



STANDINGSTONES, WIGTON, Cumbria

Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation



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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Circumstances of Project.....	5
2. METHODOLOGY	6
2.1 Project Design	6
2.2 Desk-Based Study	6
2.3 Walk-Over Survey	6
2.4 Gazetteer of Sites	7
2.5 Evaluation	7
2.6 Finds and Archive	8
3. BACKGROUND	9
3.1 Location and Geology	9
3.2 Historical Background	9
4: ASSESSMENT RESULTS.....	12
4.1 Documentary Sources	12
4.2 Cartographic sources and map regression.....	122
4.3 Cumbria Sites and Monument Record (SMR).....	12
4.4 Walk-Over Survey	13
5. EVALUATION.....	14
5.1 Trench 1	14
5.2 Trench 2	14
5.3 Trench 3	14
5.4 Trench 4	14
5.5 Trench 5	15
5.6 Trench 6	15
5.7 Trench 7	15
5.8 Trench 8	15
5.9 Trench 9	16
5.10 Trench 10	16
5.11 Trench 11	16
5.12 Trench 12	16
5.13 Trench 13	16
5.14 Trench 14	17
5.15 Trench 15	17
5.16 Trench 16	17
5.17 Trench 17	18
5.18 Trench 18	18
5.19 Trench 19	18
5.20 Trench 20	18
5.21 Trench 21	19

5.22 Trench 22	19
6. DISCUSSION	20
6.1 Archaeological Resource	20
6.2 Archaeological Potential	21
6.3 Evaluation	21
7. IMPACT.....	22
7.1 Impact.....	22
7.2 Recommendations	22
8. BIBLIOGRAPHY	23
8.1 Primary Sources	23
8.2 Secondary Sources	23
APPENDICES.....	28
Appendix 1: Project Brief	26
Appendix 2: Project Design	27
Appendix 3: List of Finds	33
Appendix 4: List of Contexts	43
ILLUSTRATIONS	44
PLATES.....	45

SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North undertook an archaeological assessment and evaluation of a proposed residential development site at Standingstone, Wigton, Cumbria (centred at NY 2534 4907), on behalf of Persimmon Homes. The archaeological assessment consisted of a desk-based study, carried out in December 2002, and a walk-over survey, undertaken on 13th January 2003. The evaluation was undertaken between 13th and 17th January.

The site is located to the east of a suggested route of a Roman road running between the Roman forts of Old Carlisle and Bowness on Solway. The fort of Old Carlisle appears to be a hub for extra-mural settlement (Higham and Jones 1975), and it may be possible that this extended north as a series of roadside settlements. Recent work, which focused on the area c1.5km to the north of the fort, revealed a series of boundary ditches of Roman date, and included the retrieval of fourth century pottery (CAU 2000).

The Sites and Monuments Record lists an enclosure of Iron Age or Romano-British type in a field 400m immediately to the north of the development area. In addition, the assessment showed that the area of Standingstone may have not undergone medieval field system development; therefore, there is good potential survival for any subsurface remains predating the medieval period.

The majority of the sites that were identified by the desk-based study will not be affected by the proposed development. The walk-over survey did not identify any additional archaeological sites not already covered by the desk-based study.

The evaluation trenching consisted of 22 20m x 1.7m trenches. The initial trenching was carried out by a mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, with further cleaning and excavation carried out by hand. The trenches revealed a very low concentration of archaeological features, with evidence for a ditch terminus in the south-west corner of the site, an isolated posthole, a relatively recent pit and a probable gully. No artefacts were recovered from any of these features, which prevented them from being dated.

Given the low density of archaeological remains, of which none were confirmed as being archaeologically significant, it is recommended that the site does not warrant mitigation recording. However, given the finding of a ditch terminus in the south western most corner of the study area it may be pertinent to have a watching brief during any ground disturbance in this part of the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Mike Blakeley of Persimmon Homes for commissioning the work. Thanks are also expressed to Bette Hopkins and Jeremy Parsons of the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Records and the staff of the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle.

The desk-based study was undertaken by Neil Wearing, the evaluation by Paul Clark, Tony Lee and Martin Sowerby. The report was written by Paul Clark and Neil Wearing and the drawings were undertaken by Emma Carter. The report was edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Emily Mercer and the project managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was invited by Persimmon Homes to submit a project design for an archaeological desk-based study, walk-over survey and evaluation in advance of a residential development at Standingstone, Wigton Cumbria (centred at NY 2534 4907). The work was undertaken in accordance with a project design (*Appendix 2*) by OA North, which itself was informed by a brief by CCCAS (*Appendix 1*).
- 1.1.2 OA North undertook the desk-based study in December 2002. The proposed development site was examined together with information on the historical background from a wider, regional context. The study utilised information contained in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and also examined published and unpublished records held by the Cumbria County Record Office in Carlisle (CRO(C)) and library and archives at OA North's offices in Lancaster.
- 1.1.3 The walk-over survey was undertaken on 13th January 2003, and consisted of a rapid survey of the site to discover previously unrecorded archaeology as well as a general photographic record of the site
- 1.1.4 The project brief required a minimum 5% of the outlined area to be investigated, which consisted of 22 trenches covering 760m² and was undertaken between 13th-17th January 2003.
- 1.1.5 The results of the desk-base study, walk-over survey and evaluation are presented in the form of a short report outlining the results of the followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the development area and the impact of the development. It is complimented by a gazetteer of sites (*Appendix 3*) and a bibliography (*Section 7*).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 Persimmon Homes requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an archaeological desk-based study, walk-over survey and evaluation of a proposed residential development at Standingstones, Wigton, Cumbria. This project design was prepared in accordance with a project brief from Cumbria County Council's Archaeology Service (CCCAS) (*Appendix 1*). The project design was adhered to in full and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED STUDY

- 2.2.1 Several archives were visited in accordance with the project brief and project design:
- 2.2.2 ***Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)***: the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record, a database of archaeological sites within the County and maintained by Cumbria County Council in Kendal, was accessed. A record, including grid reference and description, was obtained for the various sites within the proposed development area.
- 2.2.3 ***Cumbria Record Office (Carlisle) (CRO(C))***: the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle was visited primarily to consult documents specific to the premises within the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including any tithe maps and Ordnance Survey maps, were also examined. Particular emphasis was placed upon the early cartographic evidence, which has the potential to inform medieval and post-medieval occupation and land-use of the area. 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, including archaeological or historical journals, were also consulted.
- 2.2.4 ***OA North***: Oxford Archaeology North has carried out a considerable amount of fieldwork throughout Cumbria, including desk-based survey and excavation and has an extensive archive of secondary sources and assessment reports. These were also consulted.
- 2.2.5 ***World Wide Web***: a number of primary and secondary sources have been transcribed and are available from websites on the Internet. The sources used were printed out and have been fully referenced and the information is retained in the archive in the event that Internet access to the information is removed.

2.3 WALK-OVER SURVEY

- 2.3.1 An OA North 'level 1' survey of the study area was undertaken. This consisted of an initial site inspection intended to identify the extant archaeological resource. It recorded the existence, location and extent of any previously undiscovered archaeological sites. The survey recorded the type and period of discovered sites by means of a brief written description. The reconnaissance was undertaken in a

systematic fashion, walking on approximately 30m wide transects within the extent of the defined study area.

- 2.3.2 Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques were used to locate and record the features and sites. GPS instrumentation 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 use of GPS techniques has proved to be an essential and extremely cost effective means of locating monuments, and can achieve accuracies of better than $\pm 0.5\text{m}$.
- 2.3.3 A photographic record was undertaken simultaneously of the general area and any sites identified. The photography was in black and white, and colour transparency formats.
- 2.3.4 The survey also recorded areas of significant disturbance, which could have an impact upon the siting of the evaluation trenches.

2.4 GAZETTEER OF SITES

- 2.4.1 The information concerning archaeological sites within the assessed area has been collated into a gazetteer (*Appendix 3*), which provides details of their location, period, and character. Locations are given as eight-figure National Grid References where possible, and the position of each site is indicated on (Fig 2).

2.5 EVALUATION

- 2.5.1 The project brief (*Appendix 1*) required the evaluation of 5% of the undeveloped study area. The overall area was $15,200\text{m}^2$ which required the excavation of 760m^2 , achieved by 22 $20 \times 1.7\text{m}$ trenches. Provisional locations for the trenches were decided after the desk-based study and walk-over survey. The uppermost horizons were removed by mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.7m wide toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trenches were subsequently cleaned by hoe and the deposits were excavated in a strictly stratigraphical manner with minimal disturbance of intact archaeological features. The trenches were not excavated deeper than 1.20m due to health and safety constraints.
- 2.5.2 Trenches were located by use of GPS equipment. Archaeological features within the trenches were planned by hand at the most appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10) with individual features being drawn separately. The recording comprised a full description, and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, on OA North *pro-forma* sheets, and their accurate location was defined either on scaled plans and/or sections. The site and all features were photographed using 35mm cameras with black and white print film as well as colour transparency (slides).

2.6 FINDS AND ARCHIVE

- 2.6.1 All artefactual material was processed in accordance with OA North standard practice, which follows current IFA guidelines. This has been fully catalogued and prepared for deposition with the final archive. A full archive has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC 1990) and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage

1991). The archive will be deposited in the CRO with an additional copy of the report being lodged with the CSMR and a summary sent to the National Monuments Record (NMR).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The development area at Standingstone (centred NY 2534 5490) is situated immediately to the north of the current railway line at Wigton, Cumbria at a height of c35m OD. The site lies some 2.5km to the north of the Roman fort at Old Carlisle.
- 3.1.2 Wigton lies on the southern edge of the broad, lowland plain of the Solway Basin, which is fringed by the relatively remote coastline of the Solway Firth. The Solway Basin is underlain mainly by mudstones and sandstones of Permo-Triassic age ('New Red Sandstone') which are overlain by mudstones and limestones of Jurassic age to the west of Carlisle (Countryside Commission 1998, 20). Erosion of the comparatively weak Permo-Triassic and Jurassic rocks had already reduced much of the Solway Basin to an area of low relief prior to the onset of the last glaciation, when thick ice-sheets crossed the area from Scotland and the Lake District, resulting in further erosion and the deposition of boulder clay (*op cit*, 21).

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric:** the prehistoric period is represented by a limited number of finds around the vicinity of Wigton, recorded in the SMR; three stone axes dating from the Neolithic period are known (Sites 01, 06, 30). Field work carried out at Tiffenthwaite Farm, Syke Lane, Wigton by the former Carlisle Archaeology Unit (CAU) also recovered a serrated blade and a prismatic core (Site 33) (CAU 2002). In addition, the place name evidence for Standingstone suggests the one time presence of a prehistoric standing stone in the vicinity (Site 13). However, there is no confirmed indication of such a stone in the area.
- 3.2.2 Evidence from the Bronze Age is limited to two middle Bronze Age axes (Sites 02 and 03, Fig 2) from the Wigton area. There is no known settlement evidence for the period in the area.
- 3.2.3 During the Iron Age the area around Wigton was occupied by a group known as the Carvetii, who were a subgroup of the Brigantes (Higham and Jones 1985). Evidence for activity in the area from this period can be seen to the south of Wigton in the form of the field system of Aughertree Fell, which dates to the late Iron Age or Romano British Period (*ibid*). To the north of the site a crop mark of an enclosure seen on aerial photographs is suggested as being Romano-British in date (Site 08, Fig 2). Also, a carved stone found in the wall of Greenhill Farmhouse is thought to be in the style of local late Iron Age tradition (Site 10, Fig 2) (Bewley 1996).
- 3.2.4 **Roman:** there is considerable evidence for Roman activity between the area of Wigton and the Roman fort at Old Carlisle 2.5km to the south. The construction of the fort suggests that it was one of the Hadrianic series of cavalry forts (Birley 1951, 33) and it compares closely with the Benwell and Chesters forts. Epigraphic evidence has confirmed that the fort was indeed occupied by a cavalry unit (the *ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana*), which, as Birley points out (*op cit*, 30), was the only cavalry unit on the western flank of Hadrian's Wall.

