



**10-16
Botchergate,
Carlisle,
Cumbria**

**Archaeological
Watching Brief**



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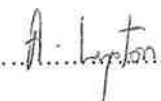
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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), on behalf of Architects Plus, during the course of a new development at 10-16 Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria (NY 4031 5556). The watching brief was required by the Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (CCCAS) as the development affected an area of archaeological interest, recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record (reference 3560).

The watching brief was undertaken in three phases between September and November 2003. The archaeological work comprised the examination of four geotechnical test pits, followed by the rapid recording of a well uncovered during demolition works, and, finally, observation during open-area groundworks at the rear of the properties.

A number of archaeological features were exposed during the course of the watching brief. These included two probable wells, a hearth (4), and a pit (6). In addition to these features, two of the four geo-technical test pits observed provided evidence of archaeological stratigraphy surviving on site.

Hearth 4 has been dated to the Roman period and contained fragments of industrial debris, whilst activity during the medieval period was represented by a pit (6) and a well (8). The second well was probably post-medieval in date, although restricted working conditions precluded a detailed examination

The watching brief provided important information regarding the use of the site during the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods, and has contributed to the increasing body of evidence for the development of Botchergate as a whole. The probable Roman hearth (4) and medieval pit (6) remain unaffected by the development and so have been preserved *in-situ*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The watching brief was undertaken by Ian Miller, Vix Hughes and Paul Clark, and the report written by Paul Clark. Sean McPhillips examined the finds, and Frances Claxton analysed the palaeoenvironmental samples. The illustrations were created by Emma Carter, and the finds were examined by Jo Dawson. Ian Miller edited the report, and was responsible for project management.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 The project arose as the result of a development comprising a mixture of refurbishment of existing buildings and demolition, and the erection of new structures at 10-16 Botchergate, Carlisle, Cumbria (centred on NY 4031 5556). The scheme affected an area of archaeological interest, recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record (reference 3560). Consequently, the Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (CCCAS) advised that a condition be placed on the planning approval to allow for an archaeological watching brief during the course of the groundworks associated with the development. The following report sets out the results of the archaeological watching brief, undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) between September and November 2003, in accordance with a brief supplied by the Assistant Archaeologist of CCCAS.

1.2 LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

1.2.1 Carlisle is situated towards the northern edge of the Solway Plain, some eight miles upstream from the Solway Firth and about five miles above the tidal limit (Fig 1). The Scottish border, established finally in the 13th century, lies nine miles to the north of Carlisle, whilst the Roman frontier, marked by Hadrian's Wall, traverses the village-suburb of Stanwix, which lies on the opposite bank of the Eden immediately north of the city centre. For nearly two millennia, Carlisle has been a military and administrative centre for what is now known as Cumbria (McCarthy 1990, 1). The historic core of the city is located on the south bank of the river Eden, to the south-east of its confluence with the river Caldew. During the medieval period the city centre was clearly defined by the city walls, and there is evidence to suggest that the core of the Roman settlement was almost identical in size and situation to the medieval town (*ibid*).

1.2.2 Botchergate follows the course of the former Roman road believed to lead from the south to the civilian settlement and fort at Carlisle. It lies on the north-eastern side of the valley of the river Caldew, rising gently from a height of *c* 18m OD at its south-eastern end, near the junction with St Nicholas Bridge Road, to *c* 22.5m OD at its north-western end at the southern gateway, the English Gate, to the medieval city. The study area lies on the western side of Botchergate, some 400m from the English Gate.

1.2.3 The underlying geology of the area is composed mainly of mudstones and sandstones of Permo-Triassic age. The most important sandstone formation, the St Bees Sandstone, has been much quarried for use as building stone, and has imparted a distinctive character to much of the area's architecture (Countryside Commission 1998, 20). During the last glaciation, thick ice-sheets crossed the area, carrying with them vast quantities of rock debris, which was deposited as boulder clay (*ibid*). As a result of the extensive mantle of glacial deposits, exposures of the solid geology are few, although significant

outcrops occur in some of the deeper valley sides to the south and east of Carlisle.

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 A limited amount of evidence for prehistoric activity has been found at a number of sites in the Carlisle area, including Annetwell Street (Caruana forthcoming), Blackfriars Street (McCarthy 1990, 13-4), 46-52 Lowther Street (Flynn 1995), and the Northern Lanes (Zant forthcoming), but little is known of any prehistoric settlement in the Botchergate area.
- 1.3.2 In AD 72-3 a fort was established by the Romans on the site of the later medieval castle. By the end of the 1st century the fort formed part of the Tyne-Solway isthmus frontier known as the Stanegate; indeed, the presence in Carlisle, known as *Luguvalium* in the Roman period, of an official known as the *centurio regionarius* suggests that Carlisle may have been the command centre for this early northern frontier (Shotton 1997, 49). The area continued to be important strategically in the following century, and though the focal point of the emperor Hadrian's new frontier moved to the nearby fort of Stanwix, the recent millennium project excavations have shown that the fort at Annetwell Street in Carlisle continued to be occupied into the post-Roman period (OA North 2003).
- 1.3.3 A large civilian settlement grew up around the fort at Carlisle and by the early 3rd century the town may have formed the *civitas* capital of the Carvetii, the indigenous tribal unit in the area. The full extent of this extramural settlement is not known but, though considered to be large in comparison to other Roman settlements in the North West, it was thought largely to be confined to the approximate area of the later medieval walled city (McCarthy 1991, 53).
- 1.3.4 The fate of Carlisle at the end of the Roman occupation is less clearly defined, although scattered traces of late 4th and 5th century occupation have been identified (McCarthy *et al* 1990, 4). An Anglian monastery is attested on documentary grounds (Colgrave 1940), and archaeological evidence suggests the presence of an important church below the Cathedral in the 10th century (McCarthy *et al* 1990, 4). Other churches are also suspected to have existed between the 7th and 11th century, although the supporting evidence is slight (*ibid*). The archaeological evidence for this period is largely based on coin-finds, notably a *sceatta*, *stycas*, and pennies of Aethelstan, Edgar, and Aethelred II (*op cit*, 5). Following the arrival of the Normans in 1092, and the construction of the medieval castle and town walls, Carlisle became a major frontier city on the borders of England and Scotland, continuing in this role until the Jacobite rebellion of 1745.
- 1.3.5 During the medieval period, Botchergate appears to have formed an extramural suburb to Carlisle (Giecco and Zant 2001, 4). Cartographic evidence shows that certainly during the early post-medieval period settlement fronted Botchergate outside of the town defences. By the early part of the 19th century much of the land to the rear of the buildings fronting Botchergate was still open, but by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1876,

Carlisle's suburbs had expanded rapidly, infilling the backplots of earlier buildings on the Botchergate street frontage (*op cit*, 5).

