

October 1999

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# **CARNFORTH LODGE**

## **LANCASHIRE**

### **Watching Brief Report**

Carnforth Lodge,  
Lancashire

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Report no 1999-2000/014/AUA8936 code

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October 1999

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## SUMMARY

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A watching brief was undertaken by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) on 29th September 1999, at Carnforth Lodge, Carnforth (NGR SD 49637032). The work was commissioned by Nicol Thomas Ltd and was intended to record an archaeological deposits adversely affected by the construction of a retail development on the site. The work programme followed on from an assessment (LUAU 1997), and evaluation and building assessment survey (LUAU 1999), which demonstrated that the majority of the site had been subject to quarrying, with a substantial quantity of recent infilling. Only the front part of the site, nearest the road, appeared to have survived intact, around and to the north of the now demolished lodge. The previous archaeological work had highlighted the presence of potential archaeological features within the southernmost part of the lodge platform, and during the watching brief the modern deposits in this area were machined away in order to assess any further survival of features.

The excavation uncovered no new features in this area, and further showed that the construction of the lodge to the north had probably truncated any other remains, due to the northerly rise in the natural subsoils.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Thanks are due to Neil Weatherhead of Nicol Thomas Ltd, for commissioning and supporting the work, and to Glen McMurray of Thomas Armstrong (Construction) Ltd. for supplying and operating the mechanical excavator. We are also grateful to the local residents for their interest.

The watching brief was undertaken by Matthew Town. The report was written by Matthew Town and the final drawings were produced by Emma Carter; the report was edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Rachel Newman. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In September 1999, at the request of Nicol Thomas Ltd, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) undertook an archaeological watching brief of Carnforth Lodge, Carnforth, Lancashire (NGR SD 4960 7030), during the groundworks for the construction of a retail development. This followed on from an assessment (LUAU 1997) and also an evaluation (LUAU 1999), which highlighted the potential for extant archaeological deposits at the southern side of the surviving house platform.

### 1.2 LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.2.1 The study area lies in the parish of Carnforth on the west side of the A6, known as Lancaster Road. The site comprises two parts: the first was an old quarry, into which modern industrial buildings, now derelict, were built. The northern end of the quarry has been recently used as a tip and partially backfilled with soil and rubble. The second part was a level piece of ground, with a partly gravel and partly tarmaced surface, fronting on to the road, and this previously contained the house and garden known as Carnforth Lodge. The site is situated on the edge of a ridge, and the land originally sloped down westwards from the A6 towards the coast. The quarry had been cut into the west side of this ridge.
- 1.2.2 The site lies at approximately 25m AOD. The underlying solid geological deposits consist of Carboniferous Limestone; however, the general character of the study area is formed by Boulder Clay and Moraine drift deposits (OS Geological Survey 1977).

### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 John Lucas, a local eighteenth century historian, provided some information on the history of Carnforth, as well as a detailed description of many of the surrounding fields. According to Lucas, there were two sites of archaeological interest within the vicinity of the study area. To the north at Hellbank (or Hallbank), close to the centre of Carnforth near the cross-roads, Lucas reported the site of a tumulus, which, from his description, appears to have been a long barrow (Lucas 1744, 125). The second was the site of a, presumably medieval, hall which had completely disappeared by the early eighteenth century, but which survived in field names such as Hall Croft and Hall Gate (Lucas 1744, 124). Tradition placed the hall at the village end of the common fields, called the Huthwaites (to the immediate south of the study area) and Lucas reported the remains of some foundations. However, there was no definite evidence of the hall's existence, and the 'hall' field names may have referred to those parcels of land which were the property of the lord of the manor (Field 1989). It is possible that the name Carnforth Lodge related to an earlier hunting lodge associated with this hall, but no evidence was found to support this.
- 1.3.2 In the nineteenth century, the study area mainly comprised fields, and Carnforth Lodge was depicted on both the tithe (dated to 1846: LRO DRB 1/36 1846) and enclosure (LRO AE 5/2 1864) maps, as well as the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1848). Carnforth Lodge was shown on the tithe map with associated buildings on the street frontage, and a yard and orchard behind. A large garden was sited to its immediate north, in the area now partly occupied by a row of terraced houses. The remainder of the site was made up of two

fields of meadow, called Far Croft and New Croft. Both fields were owned and farmed by Elizabeth Proctor, who was also the owner-occupier of Carnforth Lodge, garden and orchard (LRO DRB 1/36 1846).

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 OUTLINE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1.1 A letter (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by LUAU outlining the implications of the recommendations defined within the evaluation report (LUAU 1999). The report recommended that a watching brief be undertaken during ground intervention within the southern part of the lodge platform, down to the level of the natural subsoils, to check for the presence of any archaeological features. These implications were accepted by the developer, and the watching brief was duly undertaken, although this was undertaken in advance of the foundation work.
- 2.1.2 The results of the watching brief are presented within the present report.

