

# LOWTHER DEER PARK,

### **CUMBRIA**

Archaeological Survey and Evaluation



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Lowther Estates and Craig Hamilton

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#### **SUMMARY**

An archaeological evaluation and survey was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), on behalf of Lowther Estates in May and August 2003, in Lowther Park, Cumbria, centred on NY 528 234. The area was evaluated in order to inform the proposed construction of a new Estate House and an associated access road. The land for the house lies on the edge of the Decoy Pond, and is within a medieval deer park; cartographic evidence indicates that the eighteenth and early nineteenth century park boundary extended through the area of the proposed estate house.

A trench measuring 50m by 15m was excavated. The trench revealed topsoil overlying sandstone bedrock, but revealed no archaeological features. Although the trench did not reveal the former park boundary there is a possibility that this survives as a sub-surface feature, just to the north of the trench.

In addition a topographic survey was undertaken to examine an area to the north of the proposed house, where it is intended to construct an access road. This revealed a wealth of archaeological features, including parts of the Romano-British enclosed settlement. Most significantly, however, the survey identified a burnt mound, which is a mound of burnt stone surrounding a trough and a hearth; they are typically near a water source and the survey also identified an adjacent palaeochannel which may have provided the water source.

It is recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the groundworks for the construction of the estate house.

If it is decided that the route of the access track should extend through this area, to the north-west of the proposed house, it is recommended that further investigation be undertaken to inform the precise planning of the route. This may entail the use of geophysical survey and further evaluation trenching in order to assess the sub-surface potential of the area and to define the requirement for mitigating the impact of the road. If it is decided to follow a completely different route, then this new line should be subject to a further ground survey to establish the potential for archaeological features.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 An area of land in the area of the Decoy Pond, in Lowther Park, Cumbria (centred NY 528 234) was investigated by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), in order to inform a planning application for a new Estate House. The land is within a medieval deer park, and is to the east of the Decoy Pond.
- 1.1.2 The Lowther Park Estate (Figs 1 and 2) has been the subject of earlier Archaeological Surveys, carried out by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (now OA North), which has made a detailed study of Lowther Park (LUAU 1997a) and the deer park (LUAU 1997b). The proposed site of the new estate house is situated near to the western boundary of the medieval deer park. The documented line of the eighteenth century park boundary crosses through the proposed development area, although there is presently no surviving earthwork or feature marking this line. The site of the proposed estate house is on a large bank or bund overlooking the Decoy Pond, and the possibility was raised that this bank may in part reflect the upcast from the construction of the Decoy Pond, which was substantially enlarged in the late eighteenth / early nineteenth century (it is shown in its expanded state on the OS first edition map (1863)) (Plate 2).
- 1.1.3 It was recognised that the development may potentially impact upon the former boundary and also that there was some uncertainty as to whether the bank was relatively late upcast, so it was agreed with the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) archaeologist that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken to investigate the sub-surface potential of the site.
- 1.1.4 *New Road:* as part of the development it was proposed that a new road be constructed to link the new estate house with an existing park road. This proposed a line extending south-east through an area of archaeological potential identified by the earlier survey (LUAU 1997a), comprising a complex of earthworks. It was required that a basic level of survey be undertaken within this area to examine the archaeological potential of the area and therefore to inform the layout of the road.
- 1.1.5 The work was carried out in accordance with project design (*Appendix 1*), which was based on a verbal brief by John Hodgson, the LDNPA archaeologist. The survey and evaluation were undertaken in May and August 2003.

#### 2. METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North to Lowther Park Estate and to Craig Hamilton for an archaeological survey and evaluation of the Decoy Pond area of Lowther Park to inform a planning application for the proposed estate house development. The project design was based upon a verbal brief by John Hodgson, the LDNPA archaeologist, and provided for a single evaluation trench in the area of the proposed house, and a survey of the area that will potentially be impacted by the access road. The work was undertaken in accordance with the project design.

#### 2.2 TRENCH EXCAVATION

- 2.2.1 A north-east / south-west orientated trench (Fig 4) measuring 50m by 1.5m was excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator. The work was undertaken with a toothed bucket, as no ditching bucket was available. There were two possible positions available for the location of the trench: Trench A or B. However, Trench A was situated within a wooded area, and had very restricted access, so the alternative, Trench B, on the edge of the bund was excavated. The south-westernmost 40m of the trench was on the top of the bund overlooking the Decoy Pond, while the north-eastern 10m of the trench was on the northern slope of the bund.
- 2.2.2 The trench was excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. The recording comprised a full description of the trench on OA North *proforma* sheets, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage. All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. A photographic record, using 35mm black and white and colour slide was maintained. The trenches were located by the use of GPS equipment which is accurate to +/- 0.25m, altitude information was established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. No finds were recovered in the course of the evaluation.

#### 2.3 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 2.3.1 A level 2a survey (OA North 2002) was undertaken of the study area between the Decoy Pond and the Greatholme Plantation enclosed settlement (LUAU 1997b) and in the area of the former amusement park. The survey provided for the outline recording of surface features and included a basic level of hachure survey for the more substantial earthworks. The features were identified by systematic walking along 20m wide transects within the areas (Figs 5 and 6).
- 2.3.2 The features were surveyed using differential GPS equipment, which provides for accuracies of  $\pm 0.25$ m. The GPS created digital data, which was imported into

a cad system (AutoCAD 14), and paper plots of the survey data were produced. The archaeological detail was then drawn up in the field as a dimensioned drawing with respect to the plots. The CAD drawing was superimposed onto the digital mapping provided by the client with the original archaeological survey base data (LUAU 1997b). The survey is accompanied by a gazetteer description of the principal archaeological features, which relate to the survey mapping (*Appendix 2*).

2.3.3 **Photographic Survey:** a photographic archive was generated during the course of the field project comprising landscape and detailed photography. All photography was recorded on photographic pro-forma sheets, which show the subject, orientation, and date. The photography was primarily undertaken with black and white 35mm format for archival purposes, along with digital photography for presentation purposes.

#### 2.4 GAZETTEER OF SITES

2.4.1 All of the information concerning archaeological sites within the assessed area has been collated into a gazetteer (*Appendix 2*), which provides details of their location, period, and character. Locations are given as eight-figure National Grid References where possible and the sites have been marked on a digital map (Figs 5 and 6). The sites recorded initially in 1997, and resurveyed as part of the present study are prefixed with LP.

#### 2.5 ARCHIVE

2.5.1 A full archive of the work has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The paper archive will be deposited with the County Record Office, Carlisle. In addition, a copy of the report will be forwarded to the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and a summary sent to the National Monuments Record (NMR).

#### 3. BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 TOPOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

3.1.1 Lowther Park is located on the eastern side of the Lowther valley which topographically defines the north-eastern edge of the Lake District. Geographically it is located to the south of Penrith and immediately to the west of the M6 motorway. It is in an area of gentle sloping, undulating limestone terrain and the area is dominated by a series of north/south orientated limestone scarps (Countryside Commission 1998).