- 3.2.5 The position of Old Carlisle relative to the network of Roman roads led Ferguson (1890) to propose that the fort was a strategic centre for the region. Haverfield similarly considered Old Carlisle to have played a key role in the defence strategy of the region and proposed it to be *'among the most important Roman forts in north-western Cumberland'* (1920, 146). The associated settlement can be seen to extend along both sides of the main Roman road to the south of the fort and along the approach road to the east gate.
- 3.2.6 In addition to the above, and far more relevant to this study, Bellhouse traced a north-bound road *'from the east gate as far as the new secondary modern school, a straight length of just over one mile, pointing uncompromisingly towards Drumburgh'* (1956, 42). Bellhouse also postulated a southbound road from Old Carlisle, via Broadfield, to Old Penrith, but conceded that *'in both cases much fieldwork is still needed before these roads can be accepted as certain'* (*ibid*).
- 3.2.7 From examination of map evidence, a perhaps more probable alignment of such a putative northern road would follow the line of modern roads which are unusually straight and extend in a line through Wigton, Kirkbride and on a direct alignment with the Roman fort at Bowness on Solway. The line of the inferred Roman Road extends close to the study area and raises the potential for the road and its associated remains being within the environs of the proposed development.
- 3.2.8 Some evidence for the north-bound road was furnished by a limited programme of archaeological investigation in 1998/9 by the former Carlisle Archaeological Unit (CAU), which focused on the area c1.5km to the north of the fort. This work revealed a series of boundary ditches of Roman date, and included the retrieval of a fourth century cremation and ceramics (Site 33) (CAU 2000). Whilst being far from conclusive, this work provided tentative evidence of extramural settlement at a distance in excess of 1km beyond the north gate of the fort, which would suggest some communication line in this direction.
- 3.2.9 In terms of the wider landscape, Higham and Jones identified several acres of divisions within the fields to the south of the fort and settlement at Old Carlisle. *'Fields somewhat less than one acre in size proliferate ... in an agglomeration of rectangular boxes that at last give us some impression of the reality of Roman agriculture close to a fort'* (1975, 25). They further identified numerous 'native-style' settlements in the vicinity, at Jenkin's Cross and Sandy Brow to the east, and concluded that *'the Old Carlisle fort accumulated a number of sites to create a rather denser infilling on the location map than is normally the case in this area'* (*ibid*). Higham and Jones concluded that these settlements were attracted *'by the economic forces created by the Roman road and its attendant fort'* (*op cit*, 26). It seems likely that the area around Wigton and Old Carlisle would have been part of the hinterland of Hadrian's wall, providing agricultural produce and supplies for the construction and garrisoning of the Wall (Bewley 1994).
- 3.2.10 **Medieval:** there is no record of Wigton in the Domesday Book of 1086 although its name is of possible Norse origin, *'Wigton most likely derived its name from the Norse "Vigge," meaning bull and "tun," which was a term for a farm or settlement – a garth or holding we would say nowadays. Wiggetun literally means "the tun or farm of Vigge."'* (Carrick 1949 1). Higham has suggested a similar Norse origin *'Wicga's tun... settlement of Wicga.'* (Higham 1993).
- 3.2.11 It is not until around 1100AD that Wigton is first recorded as a Baronial Demesne, part of a general expansion of rural settlement in Cumbria which took place at this

time (Winchester 1987). A church to the Virgin Mary was established in 1130-31, by Odard de Logis, first lord of Wigton (Wiggetun) and Sheriff of Carlisle (Collingwood 1928). It is said that the building material for this Church came in part from the fort of Old Carlisle. The town received its market charter in 1262 from Henry III, permitting one weekly market at the town on a Tuesday (Whellan 1860). The town was subject to the Scottish Incursions of 1327 during which the church was damaged and the town substantially reduced in stature (Longley 1983). So much so that the Church was rebuilt sometime around 1370, according to the church rolls of 1374-5 which state that the church tower was rebuilt as a fortified tower (Collingwood 1928).

- 3.2.12 Wigton continued to operate as a medieval market town centred on the market cross. This was the site of the fish and vegetable market, as well as the market for butter and poultry (which later moved into the market hall). Meat was originally sold in the Old Butchers Shambles (covered stalls besides the market cross) but it later moved into King Street. Other markets were elsewhere in the town; livestock was sold on Markethill, and corn at the corn market in front of St Mary's Church (Allen 1999). Occupation continued around the junction of High Street and King Street where housing and associated strip fields developed. However, it would seem that any significant expansion took place after the seventeenth century, as Wigton does not appear on the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century maps (Higham 1993).
- 3.2.13 **Post-medieval:** the industrial development of Wigton was centred on the textile industry. In the forty years from 1791-1831 the population rose from approximately 1700 to 4885 (Gate 1894) mainly due to the influx of workers to the expanding textile mills and tanneries. This was facilitated by the coming of the railway from Carlisle to Maryport, which opened in 1843 (Carrick 1949). By the time of the first edition OS map (1867-8) the following industries were represented; coal yards, timber yards, saw mills, flour mills, dye works, tanneries, preserve works and a sodawater manufactory.
- 3.2.14 With this diverse population growth came a diversity of religious beliefs reflected in the building of new churches and chapels. The original St Mary's Church was rebuilt in 1788. This was followed by St Cuthbert's Catholic Church (1835), The Friends Meeting House (Quakers) (1829), The Independent Chapel (1834), The Presbyterian (United) Church (1819), The Wesleyan Chapel (1819), and The Primitive Methodists (no date given) (Whellan 1860).

4: ASSESSMENT RESULTS

4.1 DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

- 4.1.1 **Standingstone:** by searching and examining original and transcriptions of documents and cartographic material it was possible to ascertain an origin for the Standingstone placename.
- 4.1.2 **The Percy Survey of 1578:** this was carried out when Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, was attainted in 1578. The barony of Wigton was surveyed and this document contains one of the earliest references to the place name Standingstone, the only earlier reference is to 'Stanyston' in 1570 (D/LEC/BOX 300). The placename may infer that a standing stone once existed but there was no physical remains by the time of the first edition OS map. The name of Standingstone can be observed three times on the first edition OS map (1867-8): the hamlet itself, 'Standingstone Cottage', and within the study area at a point where there appears to be an entrance to the field (Fig 4).

4.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES AND MAP REGRESSION

- 4.2.1 Limited material was readily available as almost all of the historic and estate maps are held in the possession of the Leconsfield family archive and this was not available within the time frame of the project. The CRO holds only two of the enclosure maps, neither of which covered the area of Wigton. There are no known tithe maps for the area of Wigton. The only other map being Wood's Plan of 1832.
- 4.2.2 **Wood's Plan of Wigton 1832:** this map shows the area immediately prior to the construction of the railway although it does not cover the area north of Wigton where Standingstone is located. It does show Ludgate Lane, which may be on alignment with the possible Roman road. Subsequent to the building of the railway this became 'Station road'.
- 4.2.3 **Ordnance Survey maps:** the area is covered by one of the larger scale First, Second and Third Edition 25" to 1 mile maps (Sheet XXIX 5).
- 4.2.4 The OS first edition OS map (1867-8) shows that the area became known as Station Hill after the building of the railway. Interestingly, the field north of the old print works and immediately south of the railway line is marked 'Stones' (Site 37) and appears to show three stones in a line. This reference had been omitted by the publication of the Second Edition OS map of 1901-29. Elsewhere, there has been little change to the immediate environs of the study area since the publication of the first edition OS map (1867-8).
- 4.2.5 The first edition OS map of 1867-8 also shows that Ludgate Lane had become known as 'Old Lane'.

4.3 CUMBRIA SITES AND MONUMENT RECORD (CSMR)

- 4.3.1 The Cumbria SMR contained 36 records of sites within 1km radius of the defined study area. None of these sites lay within the actual proposed development area, but, considering their immediate proximity to the study area and their archaeological potential, they warrant discussion.

- 4.3.2 **Prehistory:** there are no prehistoric sites recorded within the study area. However, around the general area of Wigton there have been two Neolithic stone axe findspots (Sites 01, 06). There are also two Bronze Age axe findspots (Sites 02, 03) and a polished stone axe of prehistoric date but not assigned to a specific period (Site 30). There is also the place name evidence of Standingstone (first appearing on the first edition OS map 1867-8) suggests may indicate a prehistoric standing stone (Site 13).
- 4.3.3 **Iron Age/Roman:** there are only two Iron Age or Romano British sites recorded: a find of a carved red sandstone head from a farmhouse at Greenhill near Wigton (Ross, A 1967) (Site 11). It is said to be in the Iron Age tradition, and a polygonal enclosure showing as a cropmark, 400m north of Standingstone (Site 8).
- 4.3.4 The Roman period is represented by findspots (Sites 04, 05, 35, 36), and also by a recent excavation which revealed building remains and cremations (Site 33).
- 4.3.5 **Medieval:** the medieval period has only two records, the site of the Former hospital (Site 10) and a park area possibly at Highmoor (Site 14). The extent of the park is unknown but the SMR records that William de Wigton was given licence to impark at Wigton in 1268. From cartographic evidence there is little indication of the fossilised survival of such a park within the present day fields in the area (Fig 2).
- 4.3.5 **Post-medieval:** the post-medieval period has eleven records, which mainly relate to the industrial expansion of the town. These comprise a pottery (Site 14), a horse trough (Site 16), public baths (Site 18), a tannery (Site 20) factory buildings (Sites 21, 26), a printworks (Site 27), a cotton mill (Site 28) and a fountain (Site 32). The remaining records are listed as being of unknown period (Sites 07, 12, 17, 19, 22, 23, 25, 28, 31, 34) although the majority of these seem to refer to industry and are likely to be of late medieval or post-medieval date.

4.4 WALK-OVER SURVEY

- 4.4.1 The walk-over survey did not identify any additional archaeological sites or areas of disturbance. The area had been subject to arable cultivation and there was no survival of surface features, be they natural or archaeological.

5 EVALUATION

5.1 TRENCH 1

- 5.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the north-eastern corner of the study area and was aligned north-east/south-west. The trench measured 20mx1.6m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m. The topsoil consisted of a soft, dark-brown sandy silt containing occasional angular to rounded stones and it had a maximum depth of 0.3m. Beneath the topsoil, a subsoil was encountered which consisted of friable light-grey silty sands containing frequent small sub-angular stones, which had a maximum depth of 0.15m. This subsoil sealed the natural geology, which consisted of compact pinkish-orange sands containing frequent coarse gravels, moderate large sub-rounded and rounded stones and occasional small patches of clay. A sondage was excavated into the base of the trench at the south-west end to examine the natural, which continued unchanged to a thickness of 0.25m. Three field drains were observed cutting the natural, but no archaeology was present in this trench.

5.2 TRENCH 2

- 5.2.1 Trench 2 was located to the south of Trench 1 and was aligned north-east/south-west. It measured 20mx1.6m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.39m. The topsoil removed consisted of dark-brown clayey silt and was overlying mid-grey silty sand subsoil. Beneath this the natural, consisting of light-brownish-orange sands, was exposed, which was truncated by five field drains (four aligned north-west/south-east and the other east/west). No further features were observed truncating the natural.