### 2.2 MACHINING

- 2.2.1 An area was machined around the location of evaluation Trench 2 (LUAU 1999), where potential survival of features had been highlighted during the evaluation (Fig 2). The excavated area extended from approximately 2m from the wall flanking the north side of the A6 (Lancaster Road), up to the sharp break of slope to the west, where the garden had previously ended. The excavated area was located by manual survey techniques with respect to the garden wall, and measured 12.3m by 12.2m.
- 2.2.2 The area was excavated by a JCB excavator, using a 0.8m wide toothless ditching bucket, working under full archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued down to the level of the first potentially significant archaeological deposit, or to natural deposits, whichever was uppermost. Any subsequent necessary excavation would have been by hand, as set out in the methodology in the evaluation report (LUAU 1999).
- 2.2.3 Recording was by means of the standard LUAU context recording system, with a watching brief record and supporting registers and indices. Where necessary, a full photographic record in colour slide and monochrome formats would have been made, with scaled plan and section drawings of the trenches at appropriate scales.
- 2.2.4 On completion of the site works, the trenches were backfilled in accordance with the instructions of the client, but were not otherwise reinstated.

### 2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition 1991).
- 2.3.2 The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Lancashire County Record Office (Preston).

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### 3. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

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#### 3.1 MACHINED AREA

- 3.1.1 **Base Stratigraphy:** the base stratigraphy was similar to the deposits uncovered in evaluation trench 2 (LUAU 1999). The uppermost deposits comprised modern overburden and dump layers associated with the house and garden, down to a depth of 1.7m in the southernmost part of the area. The dump layers were characterised by dark brown soft sandy silt, with irregular stone bands, and probably represent a deliberate attempt at making up the ground surface in order to provide a level platform for the garden, when the lodge was built. Below the dump layers and the overburden was an orange brown sandy gravel subsoil. This layer dipped down to both the south-west and south-east, following the contours of the hill, becoming slightly thicker to the south-west. Below the subsoil was a clean, pale creamy orange soft sand and bands of gravel, which corresponds to the natural geological deposits.
- 3.1.2 The depth of the natural becomes shallower to the north, to approximately 0.60m below the ground surface, where it appears to have been severely truncated by the laying of the driveway. North of this is the location of the Lodge itself, and the construction of its foundations which have entirely truncated the deposit in the northernmost part of the area (Fig 1).
- 3.1.3 **Intrusions:** the overburden and dump layers were cut by a trench running north-south for five water-pipes, probably associated with the conversion of the lodge to flats. Several other trenches were also encountered, all containing extinct cables or pipes. These were not recorded. No archaeological features or finds were recovered within this area.

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## 4. IMPACT

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### 4.1 IMPACT

- 4.1.1 It was clear from the data collected during the watching brief that the southernmost area of the lodge platform contained no new archaeological features beneath the modern build-up layers, beyond that identified by the evaluation. The north-western part of this area appears to also have been truncated by the construction of the house and drive-way, precluding any potential archaeological survival.

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## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### 5.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

#### 5.1.1 *Lancashire Record Office (LRO)*

DRB 1/36 1846 Plan of the Township of Carnforth in the Parish of Wharton and County of Lancaster, J. Watson, approx. 3.5 inches to 20 chains

AE 5/2 1864 Enclosure of Carnforth Marsh and Wastes

### 5.2 PUBLISHED CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

OS, 1848 6":1 mile map, Warton Sheet 24, 1st edn, Southampton

OS, 1967 1:25,000 map, Land Use SD47 and SD57, Sheet 724, Southampton

OS, 1977 1:625,000 *Geological Survey, South Sheet (Quaternary)*, 1st edn, Southampton

### 5.3 SECONDARY SOURCES

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

Farrer, W, and Brownbill, J (eds), 1914 *Victoria History of the County of Lancashire*, 8, London

Field, J, 1989 *English Field Names: A Dictionary*, 2nd edn, Gloucester

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) 1997 *Carnforth Lodge, Lancashire, Archaeological Assessment Report*, Unpubl rep

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) 1999 *Carnforth Lodge, Lancashire, Building Assessment and Evaluation Report*, Unpubl rep

Lucas, J, 1744 *A Topographical Description of the Parish of Warton, and Some Parts Adjacent in the County Palatine of Lancaster and the Diocese of Chester, 1710-44*, J Rawlinson Ford and JA Fuller-Maitland (eds), Kendal

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## APPENDIX 1

### OUTLINE RECOMMENDATIONS LETTER

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Neil Weatherhead  
Nicol Thomas  
Gateway House  
53 High Street  
Birmingham  
B4 7SY

6th August 1999

Dear Neil

Carnforth Lodge

Further to the submission of our evaluation report, I am writing to outline the implications of the recommendations defined within that report. The report recommended that a watching brief be undertaken during the ground intervention of the southern part of the lodge platform. These recommendations will need to be ratified by the County Archaeologist and a copy of this letter is being copied to Peter McCrone of Lancashire County Archaeological Service.