#### 3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 The land within the extent of the present park has been occupied since at least the Bronze Age period and throughout most of the subsequent periods. The emparkment of the land has restricted modern intensive agricultural techniques which has enabled the preservation of early landscapes. The archaeological background to the park has been presented in detail within the identification survey report (LUAU 1997a) and is here summarised below:
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric:* the earliest identified activity within the vicinity of the park is from the Bronze Age: there are a pair of round cairns just south of the park at Round Hill (NY 541 219) and also a pair of standing stones and associated round cairns at Crooklands (NY 5314 2593), to the north of the park (Fairclough 1979). The earliest settlement prior to the present survey dated to the Iron Age period and comprised the impressive Castlesteads hillfort at the northern end of the park (LUAU 1997a). However, the present study has identified a burnt mound, which is a type of monument that most typically dates from the Bronze Age.
- **Roman:** there is considerable evidence of Roman settlement in the area; to the north of Castlesteads hillfort, at Yanwath Wood (NY 5193 2598), is a Romano-British type of enclosed settlement and on the opposite side of the park is a similar Romano-British type settlement at Greatholme Plantation (Site LP57). The Romano-British dates for this type of monument are reliant on a limited number of excavations, eg Ewe Close, Crosby Ravensworth (Collingwood 1908) and Waitby (Webster 1972). The finding of a Romano-British brooch within the Barnscar settlement (BS 477), on the South-West Fells, during the excavations by G de G Sieveking (Quartermaine and Leech forthcoming; Colin Richardson pers comm) would appear to confirm that it also was of this date. Similarly, the Yanwath enclosed settlement, produced second century pottery from one of the field ditches during excavations in 1936 (SMR 02899). More recently the excavation of a rectangular enclosed settlement at Broadwood, near Ingleton, North Yorkshire has produced some radiocarbon dates that range from 88 CalBC - CalAD 66 (2010+028 BP; KIA 22910) to CalAD 78-383 (1805+-64 BP; KIA 22913) and indicate an occupation of the site from the late Iron Age into the first part of the Roman period (Johnson 2004, 60).

- The Greatholme Plantation settlement is immediately to the north of the survey 3.2.4 study area, and comprises a series of irregular plots and hut structures, butted onto the external bank of an erratic sub-rectangular external enclosure; its form is typical of dated Romano-British settlements in the North West, for example the nearby Ewe Close settlement (Collingwood 1908). The site has been much disturbed by a modern road which cuts the site from the south-west to the northeast and by the construction of the plantation to the south-east. The settlement displays many characteristics commonly found within enclosed settlements of the Romano-British period. In particular, it has a series of stock pounds extending out from the principle enclosure banks, which fill the majority of the interior. It also lacks any defensive qualities; there are many gaps / entrances in the external boundaries and some of the banks have a lynchet profile rather than a raised bank profile. This absence of defensive design contrasts with that of the typical Iron Age enclosed settlements of Northern England, where the external rampart was the key-defining element of the settlement and was a primary defensive feature (eg Alnham, Northumberland (Jobey and Tait 1966) and West Brandon, Durham (Jobey 1962)). The enclosed Romano-British settlements of the North West do not appear to have served the same function as their Iron Age predecessors and possibly reflect the subtle adaptation of the earlier design.
- 3.2.5 *Medieval:* there is evidence of early medieval activity associated with St Michael's church; three pre-conquest decorated hog-back tombstones are located within the churchyard to the north of Lowther Castle and there used to be two cross-shafts inside Lowther Castle, which were probably of eighth century date (Bailey and Cramp 1984). The earliest medieval fortified structure at Lowther was the Castlesteads ringwork, immediately to the west of the former medieval village; this was referred to in 1174 reference as the 'castellum de Lauudre' (Perriam and Robinson 1998). In c1350 a pele tower was built on the site of the present castle, and the castle was then subject to repeated expansion, demolition and rebuilding on this site over the next 600 years until it was finally dismantled in 1957. The former Lowther village was located between the twelfth century St Michael's church and the eleventh / twelfth century Castlesteads fortified site and was probably of a similar date. It was subsequently pulled down by Sir John Lowther in 1682 to enlarge his demesne.
- 3.2.6 *The Park:* the earliest reference to a park is as a deer park in either 1283 or 1337 (Port 1981, 132; Owen 1990), which probably corresponds with the 66 hectare (163 acre) park, shown as the 'Old Park' on the 1683 map (CROC D/Lons/L/Plans/1683). By 1683 a new, much larger, park had been established which extended south of the castle, and encompassed an area of 283 hectares.
- 3.2.7 The depiction of the park boundary on 1683 map is very schematic but, by correlating the 1683 map evidence with the field survey data, it is possible to present an interpretative layout of the early park boundary. The site of the deer park lies in the south-east corner of the later park. The southern and eastern deer park boundaries are re-used within the later park, while the other sides survive as earthworks. The deer park appears to be of a fairly typical size for a medieval park (Lasdun 1991).
- 3.2.8 The formation of a new, larger park, replacing the earlier deer park, had taken place by the end of the seventeenth century. The new park extended southwards

- from Lowther Hall, the park pale following the River Lowther south, then continuing on to the village of Whale. The pale then turned eastward along the northern edge of Rowlandfield, joining and following the boundary of the deer park to the centre of its northern side. From there the new park pale turned north until it again reached Lowther Hall. The map of 1683 (CROC D/Lons/L/Plans/1683) shows the new park to be approximately trapezoid, with the narrower end to the north, and the old park sitting in the south-east corner.
- 3.2.9 While the proposed development site is wholly within the extent of the medieval deer park, it changes to the line of the eighteenth century deer park boundary as indicated by a number of estate maps (CRO D/Lons/L/Plans/1732; CRO D/Lons/L/Plans/1807), showing the line of the park boundary running through the development area. However, the boundary line in the area of the development site does not coincide with a current field boundary, and there are no extant earthworks defining this line of the park boundary.

#### 4. EVALUATION RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

A single evaluation trench was excavated at the site of the proposed estate house 4.1.1 in May 2003, which was located in the area of what was believed to be a large bund earthwork to the south of Decoy House (Plate 2). Low-level scrub vegetation dominated the area, which was cleared by the JCB mechanical excavator prior to the excavation of the trench. The trench was excavated in order to determine the geology and assess any archaeological potential within the site. In particular the trench was excavated to investigate if the bank on which the building was to be constructed was upcast from the construction of the Decoy Pond (constructed from an earlier medieval fish pond in the eighteenth/early nineteenth century; LUAU 1997a). It was also intended to investigate if there was evidence for the eighteenth century park boundary which was shown on a number of maps extending through the area of the development area (D/Lons/L/Plans/1732). While these estate maps would suggest that the northernmost part of the trench should expose the line of the boundary, there is inevitably some uncertainty as to the interpolation of the boundary line.

#### 4.2 TRENCH RESULTS

- 4.2.1 The trench was aligned north-east/south-west and extended 50m in length and 1m in width (Plate 3). The southernmost 40m of trench was located on top of a steep scarp slope, whilst the remaining northern 10m extended across a northeast facing slope. The topsoil consisted of a mid-brown silty clay that was 0.2m deep in the southern part of the trench, but was as much as 0.4m deep in the northern part of the trench. Immediately below this, limestone bedrock was encountered, some of which was eroded due to root disturbance. An eroded hollow within the bedrock was identified in the northern part of the trench and a sondage was excavated to establish if it had been formed by human action; the sondage was excavated to a depth of 0.7m. However, only further bedrock was uncovered suggesting that there were no archaeological features or deposits in this location. Although the northern part of the trench was carefully examined no evidence for the eighteenth century boundary was identified. No finds were recovered from the evaluation trench.
- 4.2.2 A full photographic record was made and the geology was recorded. The trench was left open for further inspection by Lowther Park Estate.

