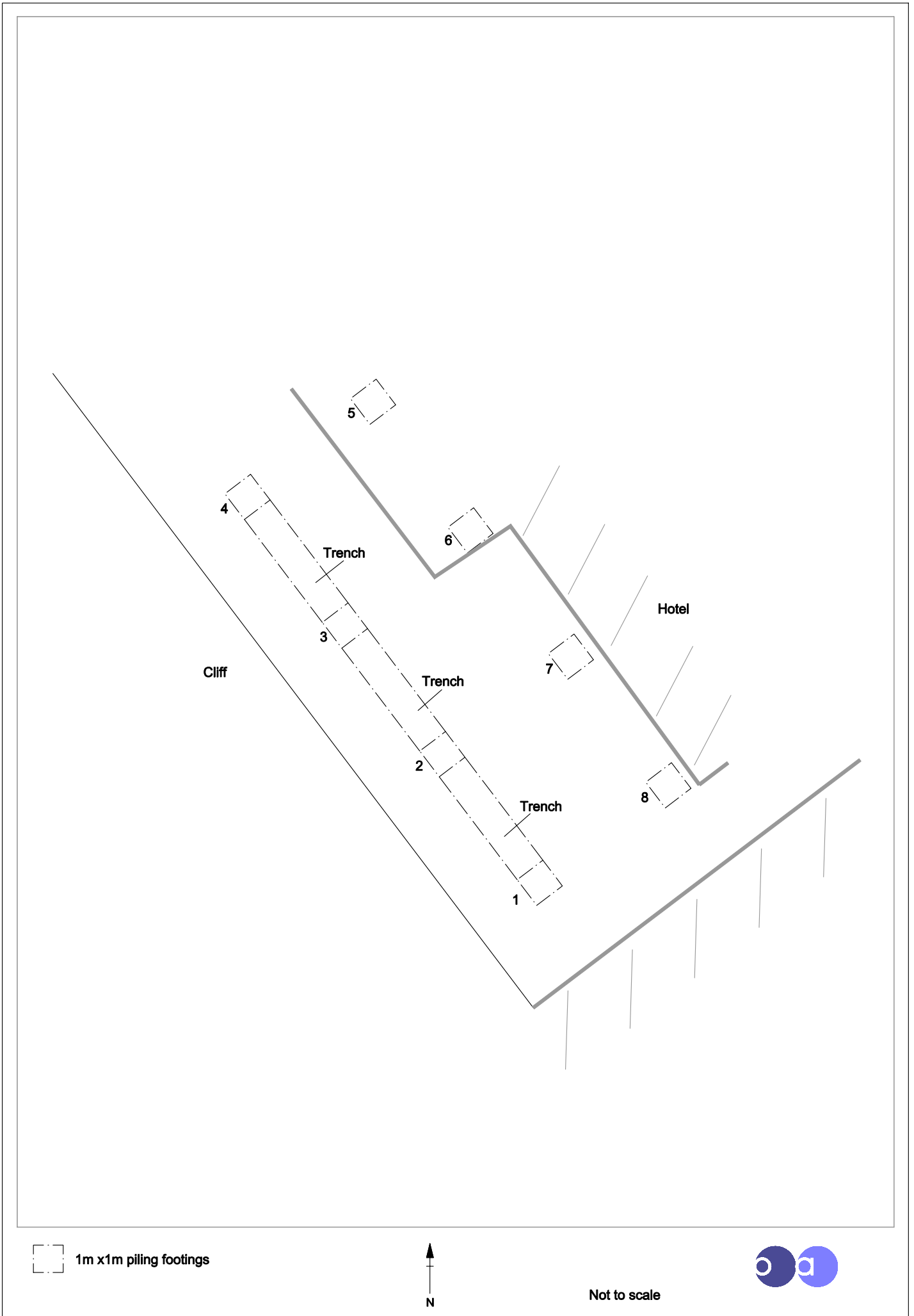


Figure 7: Area covered by watching brief



Plate 1: View of the site looking north-east



Plate 2: Example of a test pit: Pit 7 facing west