5.3 TRENCH 3

- 5.3.1 Trench 3 was located to the south-east of Trench 2 and was aligned north-west/south-east. It measured 20mx1.8m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m. The topsoil consisted of a dark-brown sandy silt and was sealing the light-grey sandy silt subsoil. Beneath the subsoil, the natural, consisting of greyish-yellow sands, was exposed, which was truncated by two drains. The first of these drains was running north-west/south-east along the entire length of the trench, whilst the other was aligned east/west. These were the only two features observed cutting the natural, and no significant archaeology was identified.

5.4 TRENCH 4

- 5.4.1 Trench 4 was located to the south-west of Trench 3 and was aligned north east/south-west. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.44m and measured 20mx1.7m in plan. The topsoil consisted of a dark-brown silty sand and was removed to reveal the subsoil, which consisted of light-brown silty sand. The subsoil was observed overlying the natural geology and consisted of light brownish orange clayey sands. The natural was truncated by four land drains; three of these were aligned north-west/south-east, whilst the other was curvilinear, curving from the north-west side to the south-east side. No further features were observed cutting the natural and no significant archaeological features were identified.

5.5 TRENCH 5

- 5.5.1 Trench 5 was located in the south-west corner of the study area and aligned north-west/south-east. It measured 20mx1.7m and was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. The topsoil consisted of dark-brown sandy silt and overlay the light-grey clayey sand subsoil. This in turn sealed the natural geology, which consisted of orangeish-brown clayey sands. The natural was truncated by a field drain, aligned south-west/north-east, a probable plough mark or shallow gulley aligned north-west/south east, and the terminus of a ditch or field boundary **1**. This last feature was aligned south-west/north-east and measured 1.4mx0.9m, with a maximum depth of 0.2m. It contained two fills, **2** and **3**, the upper consisting of a light-brown silty sand and the lower of a mid brown silty sand. No artefacts were recovered from either fill.

5.6 TRENCH 6

- 5.6.1 Trench 6 was located to the north-west of Trench 5 and was aligned north-east/south-west. The trench measured 20mx1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.57m. The topsoil consisted of a dark-greyish-brown sandy silt and it sealed the mid-greyish-brown sandy silt subsoil. This subsoil was sealing the natural geological deposits, which consisted of compact pinkish orange sands. This was truncated by four land drains running north-west/south-east. There were also two substantial patches of subsoil that, upon investigation, proved to be very shallow (less than 0.06m in depth) depression which were almost certainly of natural origin. No further archaeological features were observed.

5.7 TRENCH 7

- 5.7.1 Trench 7 was located to the north-west of Trench 6 and was aligned north-west/south-east. It measured 20mx1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.59m. The topsoil in this trench consisted of dark-greyish-brown sandy silt and the subsoil that it sealed consisted of mid-greyish brown silty sand. Underneath both of these, the natural deposits consisted of light-brownish-orange sand, whose level sloped gradually downwards from north to south, mirroring the slight slope of the ground surface. This trench was devoid of archaeological features.

5.8 TRENCH 8

- 5.8.1 Trench 8 was located to the north-east of Trench 7 and was aligned north-west/south-east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m and measured 20mx1.6m in plan. The topsoil consisted of mid-brown sandy silt and overlay mid-grey sandy silt subsoil. The natural geology, beneath the subsoil, consisted of orange clayey sands and gravels, and it was truncated by a cut, for a land drain. No further archaeological features were observed.

5.9 TRENCH 9

- 5.9.1 Trench 9 was located to the west of Trench 8 against the western boundary of the site and was aligned north-west/south-east. The trench measured 20mx1.6m and

was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.46m. The topsoil consisted of greyish-brown silty sand to a maximum depth of 0.25m. This overlay mid-brown silty sands, which had a maximum thickness of 0.17m, and in turn overlay the natural geology, which consisted of light-brownish-orange clayey sands. The natural was truncated by a field drain, aligned roughly east/west. No further archaeological features were observed.

5.10 TRENCH 10

5.10.1 Trench 10 was located in the north-west corner of the study area and was aligned north-west/south-east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.51m and measured 20mx1.6m in plan. The topsoil consisted of mid to dark-brown sandy silt and overlay light-grey sandy silt subsoil. The natural geology beneath the subsoil, consisted of orange clayey sands and gravels, and was truncated by three land drains. No further archaeological features were observed.

5.11.1 TRENCH 11

5.11.1 Trench 11 was located to the north-east of Trench 10 and was aligned north-east/south-west. It measured 20mx1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m. The topsoil in this trench consisted of dark-greyish-brown silty sand and the subsoil that it sealed consisted of mid to light-brown silty sand. The underlying natural deposits consisted of a light-orangeish-brown sand, which was truncated by a field drain, aligned north-west/south-east. The trench also contained a tree throw but was otherwise devoid of archaeological features.

5.12 TRENCH 12

5.12.1 Trench 12 was located to the south-east of Trench 10 and was aligned north-east/south-west. The trench measured 20mx1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m. The topsoil consisted of dark-greyish-brown sandy silt to a maximum depth of 0.30m. This overlay mid greyish brown silty sands that had a maximum thickness of 0.10m, which in turn overlay the natural geology that consisted of light-brownish-orange sands. The natural was truncated by three field drains, aligned roughly south-east/north-west, with no archaeological deposits present.

5.13 TRENCH 13

5.13.1 Trench 13 was located to the south-east of Trench 11 and was aligned north-west/south-east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.69m and measured 20mx1.7m in plan. The topsoil removed consisted of a dark-greyish-brown sandy silt and overlay mid-greyish-brown silty sand subsoil. The natural geology that lay beneath the subsoil consisted of brownish-orange sands, and was truncated by a land drain and cut feature 4. This feature was sub-circular, measured 1.5mx0.8m in plan, and had a maximum depth of 0.24m. It contained two fills, 5 and 6, the upper of which was a dark-greyish-black sandy silt which probably derived from decayed organic material, possibly a tree. The lower fill consisted of light-grey silty sand and probably represents a mixture of root action and leaching

from the organic material above this fill. Overall it seems probable that this represents the *in-situ* decay of a tree, although it could also represent a shallow pit, whose upper fill had a high organic content. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

5.14 TRENCH 14

5.14.1 Trench 14 was located to the north-east of Trench 13 and was aligned north-east/south-west. It measured 20mx1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m. The topsoil in this trench consisted of dark-greyish-brown sandy silt and the subsoil that it sealed consisted of mid to light-grey silty sand. Underlying the natural deposits consisted of light-orangeish-brown clayey sand, which was truncated by three field drains. The trench also contained a probable tree throw but otherwise was devoid of archaeological features.

5.15 TRENCH 15

5.15.1 Trench 15 was located to the south-east of Trench 13 and was aligned north-east/south-west. The trench measured 20mx1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m. The topsoil consisted of a dark-greyish-brown sandy silt which was 0.30m deep. This overlay mid-greyish brown silty sands, which had a maximum thickness of 0.12m, and in turn overlay the natural geology which consisted of light-brownish-orange sands. The natural was truncated by two field drains, aligned roughly south-east/north-west, and a cut feature, **9**. This feature was curvilinear in shape, aligned north-west/south-east, and terminated within the trench. It measured 1.3mx0.48m in plan and had a maximum depth of 0.1m. The fill, **10**, of this feature consisted of mid to light-grey silty sand but no artefacts. It is likely that this feature represents a shallow gully.

5.16 TRENCH 16

5.16.1 Trench 16 was located to the south-west of Trench 4 and was aligned north-west/south-east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.64m and measured 20x1.6m in plan. The topsoil removed consisted of dark-brown sandy silt and overlay light-grey silty sand subsoil. The natural geology that lay beneath the subsoil consisted of orange sands, and it was truncated by two land drains. The earlier land drain ran north-east/south-west and it was truncated by the later north-west/south-east one. No significant archaeological remains were observed.

5.17 TRENCH 17

5.17.1 Trench 17 was located to the north-east of Trench 15 and was aligned north-west/south-east. It measured 20mx1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m. The topsoil in this trench consisted of a dark-greyish-brown sandy silt and the subsoil beneath consisted of mid-greyish-brown silty sand. Underlying these, the natural deposits consisted of light-brownish-orange sand, which was truncated

by two field drains. The trench also contained a small patch of brown sand, which was investigated and found to be caused by root action, otherwise the trench was devoid of archaeological features.

5.18 TRENCH 18

- 5.18.1 Trench 18 was located to the south-west of Trench 16 and was aligned north-east/south-west. The trench measured 20mx1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.56m. The topsoil consisted of a dark-greyish-brown sandy silt to a maximum depth of 0.40m. This overlay mid-greyish-brown silty sands of a maximum thickness of 0.10m. Underneath was the natural geology, which, consisted of light brownish orange sands. The natural was truncated by two field drains, aligned roughly north-west/south-east, and a cut feature, **11**. This feature was sub-circular in shape, measured 0.68x0.57m in plan and had a maximum depth of 0.1m. The fill, **12**, of this feature consisted of a mixture of light and dark brownish grey silty sand, and contained frequent charcoal fragments but no artefacts. It is likely that this feature represents either a bonfire or dump of burnt material. This feature cuts through at least the subsoil and the lowest portion of the topsoil, suggesting that it is of no great antiquity.

5.19 TRENCH 19

- 5.19.1 Trench 19 was located to the south of Trench 16 and was aligned north-east/south-west. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m and measured 20mx1.7m in plan. The topsoil consisted of dark-greyish-brown sandy silt and overlay a mid-grey sandy silt subsoil. The natural geology that lay beneath the subsoil consisted of light greyish orange sands and was truncated by three land drains. The trench also contained several patches of mid-greyish-brown silty sand. These were investigated and thought to be natural depressions which had been subject to natural silting. No significant archaeological deposits were observed.

5.20 TRENCH 20

- 5.20.1 **Trench 20:** Trench 20 was located to the south-west of Trench 13 and was aligned north-west/south-east. It measured 20x1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m. The topsoil consisted of a dark-brownish-grey sandy silt and the subsoil that it sealed consisted of mid-brownish-grey silty sand. Underneath were the natural deposits, which consisted of light-yellowish-brown silty sand which was entirely untruncated. No archaeology was present within this trench.

5.21 TRENCH 21

- 5.21.1 Trench 21 was located to the south-east of Trench 15 and was aligned north-east/south-west. The trench measured 20mx1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m. The topsoil consisted of a dark-greyish-brown sandy silt to a maximum depth of 0.32m. The underlying subsoil comprised mid-greyish-brown silty sands with a maximum thickness of 0.12m, which in turn overlay the natural geology of light-brownish-orange sands. The natural was truncated by four field drains and there were also two small patches of grey silty sand that, on

investigation, proved to be caused by root disturbance. No significant archaeological remains were identified within this trench.