#### 5. TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY RESULTS

#### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The topographic survey identified extant surface archaeological features within the designated assessment area, which comprises an area between the Decoy Pond and the Romano-British enclosed settlement (**LP57**) (Figs 2 and 5), and also the area of the former amusement park (Fig 6). A total of 20 new sites were discovered, which ranged in date from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval and modern periods. In addition, several previously discovered archaeological sites that were within the current assessment area were also assessed in relation to the proposed development.
- 5.1.2 The current state of preservation of surface archaeological features within the assessment area can be divided into two distinct halves. The eastern half of the area (Fig 6) has been subject to extensive landscaping for the former amusement park, and hence the only surface sites visible were the remains of the amusement park itself. One previously discovered site, the deer park pale (**LP73**), encroaches onto the northern part of the study area but is just outside the amusement park boundary (Fig 6). The alignment of the 1732-1863 deer park boundary would have originally run through the eastern half of the assessment area (Fig 3), although this does not survive as a survey feature probably because of the landscaping for firstly the Decoy Pond (**LP72**) and secondly the amusement park.
- 5.1.3 The western side of the assessment area, where the proposed access road is to be built (Fig 5), has, on the other hand, not been subject to intensive landscaping. As such, it survives as gently rolling, limestone scarped parkland (Plate 1), and it is here that the bulk of the newly discovered sites were located. One site, an area of enclosures that was identified from the SMR (LP112, and LUAU 1997a), is nominally within the western half of the assessment area; although no diagnostic earthwork features were found within its defined extent.

#### 5.2 IDENTIFIED SITES

- 5.2.1 The sites identified by the topographic survey have been typologically categorised by period on the basis of their earthwork morphology and similarity with known examples of their type within the region as a whole.
- 5.2.2 **Prehistoric:** the most significant site found during the current walkover survey was a burnt mound (Site 12; Fig 5; Plate 5), which consists of a kidney-shaped turf covered mound, located to the west of Decoy Hag. A localised turf exposure on the southern side of the mound revealed the diagnostic burnt stone that gives the monument its name. Numerous burnt mounds have been excavated and encompass a broad period, but tend to date predominately to the Bronze Age (English Heritage 1988). The mounds comprise piles of waste burnt stone, often with a kidney shape that typically has at its hollowed centre a hearth and a rectangular (wood or clay) lined pit or trough. It has been suggested that the rectangular pits or troughs were for heating water through the immersion of hot

- stones. The surrounding mound developing over time when the cooled stones, that had been cracked through thermal stress, were cleared from the trough (Heawood and Huckerby 2002, 29). The function of these mounds has had a number of interpretations including cooking sites (O'Drisceoil 1988), saunas (Barfield and Hodder 1987) and for fulling (Jeffery 1991).
- 5.2.3 Several of these mounds have been discovered in Cumbria as a whole, including a horseshoe-shaped example at Sparrowmire Farm, Kendal in 1999 (Heawood and Huckerby 2002) and one at Garlands Hospital, Carlisle (LUAU 1996). Many burnt mound sites are located adjacent to, or close by water sources (Laurie 2004, 95), which is of interest as there is a putative palaeochannel identified immediately to the east of the burnt mound (Sites 11 and 08). The channel survives as a shallow, slightly sinuous, linear depression, running roughly northwest/south-east for over 100m and extends into a shallow semi-circular depression on its northern end. The channel is located at a low point between two undulating limestone ridges.
- 5.2.4 **Romano-British:** at the north end of the survey area (Fig 5) are two small semicircular bank edged hollows (Site **01**, Plate 4), which are the southern extension of the **LP 57** Romano-British enclosed settlement (Section 3.2.3; LUAU 1997b). The banks around these hollows form the southern perimeter of the site, and are immediately adjacent to a small rectangular structure within the enclosure. To the south of the enclosed settlement is a section of boundary bank (Site **02**), which is approximately parallel to the southern side of the enclosed settlement, and may imply a relationship. However, it is also perpendicular to the boundary to Greatholme Plantation, and hence could also be a post-medieval feature.
- 5.2.5 *Medieval:* the study area impinges upon parts of two previously discovered sites assigned to this period, a deer park boundary (**LP 73**) and an area of ridge and furrow (Site **LP 60**). The medieval deer park pale boundary (**LP73**; Fig 6 and LUAU 1997b) is just beyond the northern edge of the heavily landscaped amusement park but is just within the current assessment area. It is a prominent 1.2m high linear bank running north-east/south west which has a 4m base width.
- 5.2.6 The other previously identified, possible medieval site is an area of ridge-and-furrow field cultivation (**LP60**, Fig 5 and LUAU 1997a), which is located on the north-western end of the current assessment area, and is impinged upon by the proposed access road. The 5m wide ridge and furrow runs north-east/south-west (upslope) between two limestone ridges, although it is less pronounced on the eastern side of the current park roadway where the proposed access road would be located.
- 5.2.7 **Post-Medieval:** several sites can be broadly dated to this period, and include two small quarry scoops located on the edge of the prominent limestone scarp (Sites **05** and **LP59**), and a small clearance cairn associated with the enclosure wall surrounding Decoy Hag (Site **06**). In addition, there is a wide, flattened linear earthen bank or possibly roadway running roughly north-west/south-east on the northern edge of the decoy pond (Site **13**, Plate 6), the bank probably predates the development of the pond and has the foundation of a later field wall on top of it. The final site is a narrow drain running roughly east/west that drains out from the northern end of the Decoy Pond (Site **14**).

- 5.2.8 *Modern:* two partially demolished features associated with the amusement park will be impacted upon by the proposed development. These are the semi-circular otter pond and the footings of the miniature railway (Sites 19 and 20) which are both located on the northern edge of the Decoy Pond (Fig 5).
- 5.2.9 *Undated:* the survey identified several undiagnostic features of unknown date. On the west side of Greatholme Plantation atop the limestone scarp are two small areas of disturbed undulating ground (Sites **03** and **04**), and further to the north a short section of linear bank (Site **02**). The latter site may possibly be associated with the settlement site to the north (**LP57**), but could equally relate to the adjacent modern field boundary.
- 5.2.10 Features to the west of Decoy Hag include a short section of linear bank and a teardrop-shaped mound located on the northern end of the putative palaeochannel (Sites **07** and **10**). Further to the west are two sub-circular depressions (Sites **16** and **17**), which may relate to quarrying. The final newly identified undated sites are three circular depressions (Sites **09**, **15**, and **18**), that are most likely tree throws and could reflect dispersed tree coverage within the formalised parkland.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

#### **6.1** EVALUATION TRENCH

- 6.1.1 The evaluation showed that the bund did not consist of made ground from the construction of the Decoy Pond as previously thought, but was an escarpment of limestone, with topsoil lying directly above it. Given the relatively steep slope of the 'bund' dropping down to the pond, it is probable that the pond was enlarged by cutting into the rock on this side. This evidence would appear to conform with the cartographic evidence which shows that the pond was substantially increased in extent between the eighteenth century estate maps (eg the 1732 map (CRO D/Lons/L/Plans/1732)) and the OS first edition map (1863).
- 6.1.2 There appears to be only a low potential for archaeological remains on the 'bund' itself, reflecting that the area has been cleared either as part of the landscaping to form the Decoy Pond or for the development of the amusement park. There was no evidence of sub-surface remains of the *c*1732-1863 deer park boundary, which was shown on the eighteenth to nineteenth century maps as extending through the northern part of the trench. However, there also exists the possibility that the boundary in fact extended just north of the trench and hence was not identified.