1.4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 1.4.1 Numerous chance discoveries of burials on both sides of Botchergate in the 19th century suggested that the area had been used as a cemetery for much of the Roman period (Charlesworth 1978): this was to be expected given that Roman cemeteries are conventionally situated alongside the main roads leading out of settlements.
- 1.4.2 Several archaeological investigations undertaken during the 1990s seemed to confirm that the Botchergate area lay outside the focus of the extramural settlement in Carlisle. In 1994 the former Carlisle Archaeology Unit (CAU) undertook an evaluation in the Cecil Street car park, south of Tait Street on the eastern side of Botchergate, which identified remains of cremation burials, together with boundary ditches, probably Roman in date (McCarthy and Flynn 1994). In 1997 the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) uncovered traces of Roman cremations and also of a small settlement, probably a Romano-British site, at St Nicholas Yard to the west of Botchergate (Howard-Davis and Leah 1999). Also in 1997, CAU undertook an excavation to the rear of the former Co-op building at 40-78 Botchergate, revealing a complex sequence of Roman activity, including part of a large-scale linear earthwork of unknown function, evidence of a prolonged period of landfilling and refuse disposal, and two truncated late 2nd century cremations (Zant 2000). In 1999 an evaluation was conducted by CAU to the rear of 114-132 Botchergate, again on the western side of the street, revealing evidence for Roman buildings, yards and roads, at least one phase aligned at an angle of $c 60^\circ$ to Botchergate, and another parallel (Reeves 2000).
- 1.4.3 Significant new information of Roman Botchergate was provided by the excavation work undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North at 53-63 Botchergate in 2001 (OA North 2002), and the evaluation and excavation work undertaken on the adjacent site by the former Carlisle Archaeology Ltd between Mary Street and Tait Street in 1999 and 2000 (Giecco and Zant 2001). These combined works revealed deeply stratified archaeological deposits to survive in areas along the eastern side of Botchergate, particularly those closest to the street frontage. These excavations provided clear evidence for the late 1st century use of the site as a cemetery being supplanted by industrial activity. This included the remains of a lead smelting furnace, dated to the AD 120s (OA North 2002), associated workshops and several distinct phases of timber buildings. Roman activity seemingly declined during the 3rd century, and there was slight evidence for the area being used for agriculture during the early medieval period. The excavations demonstrated the site to have been re-occupied during the 12th/13th century, presumably as part of a suburb. However, occupation of the site appears to have been abandoned around the 14th century, and it was not completely redeveloped until the 20th century.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.1.1 A programme of field observation accurately recorded the location, extent, and character of all surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the excavations during the course of the development works. This work comprised observation during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 2.1.2 During this phase of work, recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid coordinates where appropriate). Features were planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large scale plan provided by the Client. A photographic record was undertaken simultaneously.
- 2.1.3 A plan has been produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance (Fig 2), and one or more dimensioned sketch sections was produced per cut or test pit.

2.2 ARCHIVE

- 2.2.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.
- 2.2.2 This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, and a synthesis will be submitted to the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). 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. Wherever possible, OA North recommends the deposition of such material in a local museum.

3. RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 Three distinct phases of watching brief were undertaken during the course of the project. The first phase comprised the examination of four geotechnical test pits (Test Pits 1-4), and was followed subsequently by the examination of a well uncovered during demolition works. The final phase involved close observation during open-area groundworks at the rear of the properties. The position of all these interventions are shown on Figure 2.

3.2 TEST PIT 1

3.2.1 Test Pit 1 measured 0.45m x 0.3m, and was located within Number 12, Botchergate, towards the rear of the property. The natural geology was exposed at a depth of 1.3m below the modern ground surface and comprised a mid-orange clayey-sand. This was overlain by 0.7m of dark greyish-brown clayey-silt, which was itself overlain by the footings for the current building, as well as a possible yard surface. No archaeological features were observed within this trench.

3.3 TEST PIT 2

3.3.1 Test Pit 2 was located within Number 10, Botchergate, towards the middle of the property, and measured 0.3m x 0.3m (Plate 1). A similar stratigraphic sequence to that in Test Pit 1 was exposed, with the natural geology revealed at a depth of 0.8m below the present ground surface. Immediately above the natural was a 0.5m thick deposit of dark greyish-brown clayey-silt, which appeared to represent *in-situ* archaeological stratigraphy. This layer was overlain by a layer of clinker, seemingly used as levelling for the post-medieval building.

3.4 TEST PIT 3

3.4.1 Test Pit 3 was located to the rear of Number 14, Botchergate, in close proximity to Colliers Lane. The test pit was excavated through foundation material associated with the extant building, and the base of the wall was reached at a depth of 0.95m below the modern floor level. Insertion of a probe demonstrated that the foundations for the wall had been cut into the underlying natural geology, thereby eliminating any possible survival of archaeological remains.

3.5 TEST PIT 4

3.5.1 Test Pit 4 was located within Number 16, Botchergate, at the front of the property, and measured 0.6m x 0.34m (Plate 2). The natural geology was located at a depth of 1.1m below the present ground surface, by use of a probe, although the test pit was only excavated fully to a depth of 0.9m. The lowest layer exposed consisted of a mixed layer of dark brown silty-clay containing small fragments of ceramic building material and sherds of Roman pottery (3.8 below). Set into the top of this deposit was a layer of cobbles, which may

have represented a surface of some sort. This in turn was overlain by a layer of hardcore, which provided the foundation for the present concrete floor.