5.22 TRENCH 22

- 5.22.1 Trench 22 was located to the north-east of Trench 5 and was aligned north-west/south-east. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.58m and measured 20mx1.6m in plan. The topsoil consisted of mid to dark-brown sandy silt and overlay light-grey silty sand subsoil. The natural geology underneath the subsoil consisted of light-pinkish-orange sands and it was truncated by three land drains. The trench also contained a small cut feature, **14**, which was sub-circular, measured 0.22mx0.17m in plan and had a maximum depth of 0.08m. The fill, **13**, consisted of light-grey silty sand and contained no artefacts. It is most likely that this feature represents a posthole.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

6.1.1 The objectives of the project were to:

- research and collate as much available archaeological information on the defined study area as the timescope of the project allowed;
- determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature and survival of the archaeological resource within the study area;
- assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

6.1.2 **Prehistory:** nearby findspots of both Bronze Age and Neolithic artefacts suggests that casual finds may have survived, and may continue to be found, and as such demonstrates prehistoric activity within the general area. On a larger scale, the field system of Aughertree Fell, south of Wigton, may date to the Romano-British or Late Iron Age (Higham and Jones 1984) indicating that the region was populated and, therefore, there is potential for remains. The place name ‘Standingstones’ coupled with a line of ‘stones’ shown on the OS first edition map in the field to the south of the study area (Site 37), may be an indication of a prehistoric monolith stone alignment which has not survived through to the present day.

6.1.3 **Roman:** the development site is on the putative line of a Roman road between the Old Carlisle fort and that at Bowness on Solway. As such there is the potential for associated road side settlements or agricultural field systems. Just such remains have been identified by recent excavations of a Roman extra mural settlement (Site 33). This suggests that there is potential for further remains in areas which have been left undisturbed.

6.1.4 **Medieval:** in the medieval period the expansion of the town of Wigton seems to have been centred around the market place. The earliest reference found to the study dates from 1570 referring to ‘*Stanyston*’ and described as a hamlet half a mile north of Wigton (D/LEC/BOX300). It is possible that the area of standing stone was a larger area during the medieval period, essentially being an agricultural settlement north of the market town. However the immediate study area does not appear to have been developed into strip field systems, or at least no evidence remains. However, the fact that Wigton became a Barony and a focal point of settlement in the area by the mid twelfth century, coupled with little post-medieval development north of the railway line, suggests good potential for the survival of medieval remains.

6.1.5 **Post-medieval:** there appears to have been little development on the immediate site of Standingstone, with a small degree of residential development to the west that can be traced on the OS mapping, but the development area appears to have been unchanged since the earliest available maps. The town of Wigton itself had been subject to significant levels of expansion and industrial development during the post-medieval period. The coming of the railway and the increase in textile industries lead to a dramatic increase in population and many new associated buildings. The railway line itself appears to have acted as a delimiting line for the northern expansion of the town’s industry, particularly below the area of Standingstone.

6.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 6.2.1 The results of the assessment have shown that there is potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the study area, in particular, evidence of pre-industrial activity, with a focus on the Roman period. The lack of industrial expansion combined with the proximity to extensive Roman extra mural settlement would suggest a potential for well preserved sub-surface remains. The lack of readily available cartographic material for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries makes it difficult to determine the amount of medieval activity in the study area or when the roads were laid out.
- 6.2.2 of the archaeological resource within the study area is the extent to which it was occupied as an agricultural production zone during the Roman period. The lack of industrial development and possibility of limited medieval agricultural activity provides the potential for good preservation of subsurface remains. In particular, if a road did run between the fort at Old Carlisle and Bowness on Solway it is likely to have had intermittent roadside settlement along it. This may account for Site 08, a crop mark enclosure of potentially Iron Age/Romano British date some 400m to the north.
- 6.2.3 In terms of the earlier periods, the lack of definitive evidence for extant archaeological remains within the study area does not allow for an informed assessment as to the potential for remains. The only evidence available is limited to a small number of isolated findspots in the region together with placename and cartographic evidence of the name 'Standingstone'. The only other site is (Site 37) a cartographic reference to 'Stones' in the field to the south of the railway line.

6.3 EVALUATION

- 6.3.1 In total 22 evaluation trenches were excavated, of which only five contained possible archaeological features. A number of tree throws were observed in which one could be interpreted as a possible archaeological feature, cut **4**, in Trench 13. One isolated posthole was identified from the site, cut **14** within Trench 22, but a lack of artefacts makes it impossible to date. The small pit, **11** found within Trench 18 also lacked any artefacts which could date it, but it was observed cutting through the subsoil and at least the lowest part of the topsoil which would indicate that it is not particularly old. The probable shallow gully, **9**, observed within Trench 15 did not contain any artefacts and so was impossible to date. The alignment of this feature meant that had it been a substantial gully it would have been identified within Trench 21, which ran broadly parallel to Trench 15, just over 11m to the south-east. However, the feature did not continue through to Trench 21, therefore, the total length is less than 12m. Given the lack of continuation this feature could either be interpreted as an isolated short length of curving gully or, given its shallowness and somewhat uncertain edges, it could be a possible natural feature. The most substantial feature identified on site was the ditch terminus, **1**, located within Trench 5. This feature did not contain any artefactual remains or carbon-rich deposits and could not be dated. Trench 22, which was on roughly the same alignment as Trench 5 but c9m to the east of it, contained no linear features, making it almost certain that the terminus identified in Trench 5 was an end to the feature and not one side of an opening along a ditch or a field boundary.

7. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 IMPACT

- 7.1.1 The desk-based study identified the potential for significant archaeological remains within the study area, in particular there is the potential for the remains of Roman field systems and extra mural settlement. Given the supposed line of the Old Carlisle to Bowness on Solway Roman road to the west of the study area it would seem most likely that any concentration of archaeological activity would be concentrated in the westernmost part of the site. The most credible feature identified on site, ditch **I**, was indeed identified just a few metres from the western boundary, with its eastern terminus within Trench 5. This feature was aligned roughly east/west, and it is possible that it may represent the very end of a field boundary, aligned perpendicular to the line of a putative north/south road.
- 7.1.2 The other archaeological features identified were more difficult to correlate with the information obtained from the desk-based study; the posthole **14** had no obvious associations, pit **11** appeared relatively recent and feature **9** can be only tentatively described as a gully.
- 7.1.3 The discovery in the westernmost part of the site of ditch **I** provides the suggestion that there may be archaeology present in the area, albeit concentrated to the west of the study area and close to the proposed line of the Roman road. The position of the trenches appears to have been sufficient to identify any substantial features that may have been running perpendicular to the road. Overall, given the low density of archaeological features recovered from within the 22 trenches, it is unlikely that any significant archaeological resource will be impacted upon by the proposed development.

7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.2.1 Given the low density of archaeological remains, of which none were confirmed as being archaeologically significant, it is recommended that the site does not warrant mitigation recording. However, given the finding of a ditch terminus in the south western most corner of the study area it may be pertinent to have a watching brief during any ground disturbance in this part of the site.

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APPENDIX 1 PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 2 PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford
Archaeology
North

November 2002

STANDINGSTONE WIGTON CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Proposals

The following design is offered in response to a request from Persimmon for an archaeological assessment and evaluation in advance of a residential development at Standingstone, Wigton, Cumbria.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Persimmon Homes has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an assessment and evaluation at Standingstone, Wigton, Cumbria in advance of a proposed residential development at the site.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of the archaeological survey and evaluation of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 20 years. Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. OA North has considerable experience of the recording of historic buildings together with the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large-scale projects during the past 20 years. Fieldwork has taken place within the planning process and construction programmes, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed, in accordance with a brief by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (CCCAS) to provide a desk-based assessment, and an evaluation. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 DESK-BASED STUDY

- 2.2.1 To provide a desk-based assessment of the site.

2.3 WALK-OVER SURVEY

- 2.3.1 To undertake a visual inspection of the site, and produce a photographic record of any standing structures.

2.4 EVALUATION TRENCHING BRIEF

- 2.4.1 To implement a programme of greenfield trial trenching examining 5% of the study area.

2.5 REPORT

- 2.5.1 A written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the desk-based study, and evaluation and would make an assessment of the archaeological potential of the area, and would make recommendations for further work.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 DESK- BASED STUDY

- 3.1.1 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the timescale of the project.
- 3.1.2 ***Documentary and cartographic material:*** this work will rapidly address the full range of potential sources of information. It will include an appraisal of the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record, as well as appropriate sections of County histories, early maps, and such primary documentation (tithe and estate plans etc.) as may be reasonably available. Particular emphasis will be upon the early cartographic evidence which has the potential to inform post-medieval occupation and land-use of the area. Any photographic material lodged in either the County Sites and Monuments Record or the County Record Offices will also be studied. Published documentary sources will also be examined and assessed, notably the work of Bob Bewley who has undertaken

considerable research into the cropmark sites of the Solway Plain (Bewley 1994). This work will involve visits to the County Record Office in Carlisle.

- 3.1.3 The study will examine place and field name evidence for the site and its environs. Any engineering or bore-hole data made available by the client will be examined.
- 3.1.4 **Aerial photography:** a brief survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. This would provide an indication of recent land-use, but is not likely to significantly inform the archaeological potential of the site. The Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record has a valuable aerial photographic collection. Aerial photographic work will also entail liaison with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments (England) (NMR), although, within the timescale available, it is unlikely that prints will be forthcoming from this body for inclusion in this report.
- 3.1.5 **Physical environment:** a rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical and palaeoenvironmental information will be undertaken. It will be based on published geological mapping and any local geological surveys in the possession of the county council or the client. This will not only set the archaeological features in context but also serves to provide predictive data, that will increase the efficiency of the field inspection.

3.2 IDENTIFICATION SURVEY

- 3.2.1 It is proposed to undertake an OA North 'level 1' survey (*Appendix 1*) of the study area. This is a rapid survey undertaken alongside a desk-top study as part of a site assessment. It is an initial site inspection intended to identify the extant archaeological resource. It represents the minimum standard of record and is appropriate to exploratory survey aimed at the discovery of previously unrecorded sites. Its aim is to record the existence, location and extent of any such site. The emphasis for the recording is on the written description, which will record type and period and would not normally exceed c50 words. The extent of a site is defined for sites or features greater than 50m in size and smaller sites are shown with a cross. The reconnaissance will be undertaken in a systematic fashion, walking on approximately 30m wide transects, within the extent of the defined study area.
- 3.2.2 It is proposed to use Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques to locate and record the features and sites. GPS instrumentation 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 use of GPS techniques has proved to be an essential and extremely cost effective means of locating monuments, and can achieve an accuracy better than +/- 0.5m.
- 3.2.3 A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously of the general area and any sites identified. An oblique external photographic record will be created of the standing structures on the site. The photography will be in black and white, and colour transparency formats and also in digital format.
- 3.2.4 The survey will also record areas of significant disturbance, which could have an impact upon the siting of the evaluation trenches.
- 3.2.5 An early surface inspection such as this is highly recommended, as such work can frequently double the amount of archaeological information for an area. This fieldwork will result in the production of plans at a scale of 1: 2500 or any other appropriate scale required, recording the location of each of the sites listed in the gazetteer. All archaeological information collected in the course of field inspection will be recorded in standardised form, and will include accurate national grid references. This will form the basis of a gazetteer, to be submitted as part of the report.