#### 6.2 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 6.2.1 The walkover survey identified a moderately dense collection of archaeological features, which were concentrated in the western part of the study area, and survive as low grass-covered earthworks and areas of undulating disturbance. The survival of the earthworks reflects that the area has been subject to only low intensity land use in the post-medieval period, serving primarily as a deer park.
- 6.2.2 The eastern half of the current assessment area on the other hand is also within the medieval deer park, but the area has been subject to extensive landscaping for the construction of both the Decoy Pond and amusement park. Apart from the medieval deer park pale, which was located just outside the amusement park area, the only identified features related to the landscaping and construction of the amusement park.
- 6.2.3 The most important discovery by the survey was what would appear to be a kidney-shaped, burnt mound, which was associated with a putative palaeochannel and located in a shallow depression between areas of rolling limestone ridges. The site type is of considerable importance given that it is an important indicator of probable Bronze Age settlement activity in the vicinity, but also because it is still a relatively rare monument type within Cumbria; they are, however, now more often being recognised within the landscape and the numbers within the SMR are steadily increasing (J Quartermaine pers comm). Although a considerable wealth of remains had been identified from the extent of Lowther Park, the earliest confirmed remains had previously been the Castlestead Hillfort at the north end of the park (LUAU 1997a; 1997b).

However, the discovery of this burnt mound would appear to indicate that activity within the area of the park now goes back to at least the Bronze Age.

#### 6.3 IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.3.1 *Estate House Site:* the area to the north-east of the Decoy Pond, where it is proposed to construct the estate house, has been subject to considerable disturbance as a result of landscaping. With the exception of the deer park boundaries to the north, no archaeological features were identified by the survey pre-dating the Decoy Pond, reflecting considerable landscaping for the amusement park. Not only has the evaluation trench not identified archaeological features, but it would appear to indicate that the area around the pond was landscaped when it was expanded. The only feature documented in this area was the eighteenth / early nineteenth century park boundary, which was not identified by the evaluation, but, potentially survives as a sub-surface feature to the north of the trench.
- 6.3.2 It would appear, therefore, that the construction of the proposed estate house will not impact upon a significant archaeological resource. The possibility exists that there is still some sub-surface survival of the park boundary, so it is recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the excavation of the initial ground works for the development.
- 6.3.3 **Proposed Access Road:** the line of the proposed access road extends through an area that has not been subject to intensive land use, which has allowed the survival of archaeological earthworks. These relate to activity over an extended period that goes back probably at least to the Bronze Age, as indicated by the burnt mound. This is an archaeological resource of some very considerable importance, and it is recommended that the line of the road be designed so as to adequately avoid all identified features. However, it must also be recognised that there is, within this area, the potential for sub-surface remains that are as important as the surface features, but which cannot be identified without further investigation. Re-aligning the track to avoid surface features may result in the impact of sub-surface features.
- 6.3.4 If it is decided that the route should extend through this survey area, it is recommended that further investigation be undertaken to inform the precise planning of the route. This may entail the use of geophysical survey and further evaluation trenching in order to assess the sub-surface potential of the area and to define the requirement for mitigating the impact of the road.
- 6.3.5 If it is decided to follow a completely different route, then this new line should be subject to a further ground survey to establish the potential for archaeological features.

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#### APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford Archaeology North

August 2003

## LOWTHER DEER PARK CUMBRIA

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

#### **Proposals**

The following project design is offered in response to a request from Craig Hamilton for an archaeological survey of Lowther Deer Park, Cumbria.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has been invited by Craig Hamilton to submit a project design and costs for an archaeological and topographic survey of parts of Lowther Deer Park, in advance of a planning application submission for a large house on the site. The aim of the survey is to identify surface archaeological features within the area of a proposed north/south access track and also within the area of the proposed house. The work is to be undertaken in accordance with a verbal brief by John Hodgson LDNPA, and is required to inform the preparation of the planning application for the house and access road.

#### 1.2 BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 The earliest reference to a park at Lowther is to a deer park, which was licensed to Sir Hugh Lowther II either by Edward I in 1283 (Port 1981, 132) or by Edward III in 1337 (Capstick 1996, 3). The first date is the one conventionally accepted by historians, however a recent history of the Lowther family has put forward the second date as being the correct one (Owen 1996). There are no surviving plans specifically of the deer park, but the area in which it lay is marked on a map of 1683 (CROC D/Lons/L/Plans) where it is described as the 'Old Park'. The deer park appears to be a fairly typical size; the licence provided that Sir Hugh Lowther could *enclose two hundred acres of land, of his own demesne land, in Lowther, and to make a Park thereof* (Capstick 1996, 3). Very broadly this corresponds with the park as defined by the survey which was of 163 acres.
- 1.2.2 **Deer Park Boundaries:** the park boundaries are the most significant physical feature of the emparkment of the land. They display the character, the changing form of the park and the status of the park. The evidence for the layout of the early deer park derives from surface evidence coupled with details from maps of 1683 and 1732 (D/Lons/L/Plans/1683 and D/Lons/L/Plans/1732). The survey evidence shows a series of different boundary lines throughout the extent of the former deer park.

#### 1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.3.1 OA North has considerable experience of landscape and building survey of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 18 years. OA North employs a qualified surveyor (Jamie Quartermaine BA DipSurv MIFA) who has over 14 years experience of surveying buildings and landscapes, having worked closely with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and the Lake District National Park Authority on a number of projects. OA North has particular experience in the recording and analysis of upland landscapes, having undertaken extensive surveys over the uplands of Cumbria and Lancashire. Surveys include the extensive surveys of Anglezarke and Rivington Moors, the identification survey of the Forest of Bowland for North West Water Ltd, and the extensive Lake District National Park Survey, which itself has mapped over 14,000 monuments, and of course the detailed surveys undertaken of Lowther Park.
- 1.3.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resource to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is a registered organisation (No 17) with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and all members of staff operate according to their Code of Conduct.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed in accordance with a verbal brief by John Hodgson, Lake District National Park Archaeologist, to provide an archaeological survey of two areas of the park:
- 2.1.1 Access Track: within the extent of the proposed access track linking the house to the road system are a series of earthworks relating to former activity within the park. These should, if at all possible not be disturbed by the proposed road, and therefore a survey is required to record the character, form and extent of these earthworks so that the layout of the proposed track can

be designed so as to avoid them. This needs to be undertaken in advance of the submission of the planning application.

2.1.2 **Lowther Park House:** the area within which it is proposed to construct the large house, is a former deer park, and which has been used until relatively recently as an amusement park. The area has been subject to extensive disturbance for the amusement park, and the present survey is required in order to identify any pre amusement park features and also to record the extent of the amusement park features, so that there is a record of the areas that have been subject to disturbance by this episode of activity. This element can be undertaken following the submission of the application.

#### 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 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 3.2.1 **Survey:** it is proposed to undertake a level 2a survey (see OA North survey levels, *Appendix 1*) of the two study areas (see attached plan). The survey will involve the outline mapping of all archaeological features within the two survey areas, and will include pertinent topographic detail. It will include a basic hachure survey of the earthworks within the area of the proposed access road, and any pre amusement park features in the area of the proposed house. It will include outline recording of the amusement park features.
- 3.2.2 **Level 2a Survey:** it is proposed that the survey be undertaken using GPS equipment. This uses electronic distance measurement along radio frequencies to satellites to enable a positional fix in latitude and longitude which can be converted mathematically to Ordnance Survey national grid. The accuracy of an uncorrected GPS fix is only +- 70m and there is a requirement to use differential GPS systems to correct the fix, and in this way producing accuracies of up to +- 0.25m with the Leica equipment used by OA North. The GPS creates digital data which can be digitally imported directly into a CAD system. The archaeological detail is drawn up in the field as a dimensioned drawing on film plots with respect to survey markers. The survey drawings will then be generated within a CAD system (AutoCAD 14) and can be output at any appropriate scale, and the survey data will be appropriate for a 1:500 output. The survey would be generated using RCHM(E) draughting conventions.
- 3.2.3 **Survey Output:** the survey CAD drawing, created from either above technique, will be superimposed onto the digital mapping provided by the client and the original archaeological survey base data (LUAU 1997). The survey would be accompanied by a brief gazetteer description of the principal archaeological features, which will relate directly to the survey mapping.
- 3.2.4 **Photographic Survey:** a photographic archive will be generated in the course of the field project, comprising landscape and detailed photography. Detailed photographs will be taken of the principle features using a scale bar. All photography will be recorded on photographic *proforma* sheets which will show the subject, orientation and date. The photography will be primarily undertaken with black and white 35mm format for archival purposes and will be maintained to archival standards. Photography will also be undertaken with digital or transparency formats for presentation purposes.