3.6 THE WELL WITHIN NUMBER 14, BOTCHERGATE

3.6.1 During the course of the demolition works within Number 14, Botchergate, the remains of a probable well were uncovered (Plate 3, Fig 3). This structure comprised roughly hewn blocks of red sandstone that showed some evidence of toolmarks. A total depth of 0.35m was exposed and approximately one third of the total diameter, with the rest covered by rubble. Two courses of masonry were visible, although more almost certainly existed, but further excavation was precluded by health and safety constraints. It seems likely that this well dated to the post-medieval period, although this remains unconfirmed.

3.7 OPEN-AREA GROUNDWORKS

3.7.1 The final phase of work observed was undertaken during the groundworks on the area of Numbers 14 and 16, Botchergate and the area at the rear of Numbers 10 and 12 (Plate 6). This covered a total area of *c* 500m². The first phase of work consisted of a reduction in ground level across the whole area down to the required construction level. The site was reduced by a maximum of 0.85m, although across much of the site it was substantially less than this, the average depth being 0.45m below previous ground surface. The material removed consisted primarily of rubble. The natural geology was only exposed in the easternmost 13m of the site, where it was cut by two archaeological features, 4 and 6.

3.7.2 Feature 4 (Plate 4, Fig 4) was approximately circular in plan (2.5m north/south by 2.2m east/west), although there was a suggestion that there was an extension to the south of the feature; this was somewhat ephemeral. The feature contained three distinct fills (1, 2 and 3) and was only sample excavated, as it was beneath the required construction depth and so will be preserved *in-situ*. The excavation undertaken was to a maximum depth of 0.25m, which was sufficient to understand the stratigraphy of the feature, and to recover finds from within it (3.8 below). The earliest fill of the feature, 3, comprised soft, black sandy-silt, containing industrial debris, pot and a fragment of an iron object. A sample of this material was retained for analysis (3.8.10 below). Above this deposit, fill 2 was encountered, comprising very clean light yellowish-brown boulder clay, which seemed to have been heat-affected. The latest fill of the feature, 1, comprised light yellowish-brown silt, containing pottery sherds and a probable whetstone. This deposit appeared to represent domestic refuse filling the feature after it had gone out of use. On the basis of the morphology and finds recovered from this feature, it seems most likely that this feature represented the remains of a Roman hearth.

3.7.3 Feature 6 was located to the south of Feature 4, and was also roughly circular in plan, with a diameter of *c* 1m. The fill of this feature (5) was very soft, suggesting that it was derived from organic material; this feature probably represents a pit filled with domestic refuse. The feature was below the required construction depth and as there was going to be no further impact on the feature, excavation was limited to a small sondage for finds retrieval. This

produced two sherds of pottery, to which a late 12th-13th century date has been ascribed (3.8.5 below).

3.7.4 The second phase of work within the open-area groundworks consisted of observation during the excavation of the foundations for the new building. In total five trenches (Fig 2) were observed (Trenches A-E), four of them measuring 1m x 0.7m, whilst Trench D was 0.7m wide and ran along the southern and eastern edges of site, 13m east/west and 9m north/south. Trenches A and B were immediately adjacent to one of the walls of Number 10, Botchergate and revealed nothing beyond the backfill of the foundation trenches associated with that structure. Trench C revealed the natural boulder clay sealed by a 0.2m thick layer of dark blackish-grey sandy-silt. Trench E revealed stratigraphy identical to that observed in Trench C. Trench D revealed a cobble surface in its north-facing section, immediately beneath the modern concrete and probably representing a courtyard surface. A probable well, 8, (Plate 5) was also revealed within Trench D.

3.7.5 The probable well, 8, had a diameter of c 2.5m and was excavated by machine to a depth of 3.3m, below which the feature was still extending. The fill of the well appeared to be organic in derivation. A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the fill, to which a late 12th – 13th date has been ascribed (3.8.5 below).

3.8 FINDS

3.8.1 **Quantification:** in total, 30 fragments of artefacts were recovered from the watching brief. The assemblage comprised ceramic vessel fragments (13 sherds), iron (three fragments), industrial residues (13 fragments), and worked stone (one fragment). Other material categories, such as clay tobacco pipes, glass, animal bone and ceramic building material were absent from the assemblage. Catalogues of the artefacts have been included in *Appendix 3* in Context Number order. All finds were treated in accordance with standard OA North practice.

3.8.2 **Pottery:** the small assemblage of pottery included fragments of Roman and medieval date. In general terms, the pottery was in good condition and, despite a predominance of small sherds, few were heavily abraded or rolled and the breaks were clean, suggesting little post-depositional disturbance. Analysis of the pottery was based solely on visual inspection of individual sherds, and has been described using the terminology developed by Orton *et al* (1993).

3.8.3 A total of ten sherds of Roman pottery was retrieved during the course of the watching brief. These were all recovered from the fills of the putative hearth 4; six sherds from fill 1 and four sherds from fill 3. This group of pottery included Samian ware, Grey ware, Black Burnished ware, and a sherd of mortaria. A broad date range between the late first and mid-2nd century may be ascribed to the fragments of Roman pottery.

3.8.4 Three sherds of medieval pottery were also recovered during the course of the watching brief. The fill (5) of pit 6 yielded two sherds, and a third sherd was recovered from the fill (7) of the putative well 8. All three sherds were locally

produced Red Gritty wares, to which a late 12th to mid-13th century date may be ascribed; these wares were the dominant pottery type in Carlisle during the 12th century (McCarthy 1990). None of the sherds were decorated, although two had traces of a lead glaze.