Assuming that the recommendations are ratified, then there would need to be an experienced archaeologist on site observing all ground intervention down to the level of natural sub-soils. Below that level there would be no requirement for an archaeological presence. The machining should be undertaken with a toothless bucket down at least to the level of the natural subsoils in order to provide the opportunity to observe exposed features. The area requiring archaeological observation is at the southern end of the platform and is shown on the attached map. There would need to be provision for stoppage of works for up to two hours to allow for archaeological recording if any archaeological features are identified. If significant archaeological remains then further recording would need to be discussed with yourself and the County Archaeologist.

The costs for this are submitted as a day rate of £255.00 (ex vat) per day, which is inclusive of the post-excavation processing and report production. If the watching brief work extends beyond three days the day-rate can be reduced to £ 210.00 (ex vat) per day.

We can undertake the work at short notice, but would appreciate as much notice as possible. If you have any further queries please get back to me.

Yours sincerely

Jamie Quartermaine  
Project Manager

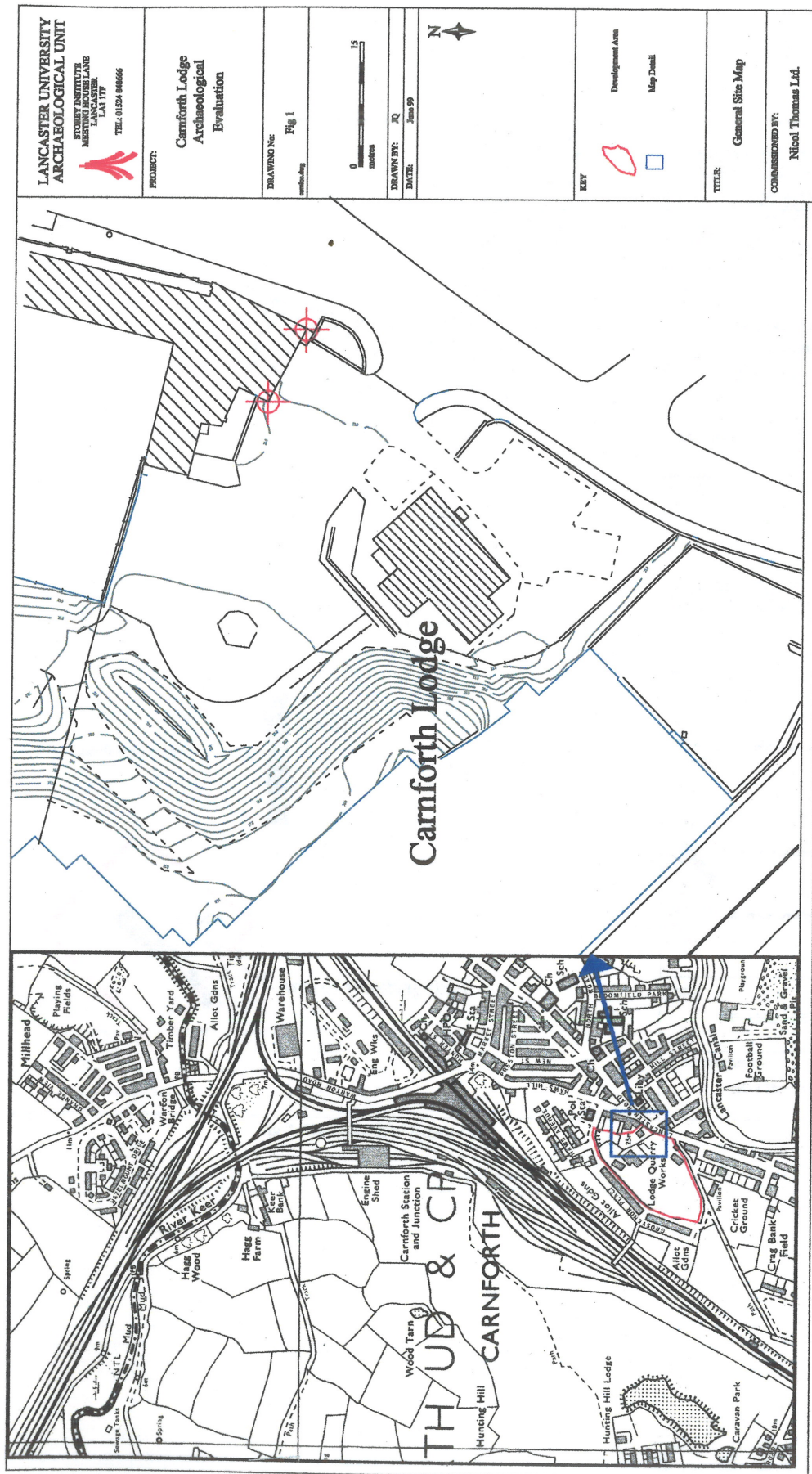
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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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Fig 1 Site Location