#### 3.3 SURVEY REPORT

3.3.1 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, and a further copy submitted to the Lake District National Park Archaeologist. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will incorporate a summary gazetteer of the principal elements of the site and an assessment of the surviving features. It will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which the data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail. Illustrative material will include a location map, and the survey plans.

- 3.3.2 **Proposals:** the report will make a clear statement of the likely archaeological implications of the intended development. It will also make recommendations for any further investigation of the identified archaeological resource deemed necessary or desirable. It will seek to achieve, as a first option, the preservation in situ of all significant archaeological features, and possible strategies for the mitigation of the development, including design modifications, will be considered. Where conservation is neither possible, nor practical, it may be appropriate to recommend a further stage of more intensive archaeological work in order to mitigate the effects of development. All recommendations will be made in conjunction with the National Park Archaeologist.
- 3.3.5 Archive: The results of Stages 3.1-3.2 will form the basis of 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. 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.
- 3.3.6 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Central Archaeology Service format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCii files, and a synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and the report) will be deposited with the Lake District National Park Sites and Monuments Record. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic, and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office.

#### 3.4 OTHER MATTERS

- 3.4.1 *Access:* liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through Lowther Estates.
- 3.4.2 **Health and Safety:** OA North considers health and safety to be of paramount importance on all their projects. OA North have considerable experience in applying modern health and safety practices in large and small-scale archaeological projects, including the needs of working adjacent to highways. The OA North Health and Safety Statement conforms to all the provisions of the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) Health and Safety manual. A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties. The Unit Safety Policy Statement will be provided to the client, if required.
- 3.4.3 **Confidentiality:** the report is designed as a document for the specific use of Lowther Estates, 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.
- 3.4.4 *Project Monitoring:* any proposed changes to this project design will be agreed with the client and the Lake District National Park Archaeologist.
- 3.4.5 *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 OA North, in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of OA North or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £ 2m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.

#### 4. WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.1 The phases of work will comprise:
  - i) Topographic Survey

2 days - field work

1 days - Office

ii) Report Production

2 days

- 4.2 OA North can execute projects at short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client.
- 4.3 The project will be under the project management of **Jamie Quartermaine**, **BA Surv Dip MIFA** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. Jamie is a very experienced landscape surveyor, who has undertaken or managed literally hundreds of surveys throughout Northern England and has considerable experience of working on similar projects to that proposed. He has undertaken the major upland surveys within the Lake District, the Forest of Bowland identification survey and the Anglezarke Moor, Lancashire survey. In particular he undertook the earlier surveys of Lowther Park.

#### **APPENDIX 2: GAZETTEER**

#### 2004 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY SITES

Site Number 01

Site Name Greatholme Plantation NGR NY 52802 23082

**Site Type** Semi-circular depressions

Period Romano-British Source Field Survey

**Description** 

Two semi-circular depressions, associated with the enclosed settlement to north of the fence (**LP57**). They are 0.25m deep, and both have small banks to the south-east which are up to 0.5m wide by 0.1m high. The western depression has a small internal mound measuring 2m in diameter by 0.2m high.

Site Number 02

**Site Name** Greatholme Plantation

**NGR** NY 52814 23043 - NY 52829 23053

Site Type Linear bank
Period Unknown
Source Field Survey

**Description** 

A small linear bank, running east/west on top of the limestone scarp slope. It is 1.5m wide by 0.15m high.

Site Number 03

Site Name Greatholme Plantation NGR NY 52850 23010 Unknown Period Unknown

**Source** Unknown Field Survey

**Description** 

An area of irregular disturbance on top of the limestone scarp; it could potentially be natural weathering, resulting in lumps and bumps, which are no more than 0.1m high.

Site Number 04

Site Name Greatholme Plantation NGR NY 52859 22987

Site Type Unknown
Period Unknown
Source Field Survey

**Description** 

An area of linear, slightly irregular disturbance on top of the limestone scarp; it could potentially be natural weathering, resulting in lumps and bumps, which are no more than 0.1m high.

Site Number 05

Site Name Greatholme Plantation NGR NY 52814 23043

Site Type Quarry
Period Post-medieval
Source Field Survey

**Description** 

A small sub-rectangular quarry scoop on the end of the limestone scarp slope beneath trees. It is 10m long by 5m wide and up to 0.35m deep. There is no spoil evident.

Site Number 06

Site NameGreatholme PlantationNGRNY 52829 23053Site TypeClearance CairnPeriodPost-medievalSourceField Survey

Description

An amorphous, low clearance cairn, associated with the enclosure walling around Greatholme Plantation. It is 8m long by 5m wide and up to 0.2m high. It is loosely packed and is grass covered.

Site Number 07

Site Name Decoy Hag

**NGR** NY 52937 22835 - NY 52957 22828

Site Type Linear Bank
Period Unknown
Source Field Survey

Description

A small linear bank, running roughly west to east for approximately 21m. It is up to 1m wide by 0.2m high, and does not incorporate stone in its make-up.

Site Number 08

Site NameDecoy HagNGRNY 52958 22813Site TypeDepressionPeriodPrehistoric?SourceField Survey

**Description** 

A semi-circular depression, which was possibly part of the putative palaeochannel Site 11, and is approximately 17m in diameter by up to 0.35m deep. It narrows at its southern end where it joins the palaeochannel.

Site Number 09

Site Name
NGR
NY 52971 22811
Site Type
Period
Source
Decoy Hag
NY 52971 22811
Circular depression
Post-medieval
Field Survey

Description

A small circular depression, measuring approximately 1.5m in diameter by up to 0.2m deep. It was probably a tree throw.

Site Number 10

Site NameDecoy HagNGRNY 52966 22791Site TypeEarthen BankPeriodUnknownSourceField Survey

**Description** 

A tear-drop shaped bank on the side of the depression and putative palaeochannel (Sites **08** and **11**). The bank is approximately 20m long by 5m wide and up to 0.5m high at its north-western end.

Site Number 11

Site Name Decoy Hag

NGR NY 52963 22802 - NY 53034 22731

Site Type Linear depression Period Prehistoric?

SMR No. -

**Source** Field Survey

**Description** 

A slightly sinuous, linear earthwork depression running roughly north-west / south-east. It measures approximately 101m long by 6m wide and is up to 0.35m deep. It is a putative relict watercourse associated with hollow Site **08** and extends to the east of the burnt mound (Site **12**).

Site Number 12

Site Name Decoy Hag
NGR NY 53004 22748
Site Type Burnt Mound

**Period** Prehistoric (Bronze Age?)

**Source** Field Survey

**Description** 

A kidney-shaped burnt mound located on the western side of a putative relict watercourse (Site 11). It consists of an earth and stone mound with fire-cracked stones beneath the turf, which were evident in a small exposure on its south side. It measures approximately 11m long east/west by 7m wide and is up to 0.4m high.