- 3.8.5 **Iron:** three, small iron objects were recovered from the watching brief; a single fragment from the fill (3) of putative hearth 4, and two fragments from the fill (7) of pit 8. The objects were in poor condition and were quite corroded, precluding their firm identification. However, it is likely that all were parts of nails.
- 3.8.6 **Industrial Residues:** in total, 1.217kg (13 fragments) of industrial debris were recovered from the fill (3) of the putative hearth 4 during the course of the watching brief. A visual inspection of the industrial residues has indicated that all fragments appeared to represent iron-working.
- 3.8.7 Iron slag can be classified broadly according to perceived iron-working process, which, in general terms, falls into two categories - primary iron working, or smelting, and secondary iron-working, or smithing. In addition, undiagnostic iron-working slags may be formed during many different high temperature processes involving iron. They are often classified as such because the fragments are too small to be identifiable. The composition of these slags are predominantly fayalitic, but their morphology is irregular and similar materials can be made during several iron-working processes.
- 3.8.8 The slag recovered from deposit 3 all appear to represent secondary iron-working. One fragment is a run slag, which is probably the result of smithing. The remainder are undiagnostic iron-working slags, which are relatively common in dump deposits. These can be formed during any iron-working procedure that involves high temperatures. The only bulk slags diagnostic of smithing are smithing hearth bottoms, which are formed at the base of the hearth as a result of a high temperature reaction between the iron scale and silica from the clay hearth lining or sand, used as flux by the smith. However, there were no smithing hearth bottoms present within the assemblage.
- 3.8.9 **Worked Stone:** a single, rectangular-shaped stone was recovered from the fill (1) of putative hearth 4. The stone comprised a worn, edged flat pebble of natural origin, which had evidence of blade marks on one face suggesting it to have been used as a whetstone.
- 3.8.10 **Palaeoenvironmental Samples:** a sample taken from deposit 03 was retained for assessment under laboratory conditions. This revealed the deposit to contain a small quantity of charcoal, including ring porous taxa. The species was not identified with certainty, although it could possibly have been oak or ash. The sample also contained abundant quantities of coal and industrial debris. No charred seeds, cereals or cereal chaff were present within the sample.
- 3.8.11 The material within deposit 03 would appear to confirm the interpretation of feature 04 as an iron-working hearth, and suggests that coal was the principle fuel used.

- 3.8.12 **Discussion:** the small artefact assemblage produced from the watching brief is of limited archaeological significance, although it does aid the interpretation and dating of the features identified during the watching brief. The pottery recovered from the putative hearth has been ascribed a late 1st to 2nd century date, confirming that the hearth was of Roman origin. Assessment of the sample and the industrial residues recovered from deposit **03** would seem to confirm its use as a hearth, and that it had been used for the secondary working of iron.
- 3.8.13 The pottery recovered during the open-area groundworks to the rear of Number 10 Botchergate has suggested a medieval date for the probable well **8** and adjacent pit **6**. Whilst the small number of sherds recovered from these features does not contain sufficient examples for firm conclusions to be statistically viable, it is nevertheless of note that the medieval pottery was no later than the 13th century.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 During the course of the watching brief a number of features were exposed, including two probable wells, a probable hearth, and a pit. In addition to these features, two of the four test pits observed, namely Test Pits 1 and 4, provided evidence of archaeological stratigraphy surviving on site.
- 4.1.2 The earliest remains on site date to the Roman period, represented by the probable hearth uncovered during the open-area groundworks. This fits in well with the evidence from other sites along Botchergate, confirming the Roman presence in the area, with the hearth (4), and the slag found within it, possibly hinting at a continuation of industrial processes broadly similar to those found at 53-63, Botchergate (OA North 2002). The limited dating evidence provided by the pottery is consistent with a perceived intensification of Roman activity within this part of Carlisle during the early 2nd century, perhaps reflecting increased activity associated with the construction of Hadrian's Wall.
- 4.1.3 The next phase for which there was evidence on site is the medieval period; this was represented by the probable well 8 and the pit 6. These features are interesting as they confirm that the area was part of the medieval suburbs of Carlisle. In particular, the presence of a well would seem to imply that the site had been occupied, rather than merely acting as a dumping ground. This corroborates, and expands upon, the results of recent excavations which focused an area on the opposite side of Botchergate (OA North 2002; Giecco and Zant 2001). The presence of Red Gritty ware, and an absence of later medieval wares adds weight, albeit tentatively, to a suggestion of post-13th century abandonment in this part of Carlisle.
- 4.1.4 The post-medieval period was represented by a probable well and a number of yard surfaces, which were observed in section during the course of the excavation of the test pits and the open-area groundworks. The manner of excavation meant that the evidence of the yard surfaces recovered was insufficient to formulate a comprehensive site plan for this period, although the evidence does seem to agree with accepted ideas about century urban expansion in this area during the 19th century.
- 4.1.5 Overall the watching brief has provided important evidence as to the usage of the site in the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The probable Roman hearth (4) and medieval pit (6) remain unaffected by the development, and have thus been preserved *in-situ*.

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

**Oxford
Archaeology
North**

July 2002

LAND AT BOTCHERGATE

CARLISLE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request from Mr RJ Whittaker, of Architects Plus, for an archaeological watching brief in advance of the proposed development of land at Botchergate, Carlisle.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A planning application has been submitted to and approved by Carlisle City Council for a mixture of refurbishment of existing structures and demolition and building of new structures at 10-16 Botchergate, Carlisle (NY 4031 5556). The scheme affects an area of archaeological interest, recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record (reference 3560). Consequently, the Cumbria County Archaeology Service (CCAS) advised that a condition be placed on the planning approval to allow for an archaeological watching brief during the course of the groundworks associated with the development. The following document represents a project design to carry out the watching brief as defined in a brief supplied by the Assistant Archaeologist of CCAS.
- 1.2 Botchergate follows the course of the former Roman road believed to lead to the civilian settlement and fort at Carlisle. Numerous chance discoveries of burials on both sides of Botchergate suggested that the area was used as a cemetery for much of the Roman period; as was to be expected given that Romano-British cemeteries are conventionally situated alongside the main roads leading out of settlements. However, the extent of the Roman settlement in the area was not known until the excavation work undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North between 53-63 Botchergate last year (OAN 2002) and the evaluation and excavation work undertaken on the adjacent site by the former Carlisle Archaeology Ltd between Mary Street and Tait Street in 1999 and 2000 (Giecco and Zant 2001). This combined work revealed the survival of deeply stratified archaeological deposits in parts of the development area; particularly those closest to the Botchergate Street frontage, including evidence for different phases of Roman timber buildings, use of the area for cremation and inhumation burial, and use of part of the site for industrial purposes.
- 1.3 During the medieval period Botchergate appears to have formed an extramural suburb to medieval Carlisle. Cartographic evidence shows that certainly during the early post-medieval period settlement fronted Botchergate outside of the town defences. Such settlement could have extended as far as the development site with buildings fronting onto the street and backplots to the rear.
- 1.4 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 20 years, including work in Carlisle, Appleby, Kendal, Penrith, and other towns in Cumbria. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. 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.
- 1.5 OA North has particular experience of the archaeology of the Carlisle area having undertaken work at *inter alia* St Nicholas's Yard (Howard-Davis and Leah 1999), 53-63 Botchergate (OAN 2002), Scotch Street, Cumbria College,