Fig 2 Watching Brief Location Plan



**Fig 1: General Carnforth Lodge Site Map**

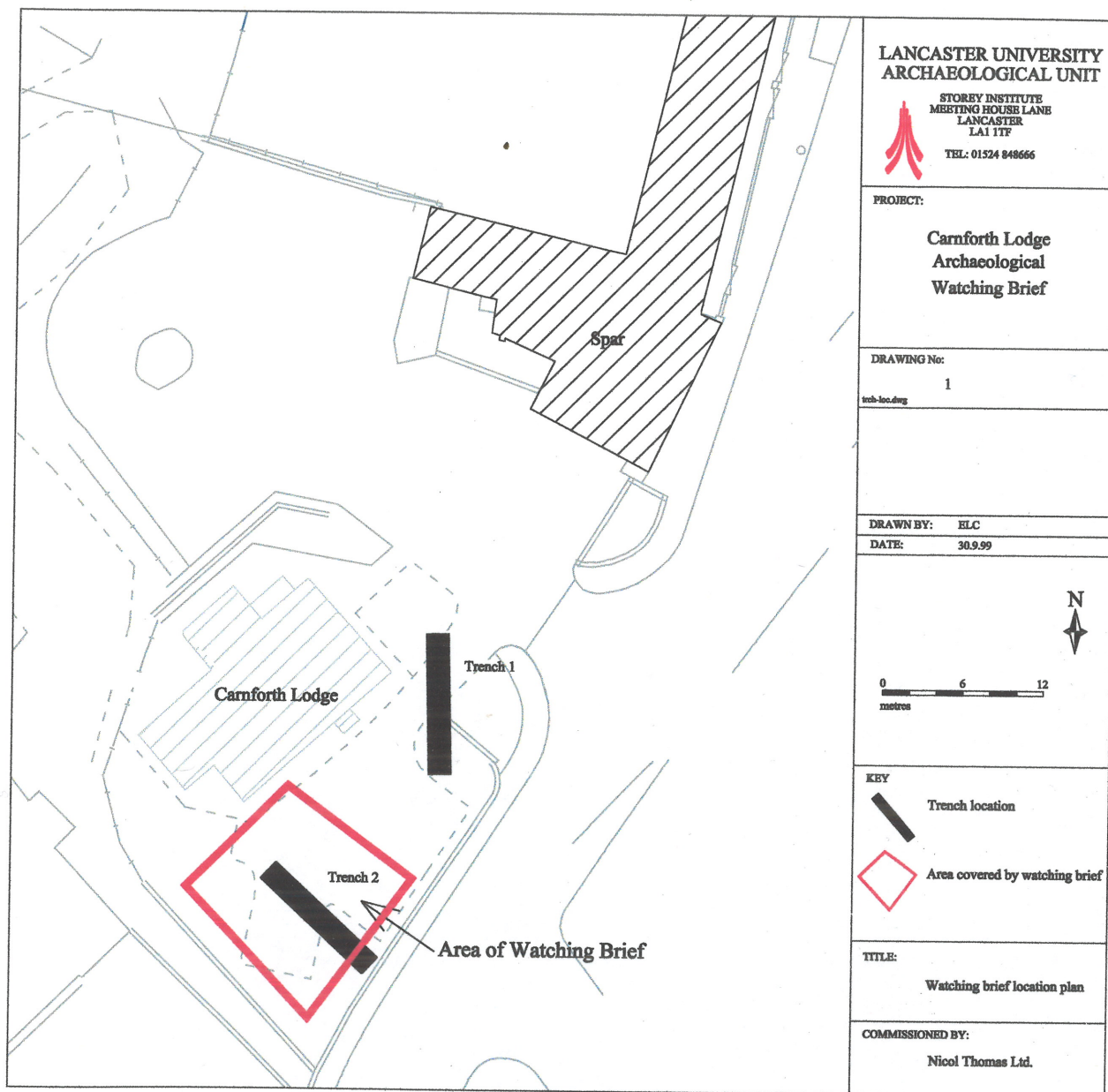


Fig 2: Watching brief location plan