Site Number 13

Site Name Decoy Hag

**NGR** NY 53001 22729 - NY 53047 22674

Site Type Linear bank
Period Post-medieval
Source Field Survey

Description

A raised and flattened linear earthen bank (possibly a roadway) which is up to 2.5m wide by up to 0.35m high. On the top is a distinctive, small linear boundary bank (possibly a wall foundation) measuring 0.7m wide by up to 0.2m high with some stone within its build. At the northern end, where the roadway is more denuded, the small bank kinks (with a slight gap) and passes close to the west end of the burnt mound (Site 12)

Site Number 14

Site Name Decoy Hag

**NGR** NY 53015 22669 - NY 52945 22672

Site Type Drain
Period Post-medieval
Source Field Survey

**Description** 

A small linear ditch (possibly a drain) running roughly east/west across the top of a hummock to the west of the large linear bank feature (Site 13). It is 73m long by 1m wide and is up to 0.2m deep, with taller grass in the depression. At the eastern end it appears to turn and extend towards the decoy pond (Site LP72).

Site Number 15

Site NameDecoy HagNGRNY 52896 22764Site TypeCircular depressionPeriodPost-medievalSourceField Survey

**Description** 

A small circular depression measuring approximately 1m diameter by up to 0.2m deep. It was probably a tree throw.

Site Number 16

Site NameDecoy HagNGRNY 52886 22813Site TypeDepressionPeriodUnknownSourceField Survey

**Description** 

A sub-circular depression measuring approximately 10m in diameter by up to 0.3m deep. It was possibly a pond or a quarry scoop.

Site Number 17

Site NameDecoy HagNGRNY 52866 22814Site TypeDepressionPeriodUnknownSourceField Survey

Description

A semi-circular depression measuring approximately 13m long by 6m wide and up to 0.3m deep. It was possibly a pond or a quarry scoop.

Site Number 18

Site NameDecoy HagNGRNY 53051 22708Site TypeCircular depressionPeriodPost-medievalsourceField Survey

Description

A small circular depression measuring approximately 1m in diameter by up to 0.3m deep. It was probably a tree throw.

Site Number 19

Site Name Decoy Pond
NGR NY 53147 22666
Site Type Otter pond
Period Twentieth Century

Source Field Survey

Description

An otter pond, which was not named as such on the new survey of the amusement park.

Site Number 20

Site Name Decoy Pond

NGR NY 53037 22659 - NY 53135 22654

Site Type Miniature railway
Period Twentieth Century
Source Field Survey

**Description** 

A miniature railway, which was not named as such on the new survey of the amusement park

#### 1997 SURVEY SITES - (PREFIX - LP)

Site Number LP57

Site Name Greatholme Plantation NGR NY 52858 23128
Site Type Settlement Romano-British Source Field Survey

**Description** 

The site lies on the crest of a hill and now has a metalled road running through its centre. The site measures roughly 70m by 65m; however, it extends into Greatholme Plantation where dense vegetation cover prevented further examination. It is characterised by a series of large, prominent earthfast banks forming a series of roughly rectilinear enclosures. The site seems to be divided into a series of approximately six enclosures. These are enclosed by a substantial but broken boundary bank on the northern side but as the southern half is obscured by the plantation it is impossible to determine whether this enclosed the whole site. The site includes three and possibly four sub-circular and sub-rectangular huts. The banks on the site vary in width between 1m and 3m and stand to between 0.3m and 0.6m in height. This is probably the site of a settlement that typologically dates from the Romano-British period.

Site Number LP59

Site Name Greatholme Plantation NGR NY 52825 23019

Site Type Quarry
Period Post-medieval
Source Field Survey

Description

A small 12m long, 11m wide and 2m deep limestone quarry with an exposed rock face cut into the side of a limestone ridge.

Site Number LP60

Site NameGreatholme PlantationNGRNY 52794 22880Site TypeRidge and Furrow

Period Medieval/Romano-British

**Source** Field Survey

**Description** 

A large expanse of ridge and furrow (5m width) which was possibly connected with sites **LP58** and **LP55**. It stands to 0.2m high in some places and is well defined. It runs upslope to a limestone ridge to the east which it does not cross and runs down to another limestone ridge to the west (LUAU 1997). The cultivation is ephemeral and almost non-existent on the eastern edge as it rises to the eastern limestone ridge within the current study area (OA North 2004, Fig 5).

Site Number LP72
Site Name Decoy Pond
NGR NY 53102 22558

Site Type Pond

Period Post-medieval

**Source** Field Survey; Cartographic

#### Description

A large well constructed pond which is now part of the Lowther Wildlife Picnic Park. It is 239m x 92m in size. It was marked as a fish pond on the 1683 map.

Site NumberLP73Site NameDecoy HagNGRNY 53442 22894Site TypeDeer Park Pale

Period Medieval-post-medieval Source Field Survey; Cartographic

#### Description

A 300m long, prominent 1.2m high linear bank running north-east/south west with a 4m base width and a 1m top width. It is earthfast with some protruding stone and runs parallel to a field boundary for most of its length. This bank corresponds with the former original deer park boundary and turns at its eastern end to join another boundary bank (**LP82**), but the exact junction has been destroyed at the crossing of the modern field boundary.

Site Number
Site Name
Decoy Pond
NGR
NY 52942 22658
Site Type
Site of enclosure
Period
Unknown
SMR No.
05297
Source
AP

#### **Description**

The Cumbria SMR describes this site as 'possible enclosures' lying within a wood: however no features were located during the survey (LUAU 1997). It was possibly a mislocation of **LP57** and features within Greatholme Plantation? (2004)

#### **ILLUSTRATIONS**

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- Plate 5: Decoy Hag, Burnt Mound (Site 12), looking north-east
- Plate 6: Decoy Hag, Linear Bank/trackway (Site 13), looking west