3.3 EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 3.3.1 The programme of greenfield trenching will establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits and, if established, will then test their date, nature, depth and quality of preservation.
- 3.3.2 **Methods:** the evaluation is required to evaluate 5% of the undeveloped study area. The overall area is 15,200m², and this requires the excavation of 760m² and would entail the excavation of 22 20m x 1.7m trenches. Provisionally the trenches will be scattered uniformly over the extent of the undeveloped area, but in practice the precise locations will be determined by the assessment, and in consultation with CCCAS. Subject to the assessment there may also be additional areas of disturbed land, which are in appropriate for evaluation, and consequently may reduce the overall area needing to be evaluated.
- 3.3.3 The trenches will be excavated by a combination of mechanised and manual techniques; the topsoil will be removed by mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.7m wide toothless bucket, and archaeological deposits beneath will be first manually cleaned and then any features identified will be manually excavated. The machine excavation will not intrude into any potential archaeological stratigraphy and all machine excavation will be undertaken under careful archaeological supervision. Following mechanical excavation the floor of the trench will be cleaned by hoe and Manual excavation techniques will be used to evaluate any sensitive deposits, and will enable an assessment of the nature, date, survival and depth of deposits and features. The trenches will not be excavated deeper than 1.25m to accommodate health and safety constraints; any requirements to excavate below this depth will involve recosting.
- 3.3.4 All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Trenches will be located by use of GPS equipment, which is accurate to +/- 0.25m, altitude information will be established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. Archaeological features within the trenches will be planned by manual techniques.
- 3.3.5 **Environmental Sampling:** environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). Subject to the results of the excavation an assessment of any environmental samples will be undertaken by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The assessment would examine the potential for macrofossil, arthropod, palynological and general biological analysis. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if good waterlogged deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of CCCAS and the client.
- 3.3.6 Samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeozoological specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.
- 3.3.7 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.3.8 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.

3.4 REPORT

- 3.4.1 **Archive:** the results of the fieldwork 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. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context. This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be included in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record. A copy of the archive can also be made available for deposition with the National Archaeological Record. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum.
- 3.4.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further two copies will be submitted to the Cumbria County Council SMR. 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 present an assessment of the sites history; the report will include photographs of any significant features. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail. The report will include a description of the methodology and the results. A list of the finds, and a description of the collective assemblage. Details of any environmental work undertaken.
- 3.4.3 The report will include a frontispiece showing the planning number and the grid reference. It will have a summary and a methodological statement, and it will define any variations to the defined programme. It will include recommendations for further work.
- 3.3.3 Illustrative material will include a location map, site map, historic maps, a trench location map, trench plans, survey plans and also pertinent photographs. It can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion.
- 3.3.4 **Publication:** a summary report of the results will be submitted to a regional journal, and information from the project will be fed into the OASIS project (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigation).
- 3.5 OTHER MATTERS**
- 3.5.1 **Health and Safety:** OA North conforms to all health and safety guidelines as contained in the Lancaster University Manual of Health and Safety and the safety manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. The work will be in accordance with Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the Council for British Archaeology Handbook No. 6, *Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork* (1989).
- 3.5.2 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the watching brief and fabric survey, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. A risk assessment will be completed in advance of the project's commencement. If there is a requirement to excavate trenches deeper than 1.25m the trenches will be stepped out to minimise section collapse. As a matter of course the Unit uses a U-Scan device prior to any excavation to test for services. It is assumed that the client will provide any available information regarding services within the study area, if available.
- 3.5.3 **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.
- 3.5.4 **Confidentiality:** THE report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond

the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

- 3.5.5 **Project Monitoring:** OA North will consult with the client regarding access to the site. Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the County Archaeologist will be kept fully informed of the work and its results. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with CCCAS in consultation with the Client.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The following programme is proposed:

Desk-based Assessment

A five day period would be required for this element

Identification Survey

One day will be required to complete this element

Evaluation Trenching

Five days will be required to complete this element

Report

A fifteen day period would be to complete this element

- 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 managed by **Jamie Quartermaine BA Surv Dip MIFA** (Unit Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. OA North adheres by the IFA's Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

APPENDIX 3 GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number	01
Site name	Wigton Axe Find
NGR	NY 25000 48000
Site type	Findspot
Period	Prehistoric/Neolithic
SMR No	674
Source	PPS 30, 1964
Description	A Cumbrian axe, 9" long, found near Wigton. Now in the Ashmolean Museum.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	02
Site name	Wigton Axe Find
NGR	NY 25000 48000
Site type	Findspot
Period	Prehistoric/Bronze Age
SMR No	675
Source	Clough 1969
Description	A convex-flanged axe from Wigton, dated to the mid Bronze Age, now in the British Museum.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	03
Site name	Wigton Axe Find
NGR	NY 25000 48000
Site type	Find spot
Period	Prehistoric/Bronze Age
SMR No	667
Source	Spence 1940
Description	A perforated stone axe-hammer with a square butt found in Wigton parish, now in Tullie House.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	04
Site name	Wigton Vicarage Carved Stone Find
NGR	NY 25630 48100
Site type	Carved Stone
Period	Roman
SMR No	668
Source	Ross 1967
Description	A Roman sculpture 2-3ft high built into a wall at Wigton Vicarage. It is a relief of a god with indeterminate attributes in his hands.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	05
Site name	Wigton
NGR	NY 26140 47620
Site type	Temple
Period	Roman
SMR No	670
Source	Collingwood and Collingwood, 1928
Description	A Roman altar of red sandstone 35" x 23" is said to have stood in the garden at High Moor House it is no longer in situ and its whereabouts are unknown.

Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	06
Site name	Wigton Axe Find
NGR	NY 25000 48000
Site type	Find spot
Period	Prehistoric/Neolithic
SMR No	673
Source	Manby, 1965
Description	A pointed ocal Cumbrian stone axe 7" long found at Wigton. Now in British Museum.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	07
Site name	Low Dockrayrigg Enclosure, Woodside.
NGR	NY 25700 50400
Site type	Enclosure
Period	Unknown
SMR No	2993
Source	Aerial photography; Manchester University
Description	A polygonal enclosure of unknown date and origin which appears as a cropmark.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	08
Site name	Standingstone Enclosure Cropmark, Wigton
NGR	NY 25500 49600
Site type	Enclosure
Period	Prehistoric/Roman
SMR No	2996
Source	Aerial photography; Manchester University.
Description	A polygonal enclosure, possibly an Iron Age/Romano British settlement, appearing as a cropmark. The aerial photographs shows a subrectangular bivallate enclosure c30 x 25m (Hopkins). It is on improved pasture, on a knoll in the middle of low ground. There were no obvious features when visited in October 1999.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	09
Site name	St Leonard's Medieval Hospital Site
NGR	NY 26400 49500
Site type	Hospital
Period	Medieval
SMR No	4130
Source	Knowles and Hadcock, 1953
Description	The medieval hospital, Wigton, Cumberland dedicated to St Leonard, was founded before 1383 and dissolved in 1546.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary
Site number	10
Site name	Greenhill, Wigton Carved Head Find
NGR	NY 25000 48000
Site type	Carved Stone
Period	Prehistoric/Roman
SMR No	5085
Source	Ross, 1967
Description	A head in red sandstone from Greenhill, near Wigton, noticed on the wall of a farmhouse in March 1965; it is alleged to have come from the Golf Course at Wigton.

Assessment	According to Ross it is very much in the local tradition with huge, lentoid eyes, squared outline and lack of mouth. The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
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Site number	11
Site name	Aikhead Enclosure Cropmark
NGR	NY 24100 49500
Site type	Enclosure
Period	Unknown
SMR No	5377
Source	Bette Hopkins pers. comm.
Description	Possible cropmarks. The slide appears to show feint traces of a sub-rectangular enclosure with a narrow annexe at its north-east end. The field is reseeded, level pasture. There were no traces of any archaeological features when visited in October 1999 (Hopkins).
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	12
Site name	Wigton, Half Moon Lane Pottery find
NGR	NY 25500 48300
Site type	Pottery
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	6369
Source	Bette Hopkins pers. comm.
Description	Test holes dug in July 1981 in Half Moon Lane revealed cobbles and silts as well as eighteenth-nineteenth century pottery. No medieval pottery was seen.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	13
Site name	Standingstone, Wigton
NGR	NY 25500 49300
Site type	Standingstone
Period	Prehistoric
SMR No	6114
Source	Bette Hopkins pers. comm.
Description	The name Standingstone may indicate a prehistoric standing stone. A brief inspection of the area in October 1999 failed to locate anything relevant (Hopkins). The first edition OS map shows the name of the Hamlet as 'Standingstone' to the north-east of the development area, but also lists 'Standingstone cottage' at the immediate north-east of the site. The actual development area is shown as having a break in the surrounding hedgerow exactly where the site itself is called 'Standingstone'.
Assessment	The site is the name of the Hamlet to the immediate north-east of the site, but no extant remains have been found. This may preclude the possibility of subsurface remains.

Site number	14
Site name	Wigton Park
NGR	NY 26400 47700
Site type	Park
Period	Medieval
SMR No	6833
Source	Aerial photography, Manchester University
Description	William de Wigton was given licence to impark at Wigton in 1268, the exact extent and location of the park is unknown, but possibly at this location.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	15
Site name	Belted Will Horse Trough, Wigton
NGR	NY 25366 48960
Site type	Trough
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10248
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	A sandstone horse drinking trough. It stands about 10ft long and 10ft wide and 4ft deep with a cast iron head of a soldier fixed in the back. It may be fed from a well in the garden of a house called "The Oaks", Cross Lane, Wigton. It was probably built about the time the railways were built (1850's). There are plans to re-site the trough due to its location in the way of the new Wigton by-pass. It has been relocated above the B3303 on the pedestrian footway at approx NY 25366 48960. It is in good condition, but is now used as an ornamental trough for flowers rather than a horse drinking trough (Hopkins).
Assessment	The site lies at the southern edge of the development is likely to be effected.

Site number	16
Site name	Wigton Tannery
NGR	NY 25760 48280
Site type	Tannery
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10249
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	The site of a Tannery is shown on the SMR to the east of the stream and no longer survives. The modern development almost opposite is known as Tannery Court.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area.

Site number	17
Site name	Wigton Dye Works
NGR	NY 25950 48160
Site type	Dye Works
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10250
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	The site of a dye works. The existing swimming baths may incorporate part of the dye works in its structure - an old chimney survives.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	18
Site name	Little Mill Corn Mill, Wigton
NGR	NY 26020 48150
Site type	Watermill
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10251
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	The site of a cornmill. If the position shown on the SMR maps is correct, the mill no longer exists. The area is now part of the Wigton playing fields; however the weir still survives (Hopkins pers. comm.).
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	19
Site name	Wigton Tannery
NGR	NY 25400 48600
Site type	Tannery
Period	Post-medieval

SMR No	10256
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	A Tannery (building) of which only a small corner of the building survives and may have been connected with the tannery. The rest of the site consists of a storage yard for a plumbers and joiners workshop. The surviving building is in red brick, nineteenth/twentieth century, and appears in reasonable condition although disused.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary

Site number	20
Site name	Wigton Factory Building
NGR	NY 25700 48260
Site type	Factory
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10257
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	A factory (building) now in an area of modern housing. Needs clarification against 1 st Edition maps (Hopkins pers. comm.).
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	21
Site name	Clay Dubs Clay Pit
NGR	NY 26150 48650
Site type	Pit
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10258
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	The site of a clay pit.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	22
Site name	Wigton Dye Works
NGR	NY 25370 48860
Site type	Dye Works
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10259
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	A dye works building when visited in October 1999 the site had been levelled and concreted over and is now in use as a compound for parking vehicles etc (Hopkins pers. comm.).
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	23
Site name	Old Lane Windmill, Wigton
NGR	NY 325360 548870
Site type	Windmill
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10260
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	The site was a windmill for milling flour, but is now a scout hut. It has late eighteenth century with nineteenth century additions. It has random red sandstone rubble under Welsh slate roof and comprised of five-storey tapering circular tower without sails which has a 3-storey rectangular steam mill extension. The tower has twentieth century plank doors and small square windows which have been blocked with brick. The walls have been raised in height with brick and has the base of a square sandstone chimney to

	the left. The original machinery was removed in the 1970's, but internal floors remain. It has a Listed Building Grade II (LB list). The structure was in good condition in October 1999 (Hopkins pers. comm.).
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary, but it is a listed building.