and the Garlands Hospital site, as well as work at Wigton, Thursby, Burgh by Sands and other villages close to the city.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide for accurate recording of any archaeological deposits that are disturbed by the groundworks associated with the new rising main.
- 2.2 A written client report will assess the significance of the data generated by the watching brief, within a local and regional context, and will make recommendations for further publication of any discoveries that are made should they warrant a wider dissemination.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1.1 **Methodology:** A programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the excavations in the course of the proposed development works. This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 3.1.2 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid coordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large scale plan provided by the Client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.1.3 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sketch sections will be produced per cut or test pit.
- 3.1.4 A watching brief will be conducted of all topsoil stripping and all below ground works. Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (ie. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).

- 3.1.5 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important deposits. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high density of archaeology is discovered. Also, should evidence of burials be identified, the 1857 Burial Act would apply and a Home Office Licence would be sought. This would involve all work ceasing until the proper authorities were happy for burials to be removed. In normal circumstances, field recording will also include a continual process of analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of the data, in order to establish the necessity for any further more detailed recording that may prove essential.
- 3.1.6 Environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from suitable deposits (i.e. the deposits are reasonably well dated and are from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence). Where such deposits are encountered, an appropriate sampling strategy will be agreed with the Assistant Archaeologist.
- 3.1.7 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 palaeoecology specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.
- 3.1.8 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc.), as well as to all Health and Safety regulations. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Unit Managers.

3.2 ARCHIVE/REPORT

- 3.2.1 **Archive:** The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct. OA North conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). 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. Wherever possible, OA North recommends the deposition of such material in a local museum approved by the Museums and Galleries Commission, and would make appropriate arrangements with the designated museum at the outset of the project for the proper labelling, packaging, and accessioning of all material recovered.

3.2.2 **Report:** One bound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further two copies submitted to CCAS within two months of completion of fieldwork. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, with an assessment of the overall stratigraphy, together with appropriate illustrations, including detailed plans and sections indicating the locations of archaeological features. Any finds recovered will be assessed with reference to other local material and any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted and the potential of the site for palaeoenvironmental analysis will be considered. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.

3.2.3 This report will identify areas of defined archaeology. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the identified archaeology within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map, section drawings, and plans. This report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on 3.5" disk (IBM compatible format), if required.

3.2.4 **Confidentiality:** All internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

4. PROJECT MONITORING

4.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken by CCAS, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work.

5. WORK TIMETABLE

5.1 OA North could commence the watching brief within two weeks of receipt of written notification from the client.

5.2 The client report will be completed within two months following completion of the fieldwork.

6. STAFFING

- 6.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Alan Lupton PhD MIFA** (Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.2 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing at this stage exactly who will be undertaking the watching brief.
- 6.3 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken by OA North's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis BA MIFA** (OA North project officer). Christine acts as OA North's in-house finds specialist and has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England. However, she has specialist knowledge regarding Roman glass, metalwork, and leather, the recording and management of waterlogged wood, and most aspects of wetland and environmental archaeology.
- 6.4 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples which may be taken will be undertaken by **Elizabeth Huckerby MSc** (OA North project officer). Elizabeth has extensive knowledge of the palaeoecology of the North West through her work on the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey.

7. INSURANCE

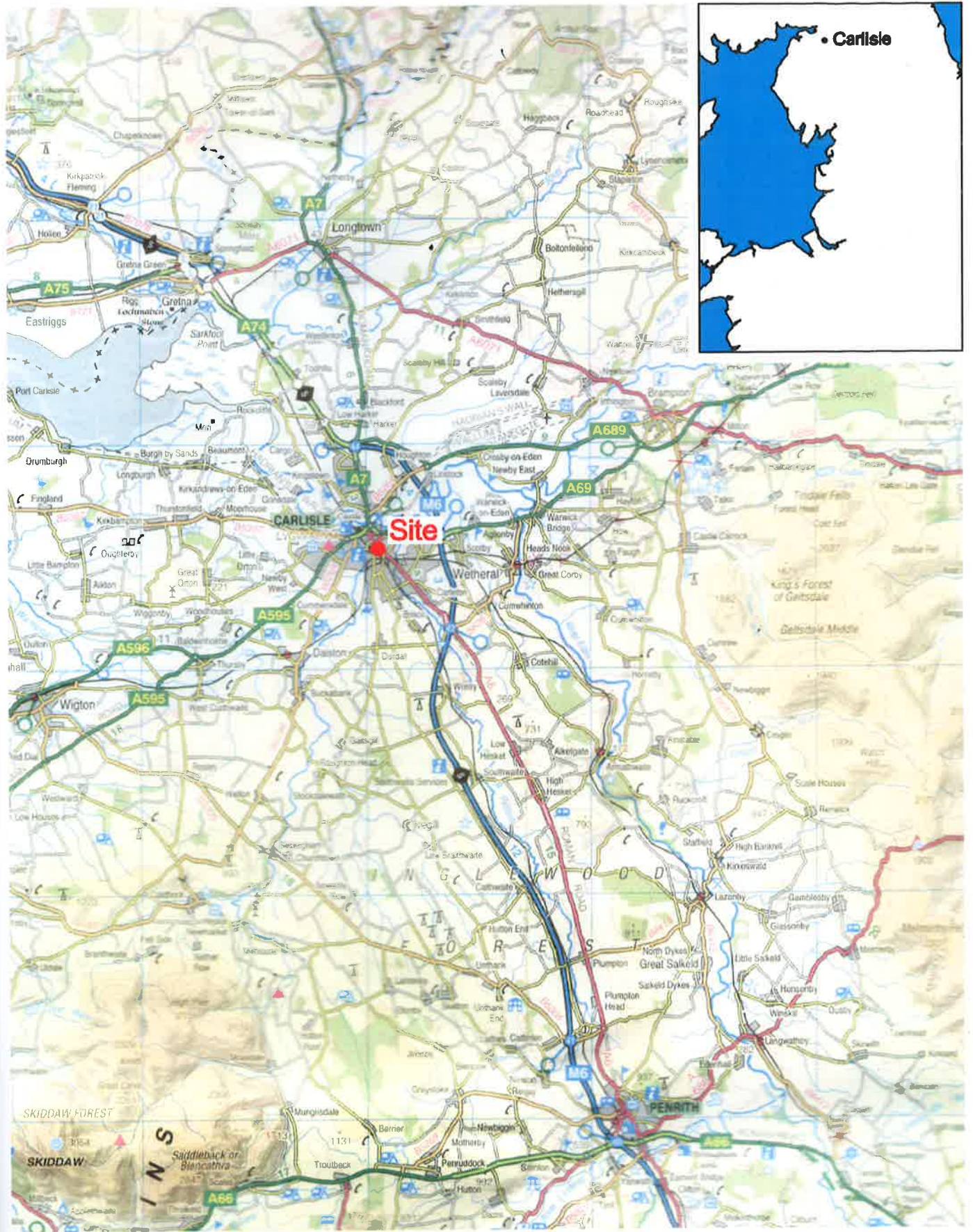
- 7.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Description
<i>1</i>	Inner fill of feature <i>4</i>
<i>2</i>	Middle fill of feature <i>4</i>
<i>3</i>	Outer fill of feature <i>4</i>
<i>4</i>	Probable hearth
<i>5</i>	Fill of pit <i>6</i>
<i>6</i>	Cut of pit
<i>7</i>	Fill of well <i>8</i>
<i>8</i>	Cut of well <i>8</i>

APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY FINDS CATALOGUE

Context	Material	Count	Description	Date Range
1	Pottery	6	Two sherds of Samian, three sherds of Grey Ware, one sherd of Black Burnished Ware	Late 1st - mid-2nd century
1	Stone	1	?Whetstone	Undated
3	Pottery	4	Three sherds of Samian, one sherd of mortaria	Late 1st - early 2nd century
3	Iron	1	?Nail	Undated
3	Ind. Deb.	13	Fragments of iron-working residues	Undated
5	Pottery	2	Carlisle Red Gritty ware sherds	Late 12th - mid-13th century
7	Iron	2	?Nails	Undated
7	Pottery	1	Carlisle Red Gritty ware	Late 12th - mid-13th century

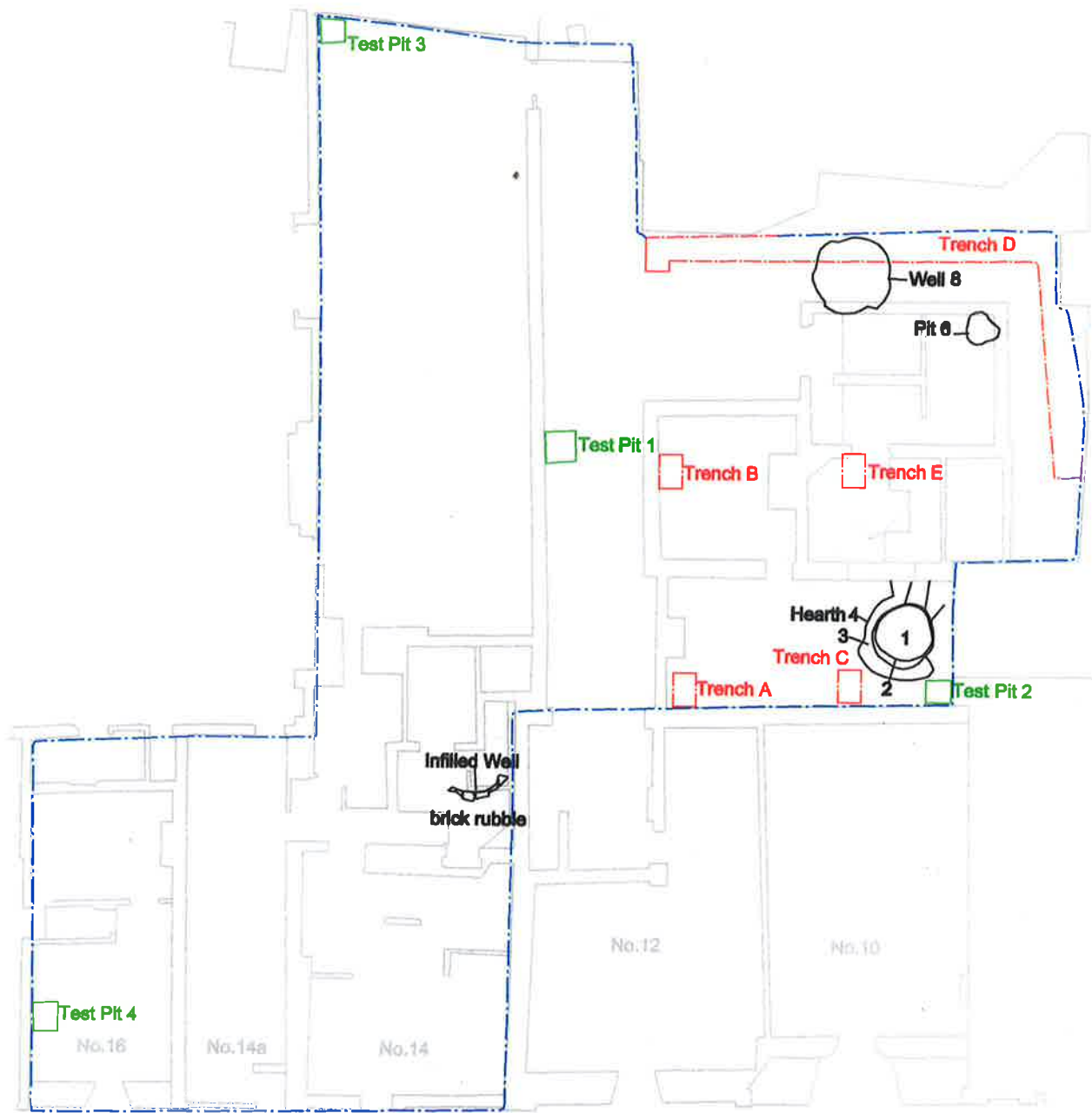


based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50000
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0 500 1000
 metres