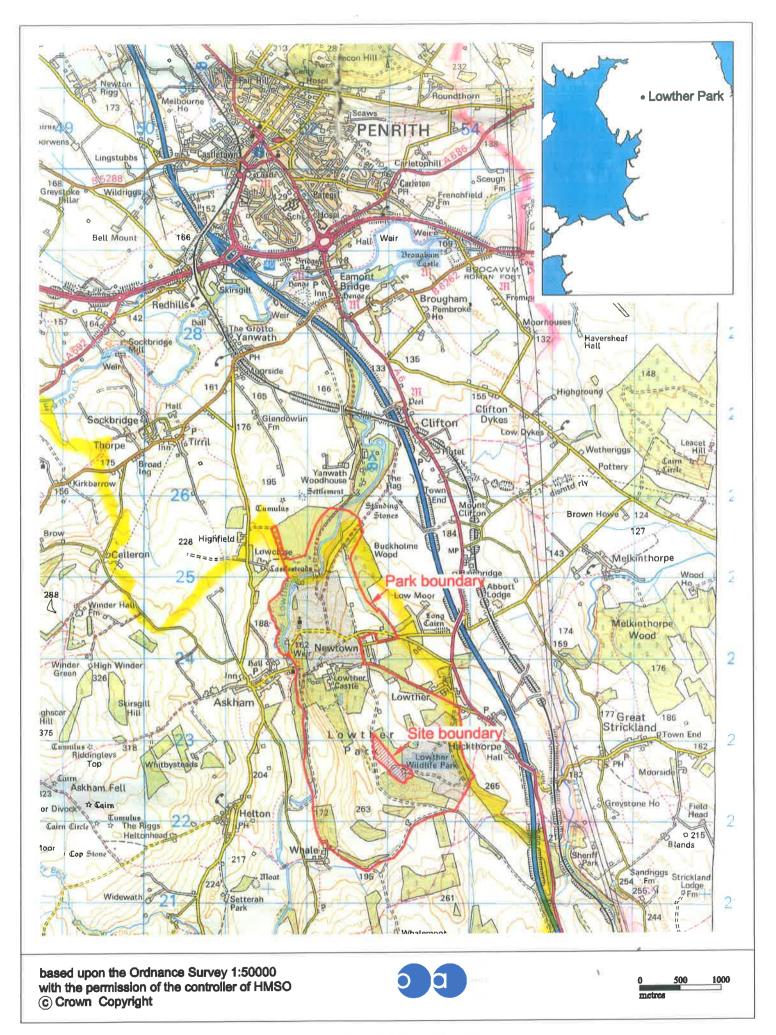


Figure 1: Location map

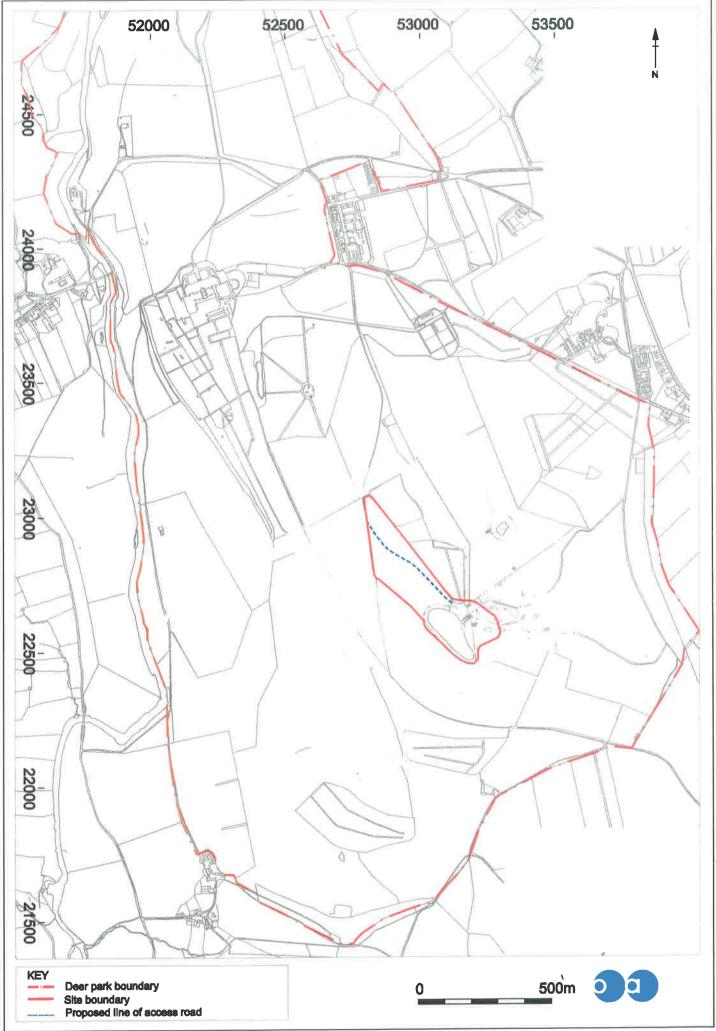


Figure 2: Detailed plan of Lowther Estate showing the extent of the study area

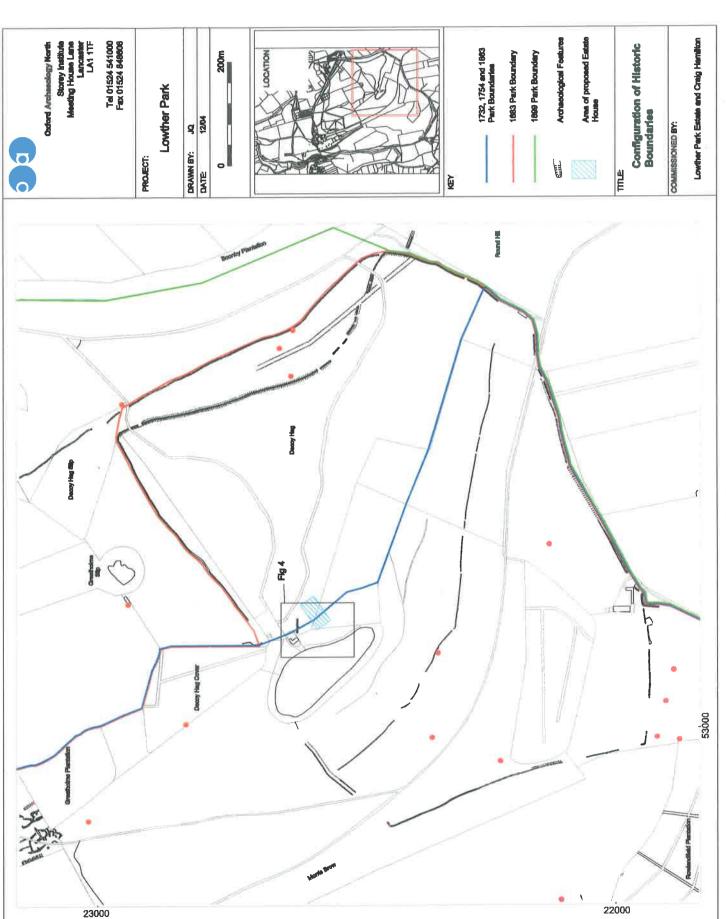


Figure 3: Arrangement of the Historic Boundaries

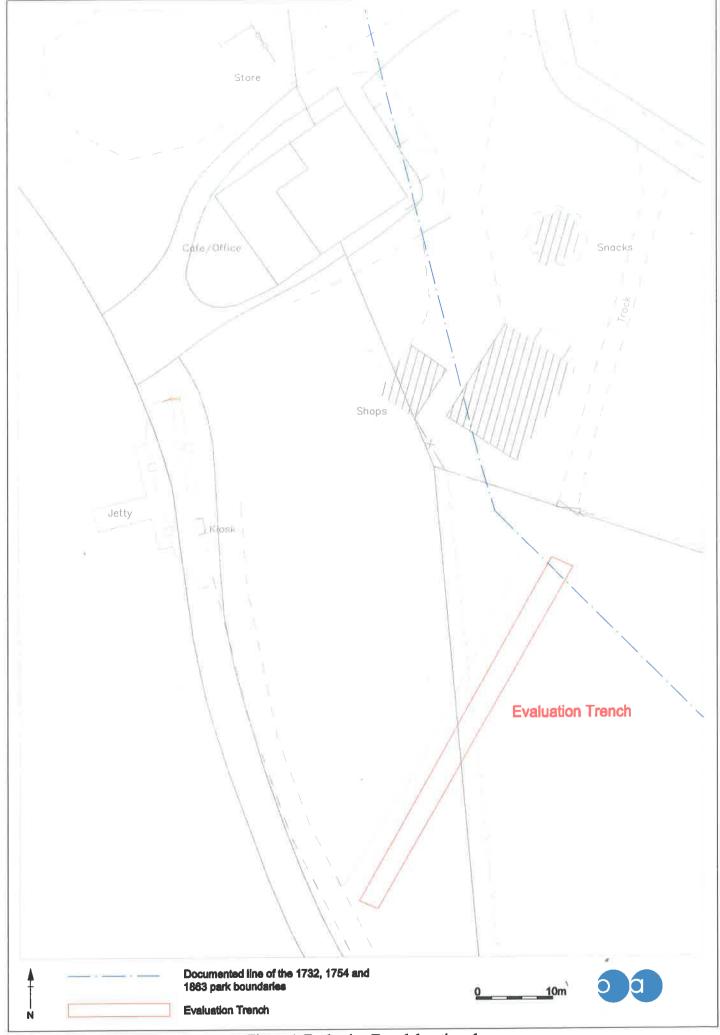


Figure 4: Evaluation Trench location plan

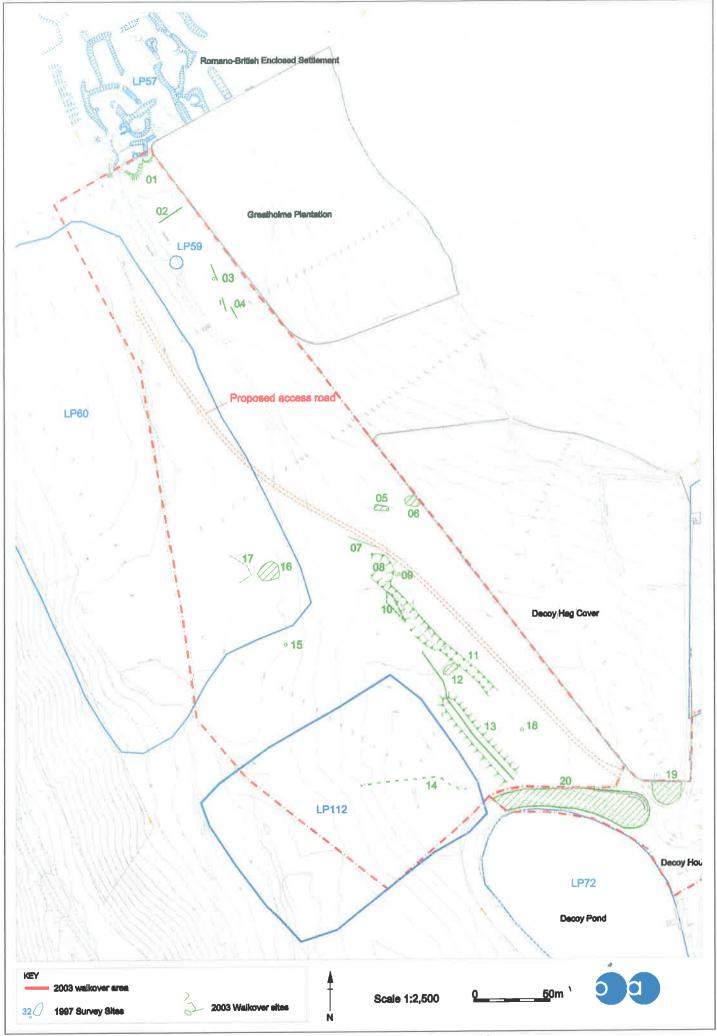


Figure 5: Detailed survey (Western Survey Area)

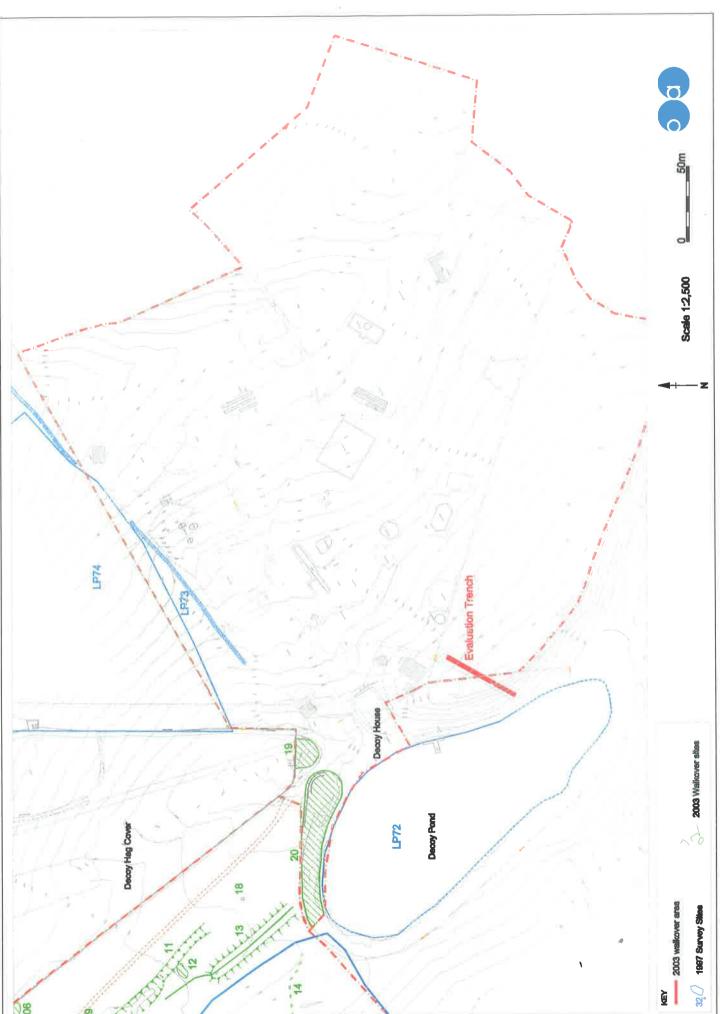


Figure 6: Detailed survey (Eastern Survey Area)