Site number	24
Site name	Wigton Tannery
NGR	NY 25370 48830
Site type	Tannery
Period	Unknown
SMR No	10261
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	A tannery (building). A nineteenth century brick building which is now a warehouse but may have been part of the original tannery site; however, the SMR map shows the tannery slightly to the south west of this building (Hopkins).
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	25
Site name	Soda Water Manufactory, Wigton
NGR	NY 25570 48730
Site type	Factory
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10262
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	A soda water factory (building) which is now a WCF Country Centre. It consists of a collection of nineteenth/twentieth century brick buildings, mainly whitewashed and in reasonable condition (Hopkins).
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary

Site number	26
Site name	Old Printworks, Printfield, Wigton
NGR	NY 25700 48750
Site type	Printworks
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10263
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	A printworks building; two of the four buildings as shown survive. One at NY 2571 4875 is white rendered and lived in, the other, which may have been a group of workers' cottages at NY 2572 4879, is derelict but is still more or less roofed over. There was no direct access to the site, so no assessment could be made as to whether any machinery survives; it seems doubtful. Remnants of other structures also survive (Hopkins pers. comm.).
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	27
Site name	Brookside Works Cotton Mill
NGR	NY 25700 48280
Site type	Cotton Mill
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10265
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	The site of a cotton mill, but is now modern housing. No traces of the mill were seen in October 1999 (Hopkins pers. comm.).
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	28
Site name	Tenters Road Dye Works
NGR	NY 25800 48520
Site type	Dye Works House
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10266
Source	1 st edition OS Map sheet XXIX
Description	The dye works appear to have been converted into housing. The present structure is rendered with modern window insets which makes it difficult to date. It appears to be twentieth century (Hopkins pers.comm.).
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	29
Site name	Wigton Axe Find
NGR	NY 25000 48000
Site type	Axe
Period	Neolithic
SMR No	16935
Source	Richardson, 1990
Description	A fine polished axe in a mid-green volcanic tuff (Group VI?) with one face weathered to a darker colour. The surface colour varies from pale to dark olive green. There are a few small areas of rough unpolished surfaces with very slight chipping or damage around the thinned rounded butt. The lateral facets are easily defined and broad towards the cutting edge, and narrow gradually as they approach the butt. Longitudinal surface grinding facets are visible on both faces. The cutting edge is sharp and slightly asymmetrical and has not been evenly ground, while the cross-sectional form is a flattened oval. The axe may have been larger in antiquity. Max L. 181mm; max W at cutting edge 72mm; max blade thickness 35mm; max width of lateral facets 12.5mm; W of butt 20mm. Found in a field in 1899 by Joseph Barnes. Now housed at the Tullie House museum
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	30
Site name	Wigton Quernstone Finds
NGR	NY 26000 48000
Site type	Quernstone
Period	Unknown
SMR No	17948
Source	Richardson 1990
Description	The upper stone of a rotary quern in a cream-coloured millstone grit with the exposed surfaces weathered to a mid-grey and lichen covered. The stone is undecorated and has been damaged in a number of places with large pieces detached from the circumference. The surface has been well-dressed and faint pick marks are visible on all the hopper walls. The overall shape can be described as a “flattened bee-hive” with various examples described and illustrated by Curwen, while the chronological range of the type is considerable. The hopper is funnel-shaped without an encircling rim or collar and is deep, leaving only a short length of elongated feed pipe to the grinding surface. The latter is slightly concave and ungrooved, while the single handle-hole tapers inwards to a depth of 47mm and is situated 30mm above the grinding surface. Found in an uncultivated garden “a few inches below the surface” at the donors address in 1956-7. Presented by Mr R Farish, Wigton, June 1983. At Tullie House Museum. The lower stone of a rotary quern in granite (Dalbeattie?), weathered to a grey-brown on the exterior surface, was removed from a farmhouse wall at the donors address and approximately one quarter of the surface has been broken off. The base is pyramidal and would have been bedded in clay, soil or sand for stability when in use. The grinding surface falls away almost imperceptibly around the edges and has a max diameter of 304mm. Donated by Mr R Farish, September 1983. At Tullie House Museum, Accn no 158-1983 (C Richardson).

Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	31
Site name	Fountain Market Place, Wigton
NGR	NY 25490 48385
Site type	Fountain
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	18954
Source	Godwin 1986
Description	The fountain was built on the site of the market cross in 1873. It was erected by George Moore of Whitehall in memory of his beloved first wife, Eliza. She had wanted him to 'do something' for Wigton and so he proposed a drinking fountain in September 1868. It was a granite pyramid, its base 17 feet square, rising to 33 feet to the gilt bronze ball and cross. On each of the four pediments above the cornice was a gilt bronze bust of the first Mrs Moore and the water poured into four basins. It was considered to be the finest in England.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	32
Site name	Roman Cremation Burials, Enclosure near Tiffenthwaite Farm.
NGR	NY 26059 47382
Site type	Cremation
Period	Roman
SMR No	19091
Source	CAU 2000
Description	Trial trenching November 15 th -10 th December 1999 in connection with an application to develop fields 0933 adjacent to Syke Road, Wigton revealed a Roman cremation vessel of the Huntcliffe type. (see also CAL Archaeology List 1999) (CAU 2000). A watching brief followed up the evaluation, and in this phase, further cremations were found together with parts of a palisaded enclosure, the interior of which lay mainly outside the areas of investigation. A sub-oval timber building, measuring 6.5m x 5m internally, was uncovered. There were also the remains of three narrow, cobbled tracks or paths.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	33
Site name	Carved Head, Wigton
NGR	NY 25000 48000
Site type	Carved Stone
Period	Unknown
SMR No	19180
Source	Richardson, 1990
Description	A sculptured head in red sandstone, found when topsoil was being machined off in Slater's Yard, Wigton, in 1981. The head is of a relatively recent date and is cherub-like in appearance with curly hair and a neck which is slightly angled. It is likely to be the remains of a garden ornament, fountain statue. Overall height 145mm; max width 120mm. Accn No. 47-1983.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.
Site number	34
Site name	Pendant Find, Wigton, Allerdale
NGR	NY26000 48000
Site type	Findspot
Period	Roman

SMR No	19403
Source	Portable Antiquities Database
Description	A circular flat lead pendant with a floral design was found by Mr Kevin Wright at Wigton, Allerdale, sometime prior to 1998. The pendant dates from c43/410 A.D and is possibly Roman. Although incomplete, the pendant is in a fair state of preservation. The diameter is 31mm.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	35
Site name	Pegasus Relief, Wigton
NGR	NY 25400 48730
Site type	Findspot
Period	Roman
SMR No	19685
Source	Richardson, 1998
Description	<p>A block of red sandstone with a Winged Pegasus carved in relief on one face was placed on indefinite loan by Messrs R and I Hill, Wigton. The stone was formerly mounted above the doorway of an outbuilding or cottage in the yard of J Hill and Sons (Funeral Directors) Station Road, Wigton. The outbuilding was demolished in c1963 and the stone has almost certainly originated from the fort at Old Carlisle. Research to date has located only one previous reference to the carving. The Winged Pegasus was one of the emblems of the Second Legion and this stone may commemorate building work carried out at Old Carlisle or in the locality.</p> <p>The winged horse has been finely executed and is intact although the condition of the carved surface is a cause for concern. There are long lateral cracks and the surface was sealed with 'woodglue' some years ago and is now flaking.</p> <p>Dimensions: the block tapers from the front to rear and is 300mm in depth. The carved panel is 287mm wide and 264mm high.</p>
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary.

Site number	36
Site name	Standing stones
NGR	NY25600 54900
Site type	Standingstones
Period	Unknown, possibly prehistoric.
SMR No	-
Source	OS 1 st Edition 25": mile sheet XXIX 5
Description	The first edition OS map reads 'Stones' in this field and appears to show an alignment of three stones.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area boundary, but is consistent with the name Standingstone.

Site number	37
Site name	Pump at Standingstone, Wigton
NGR	NY25400 49100
Site type	Pump
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Source	OS 2 nd Edition map
Description	A pump is shown on the second and third edition OS maps, though not on current mapping.
Assessment	The site lies within the delimited study area.

Site number	38
Site name	Wigton Ropery
NGR	NY 25460 45230

Site type	Ropery
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	10264
Source	Hopkins pers. comm.
Description	The site of a ropery, now a residential development with nor trace remaining.
Assessment	The site lies outside the delimited study area.

APPENDIX 4 CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Trench	Description
<i>1</i>	5	Cut of ditch/field boundary
<i>2</i>	5	Lower fill of <i>1</i>
<i>3</i>	5	Upper fill of <i>1</i>
<i>4</i>	13	Cut of pit/tree throw
<i>5</i>	13	Lower fill of <i>4</i>
<i>6</i>	13	Upper fill of <i>4</i>
<i>7</i>	11	Cut of tree throw
<i>8</i>	11	Fill of <i>7</i>
<i>9</i>	15	Cut of possible gully
<i>10</i>	15	Fill of <i>9</i>
<i>11</i>	18	Cut of possible hearth
<i>12</i>	18	Fill of <i>11</i>
<i>13</i>	22	Fill of <i>14</i>
<i>14</i>	22	Cut of posthole

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Location Plan

Figure 2: Gazetteer Sites

Figure 3: John Woods' map of Wigton (1832)

Figure 4: Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st edition 25": 1 mile Sheet XXIX 5 (1867-8)

Figure 5: Ordnance Survey (OS) 2nd edition 25": 1 mile Sheet XXIX 5 (1901-2)

Figure 6: Ordnance Survey (OS) 2nd edition 25": 1 mile Sheet XXIX 5 (1925)

Figure 7: Location Plan of Trenches

Figure 8: Plan of Trench 5

PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 5, ditch ***1***

Plate 2: Trench 22, posthole ***14***

Plate 3: Aerial view of Old Carlisle fort and associated roads, taken by JK St Joseph in 1949. The main Roman road can be seen on the right (south) of the fort, and the branch road leading to the east gate.

November 2002

**STANDINGSTONE
WIGTON
CUMBRIA**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Proposals

The following design is offered in response to a request from Persimmon for an archaeological assessment and evaluation in advance of a residential development at Standingstone, Wigton, Cumbria.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Persimmon Homes has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an assessment and evaluation at Standingstone, Wigton, Cumbria in advance of a proposed residential development at the site.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of the archaeological survey and evaluation of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 20 years. Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. OA North has considerable experience of the recording of historic buildings together with the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 20 years. Fieldwork has taken place within the planning process and construction programmes, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed, in accordance with a brief by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (CCCAS) to provide a desk-based assessment, and an evaluation. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 DESK-BASED STUDY

- 2.2.1 To provide a desk-based assessment of the site.

2.3 WALK-OVER SURVEY

- 2.3.1 To undertake a visual inspection of the site, and produce a photographic record of any standing structures.

2.4 EVALUATION TRENCHING BRIEF

- 2.3.1 To implement a programme of greenfield trial trenching examining 5% of the study area.