Figure 1: Site Location Map

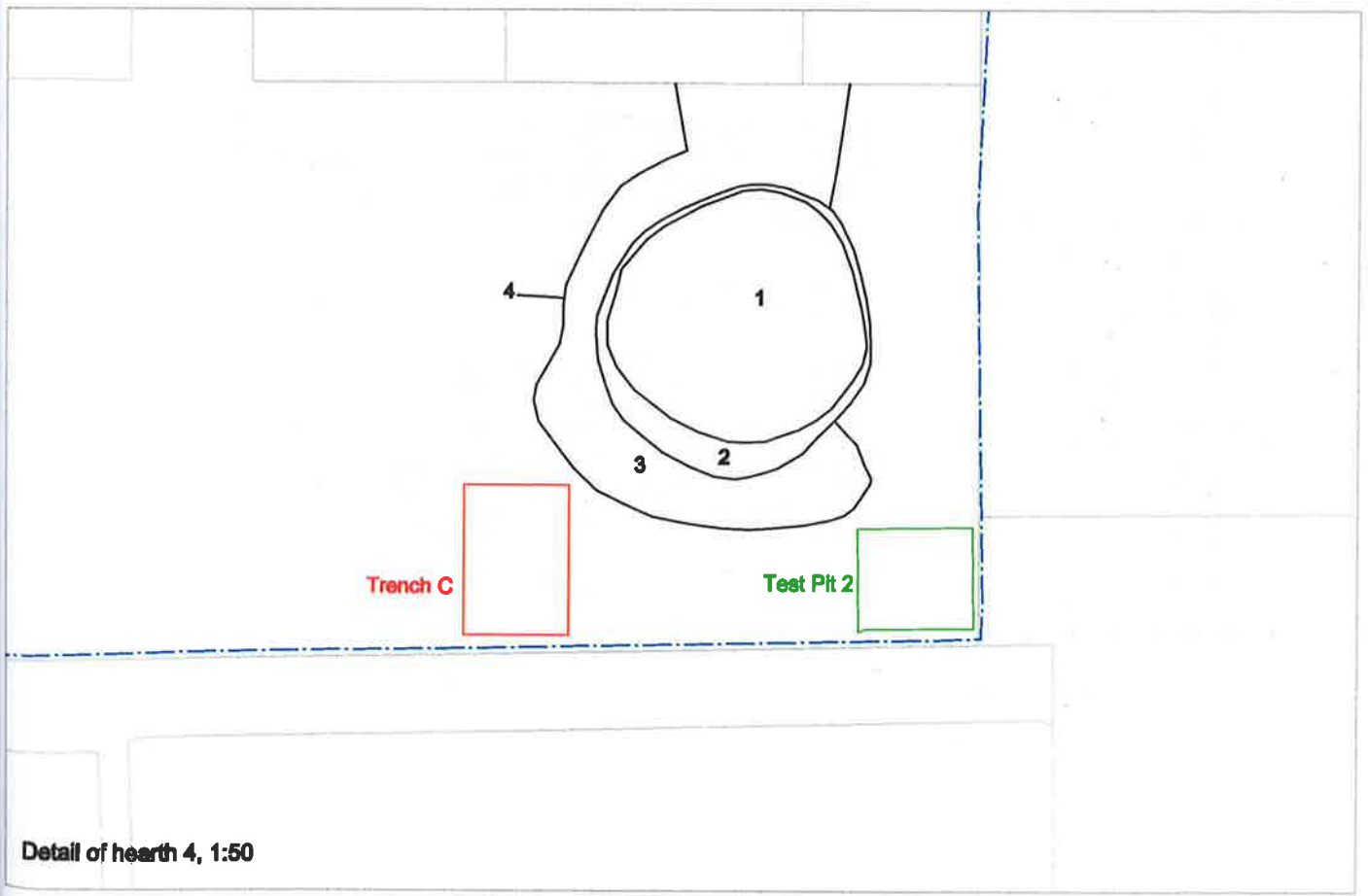
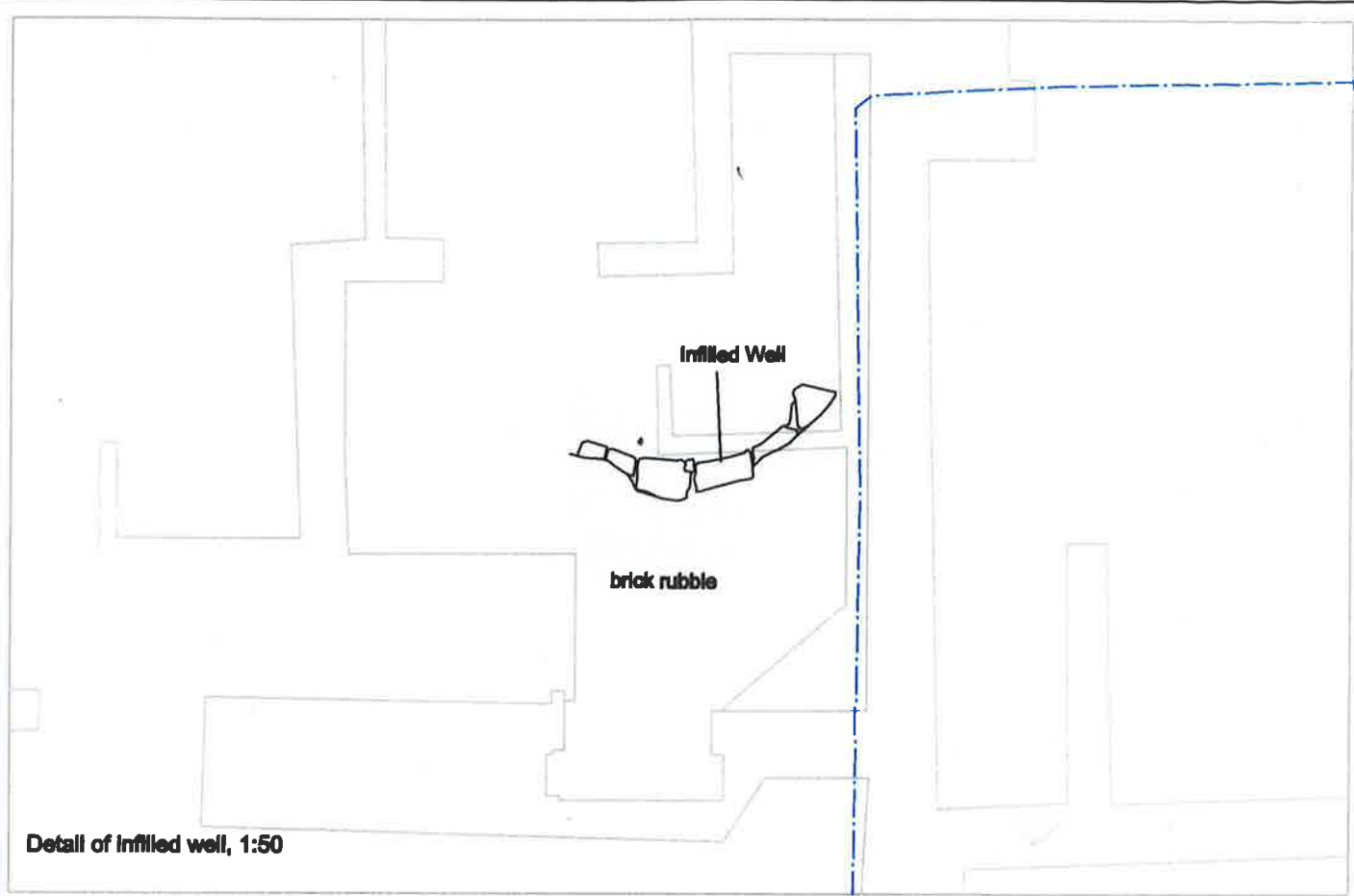