Plate 1: General view of parkland looking north-west



Plate 2: General view showing the location of the bund bank on the east side of the Decoy Pond  $(\mathbf{LP72})$ 

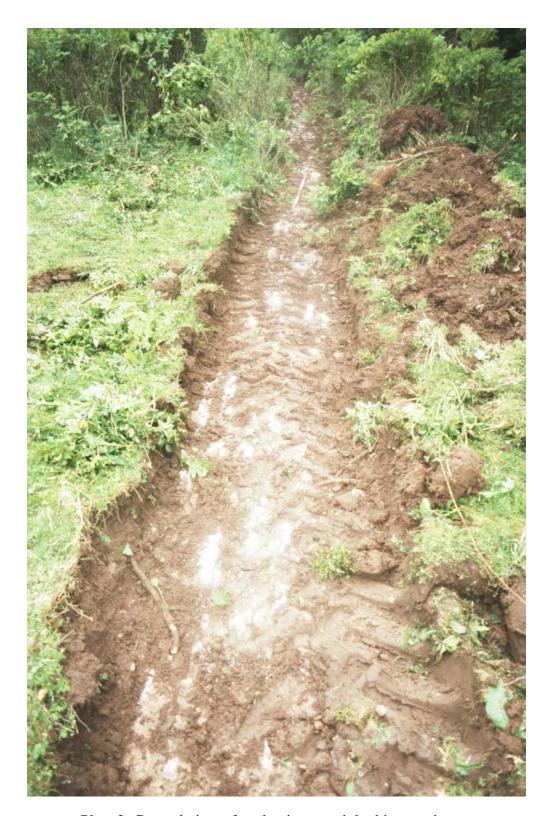


Plate 3: General view of evaluation trench looking north-east



Plate 4: Greatholme Plantation Enclosed Settlement, banks and hollows (Site  $\mathbf{01}$ ), looking north



Plate 5: Decoy Hag, Burnt Mound (Site 12), looking north-east



Plate 6: Decoy Hag, linear bank / trackway (Site 13), looking west





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