2.5 REPORT

- 2.5.1 A written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the desk-based study, and evaluation and would make an assessment of the archaeological potential of the area, and would make recommendations for further work.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 DESK- BASED STUDY

- 3.1.1 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the timescale of the project.
- 3.1.2 **Documentary and cartographic material:** this work will rapidly address the full range of potential sources of information. It will include an appraisal of the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record, as well as appropriate sections of County histories, early maps, and such primary documentation (tithe and estate plans etc.) as may be reasonably available. Particular emphasis will be upon the early cartographic evidence which has the potential to inform post-medieval occupation and land-use of the area. Any photographic material lodged in either the County Sites and Monuments Record or the County Record Offices will also be studied. Published documentary sources will also be examined and assessed, notably the work of Bob Bewley who has undertaken considerable research into the cropmark sites of the Solway Plain (Bewley 1994). This work will involve visits to the County Record Office in Carlisle.
- 3.1.3 The study will examine place and field name evidence for the site and its environs. Any engineering or bore-hole data made available by the client will be examined.
- 3.1.4 **Aerial photography:** a brief survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. This would provide an indication of recent land-use, but is not likely to significantly inform the archaeological potential of the site. The Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record has a valuable aerial photographic collection. Aerial photographic work will also entail liaison with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments (England) (NMR), although, within the timescale available, it is unlikely that prints will be forthcoming from this body for inclusion in this report.
- 3.1.5 **Physical environment:** a rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical and palaeoenvironmental information will be undertaken. It will be based on published geological mapping and any local geological surveys in the possession of the county council or the client. This will not only set the archaeological features in context but also serves to provide predictive data, that will increase the efficiency of the field inspection.

3.2 IDENTIFICATION SURVEY

- 3.2.1 It is proposed to undertake an OA North 'level 1' survey (*Appendix 1*) of the study area. This is a rapid survey undertaken alongside a desk top study as part of a site assessment. It is an initial site inspection intended to identify the extant archaeological resource. It represents the minimum standard of record and is appropriate to exploratory survey aimed at the discovery of previously unrecorded sites. Its aim is to record the existence, location and extent of any such site. The emphasis for the recording is on the written description which will record type and period and would not normally exceed c50 words. The extent of a site is defined for sites or features greater than 50m in size and smaller sites are shown with a cross. The reconnaissance will be undertaken in a systematic fashion, walking on approximately 30m wide transects, within the extent of the defined study area.

- 3.2.2 It is proposed to use Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques to locate and record the features and sites. GPS instrumentation 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 use of GPS techniques has proved to be an essential and extremely cost effective means of locating monuments, and can achieve accuracies of better than $\pm 0.5\text{m}$.
- 3.2.3 A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously of the general area and any sites identified. An oblique external photographic record will be created of the standing structures on the site. The photography will be in black and white, and colour transparency formats and also in digital format.
- 3.2.4 The survey will also record areas of significant disturbance, which could have an impact upon the siting of the evaluation trenches.
- 3.2.5 An early surface inspection such as this is highly recommended, as such work can frequently double the amount of archaeological information for an area. This fieldwork will result in the production of plans at a scale of 1: 2500 or any other appropriate scale required, recording the location of each of the sites listed in the gazetteer. All archaeological information collected in the course of field inspection will be recorded in standardised form, and will include accurate national grid references. This will form the basis of a gazetteer, to be submitted as part of the report.

3.4 EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 3.3.1 The programme of greenfield trenching will establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits and, if established, will then test their date, nature, depth and quality of preservation.
- 3.3.2 **Methods:** the evaluation is required to evaluate 5% of the undeveloped study area. The overall area is 15,200m², and this requires the excavation of 760m² and would entail the excavation of 22 20m x 1.7m trenches. Provisionally the trenches will be scattered uniformly over the extent of the undeveloped area, but in practice the precise locations will be determined by the assessment, and in consultation with CCCAS. Subject to the assessment there may also be additional areas of disturbed land, which are in appropriate for evaluation, and consequently may reduce the overall area needing to be evaluated.
- 3.3.3 The trenches will be excavated by a combination of mechanised and manual techniques; the topsoil will be removed by mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.7m wide toothless bucket, and archaeological deposits beneath will be first manually cleaned and then any features identified will be manually excavated. The machine excavation will not intrude into any potential archaeological stratigraphy and all machine excavation will be undertaken under careful archaeological supervision. Following mechanical excavation the floor of the trench will be cleaned by hoe and Manual excavation techniques will be used to evaluate any sensitive deposits, and will enable an assessment of the nature, date, survival and depth of deposits and features. The trenches will not be excavated deeper than 1.25m to accommodate health and safety constraints; any requirements to excavate below this depth will involve recosting.

- 3.3.4 All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Trenches will be located by use of GPS equipment which is accurate to +/- 0.25m, altitude information will be established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. Archaeological features within the trenches will be planned by manual techniques.
- 3.3.5 **Environmental Sampling:** environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). Subject to the results of the excavation an assessment of any environmental samples will be undertaken by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The assessment would examine the potential for macrofossil, arthropod, palynological and general biological analysis. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if good waterlogged deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of CCCAS and the client.
- 3.3.6 Samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeozoological specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.
- 3.3.7 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.3.8 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.

3.4 REPORT

- 3.4.1 **Archive:** the results of the fieldwork 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. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context. This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be included in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record. A copy of the archive can also be made available for deposition with the National Archaeological Record. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform

- or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum.
- 3.4.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further two copies will be submitted to the Cumbria County Council SMR. 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 present an assessment of the sites history; the report will include photographs of any significant features. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail. The report will include a description of the methodology and the results. A list of the finds, and a description of the collective assemblage. Details of any environmental work undertaken.
- 3.4.3 The report will include a frontispiece showing the planning number and the grid reference. It will have a summary and a methodological statement, and it will define any variations to the defined programme. It will include recommendations for further work.
- 3.3.3 Illustrative material will include a location map, site map, historic maps, a trench location map, trench plans, survey plans and also pertinent photographs. It can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion.
- 3.3.4 **Publication:** a summary report of the results will be submitted to a regional journal, and information from the project will be fed into the OASIS project (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigation).
- 3.4 OTHER MATTERS**
- 3.4.1 **Health and Safety:** OA North conforms to all health and safety guidelines as contained in the Lancaster University Manual of Health and Safety and the safety manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. The work will be in accordance with Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the Council for British Archaeology Handbook No. 6, *Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork* (1989).
- 3.4.2 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the watching brief and fabric survey, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. A risk assessment will be completed in advance of the project's commencement. If there is a requirement to excavate trenches deeper than 1.25m the trenches will be stepped out to minimise section collapse. As a matter of course the Unit uses a U-Scan device prior to any excavation to test for services. It is assumed that the client will provide any available information regarding services within the study area, if available.
- 3.4.4 **Insurance:** the insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the unit and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of 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.

- 3.4.5 **Confidentiality:** the report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.
- 3.4.6 **Project Monitoring:** OA North will consult with the client regarding access to the site. Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the County Archaeologist will be kept fully informed of the work and its results. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with CCCAS in consultation with the Client.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The following programme is proposed:

Desk-based Assessment

A five day period would be required for this element

Identification Survey

One day will be required to complete this element

Evaluation Trenching

Five days will be required to complete this element

Report

A fifteen day period would be to complete this element

- 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 managed by **Jamie Quartermaine BA Surv Dip MIFA** (Unit Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. OA North adheres by the IFA's Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

REFERENCES

Association of County Archaeological Officers (ACAO) 1993 *Model briefs and specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations*, Bedford

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 1992 *Guidelines for data collection and compilation*

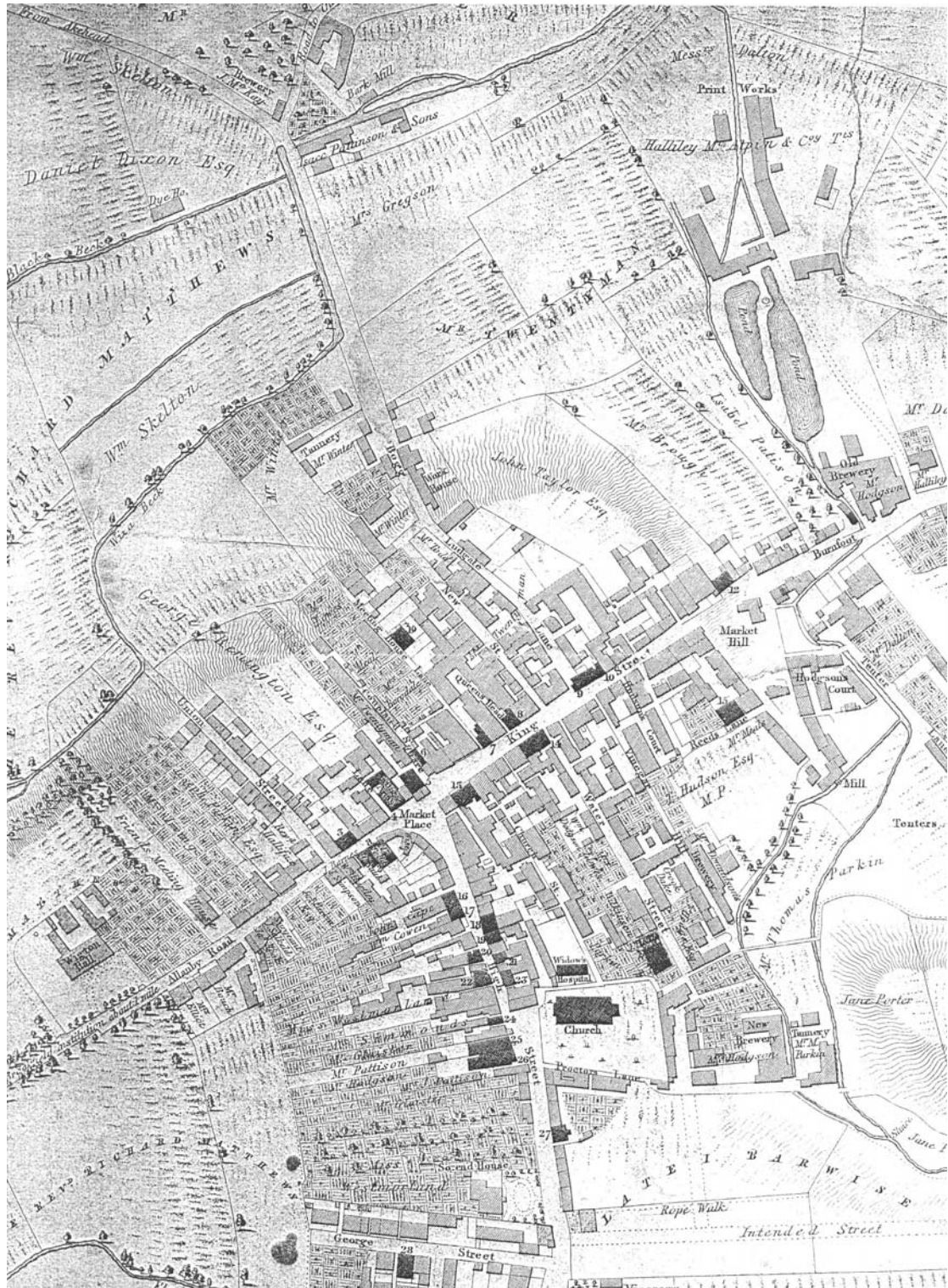
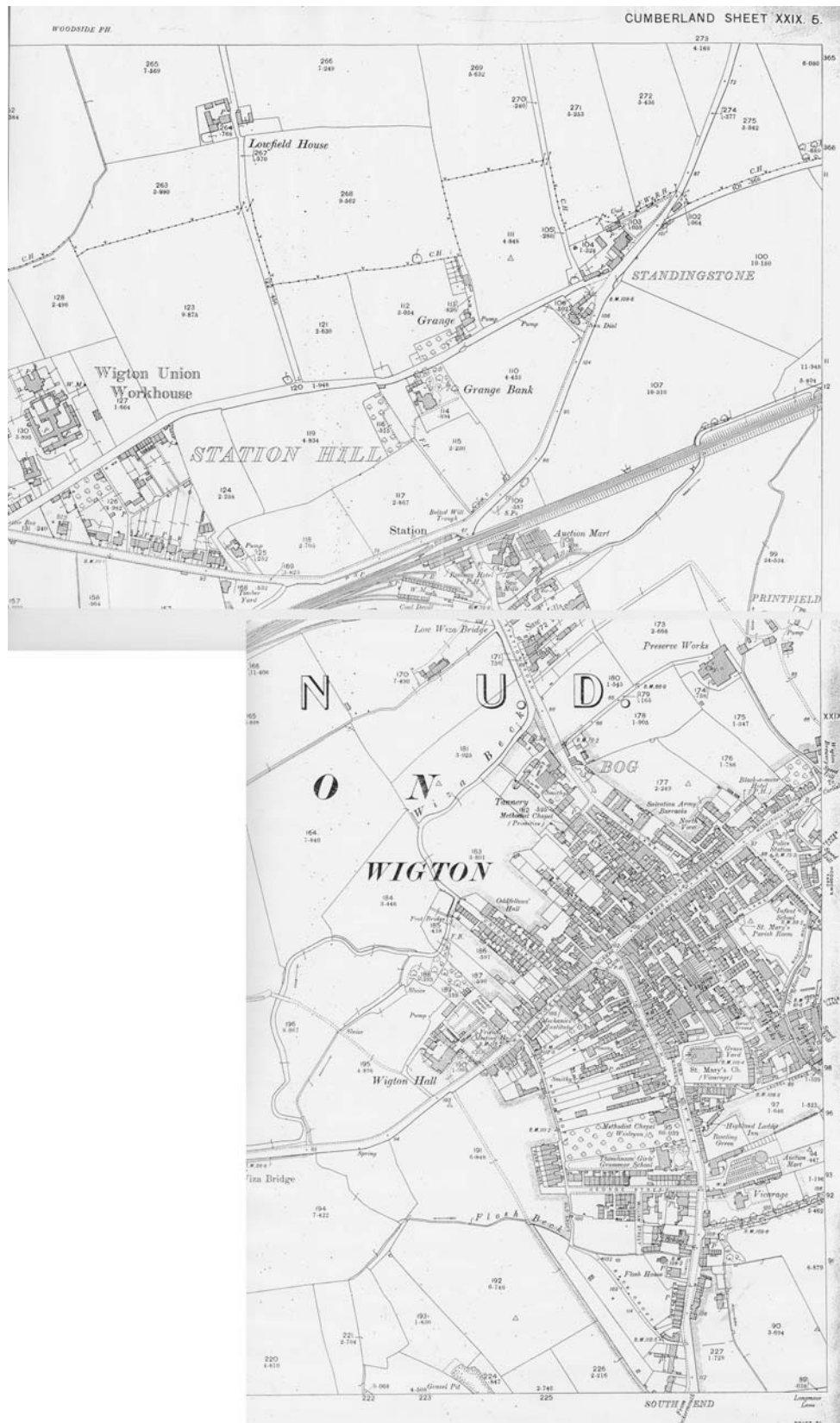