- Boundary of open-area groundworks
- Test pit
- Trenches
- Archaeological features

0 5m
 Scale 1:200 at A4



Figure 2: Trench Location Plan




 Boundary of open-area groundworks
  Test pit

 Trenches
  Archaeological features

 0 1m
 Scale 1:50 at A4



Figure 3: Detail of Well and Hearth 4



Plate 1: Test Pit 2



Plate 2: Test Pit 4



Plate 3: Well within Number 14, Botchergate



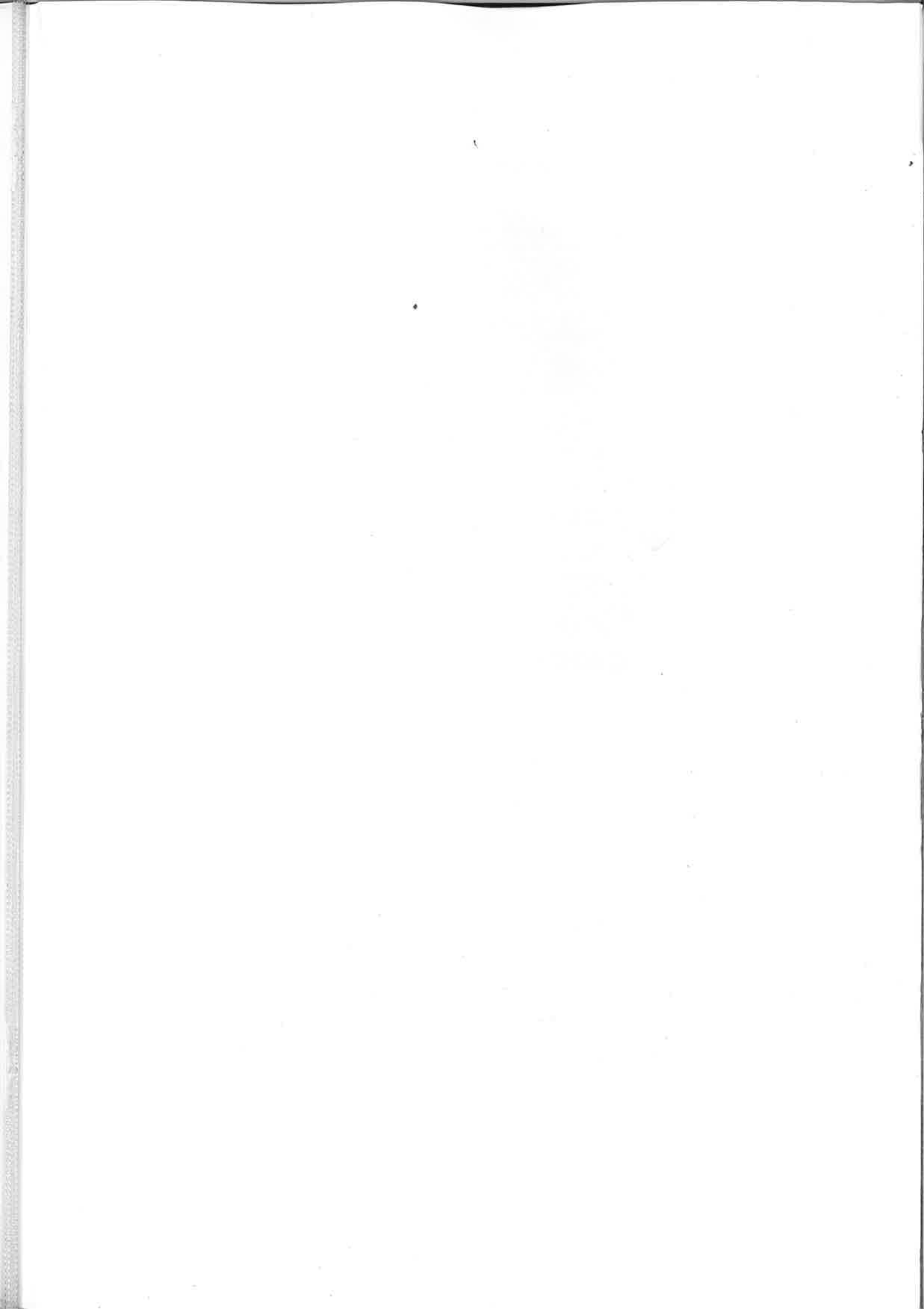
Plate 4: Hearth 4



Plate 5: Probable Well 8



Plate 6: View of open-area groundworks at rear of site





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