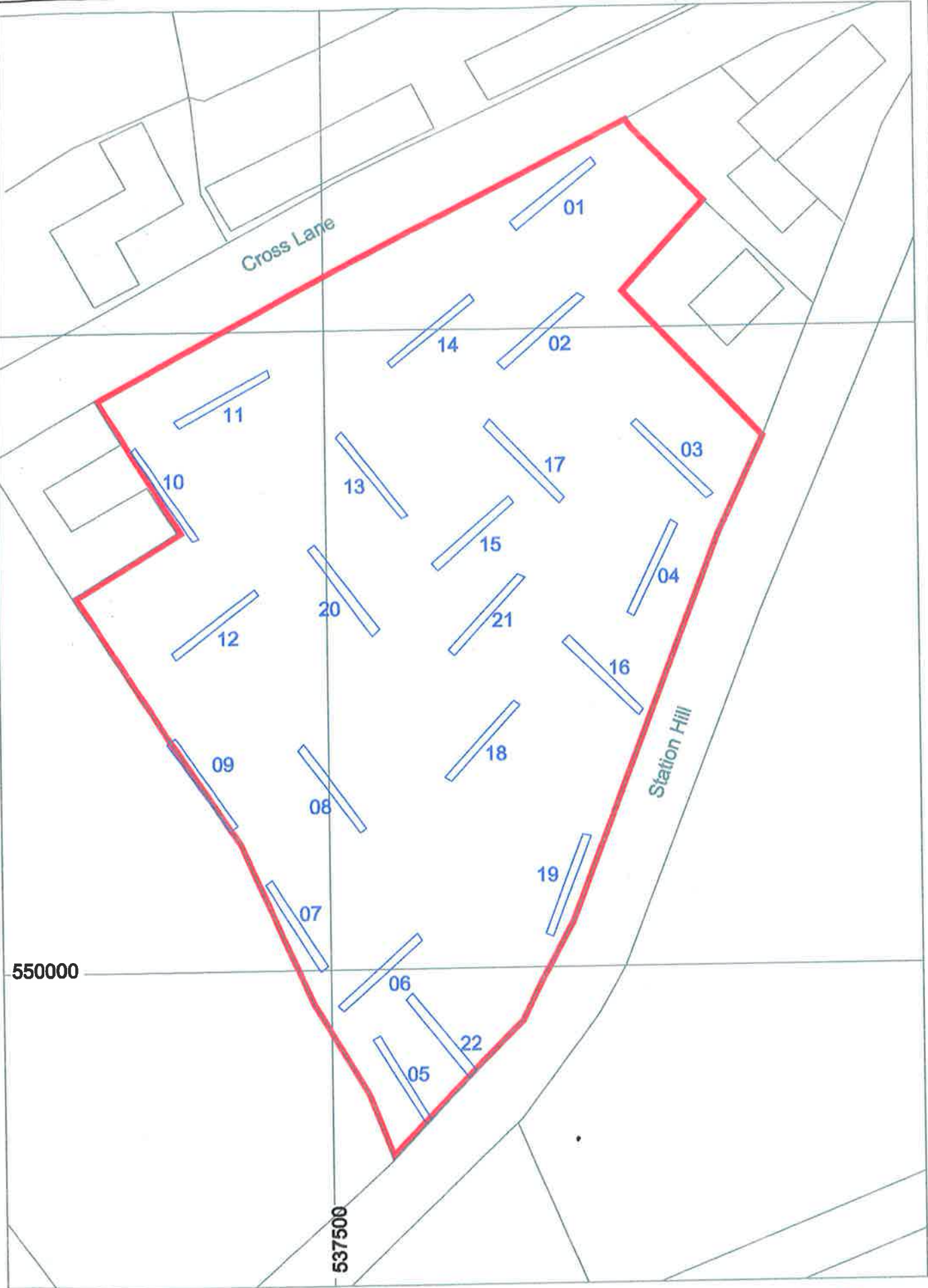
Figure 3: John Wood's map of Wigan (1832)



Figure 4: Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st edition 25":1 mile Sheet XXIX 5 (1867-8)



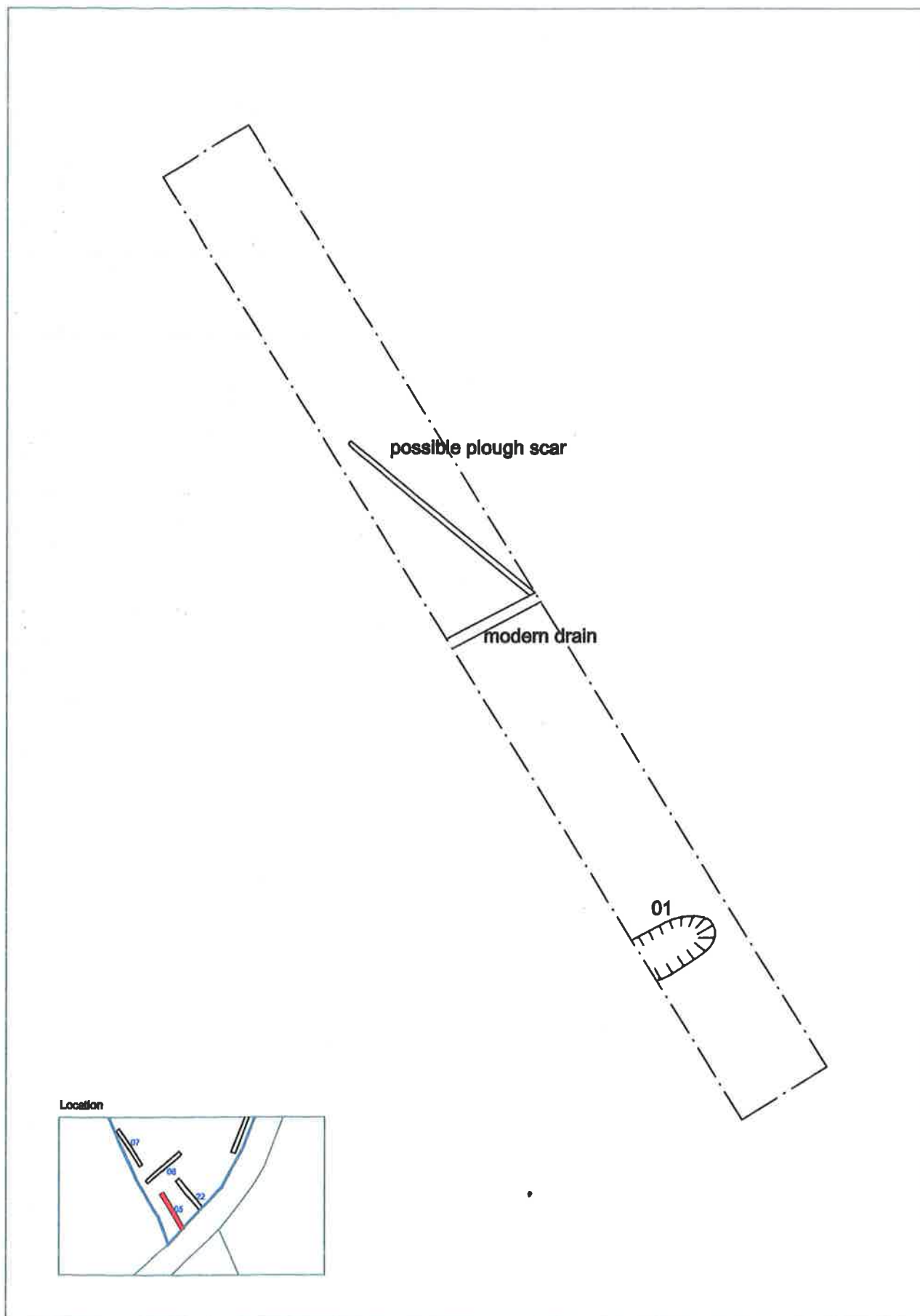




Scale 1:1000 at A4



Figure 7 : Location of Trenches



Scale 1:100 at A4

0 2m



Figure 8: Plan of Trench 5



Plate 1: Trench 5, ditch, *1*



Plate 2: Trench 22, posthole, *14*



Plate 3: Aerial view of Old Carlisle fort and associated roads, taken by JK St Joseph in 1949. The main Roman road can be seen on the right (south) of the fort, and the branch road leading to the east gate.