

Wesley Way, High Bentham, North Yorkshire



Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North

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on behalf of Yorkshire
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SUMMARY

Bowman Riley Architects, on behalf of their client Yorkshire Housing Ltd, commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a residential development. The site concerns land to the west of Wesley Way, on the north-west side of High Bentham (NGR SD 667 696, Fig 1). The proximity of the site to medieval High Bentham, and the presence of archaeology within the local vicinity, meant that planning permission for the construction of 34 houses and flats on the site was granted with a condition that a permanent archaeological presence was to be maintained during the groundworks, and that any archaeological remains within the site were to be investigated and recorded in mitigation of the development.

It is documented that High Bentham has existed since at least the Domesday Survey of 1086, and was a well established town by the fourteenth century, having been granted a charter for a market and a fair. Although there are no known sites dating to the prehistoric period within High Bentham, there is a significant level of activity in the surrounding landscape, indicating potential for unknown prehistoric remains. During the post-medieval period, High Bentham began to divert from its purely agricultural and pastoral economy, with the development of textile mills along the River Wenning (National Monuments Record, NMR **946776** and **589051**), and the expansion of the previously small-scale extraction industries, including the creation of gravel and sand quarries (NMR **589057** and **509058**). Farming, however, was the mainstay of the local economy, emphasised by the presence of field boundaries and ridge and furrow earthworks immediately to the north-east of the town (NMR **44025**, **103803-4** and **103807**).

Prior to the groundworks, a rapid walkover survey was conducted to assess the potential for archaeological remains. A pond was observed in the south-east corner of the development site, and a putative lynchet towards the crest of the hill. The groundworks comprised the removal of topsoil and subsoil to the natural geology across the site. This was undertaken in the main by a tracked bulldozer, with an initial strip excavated by a 360° mechanical excavator, limiting visibility across the site.

Although the close proximity of the development site to the town would indicate potential for remains of significant archaeological interest, no features pre-dating the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries were identified during the topsoil and subsoil strip. The putative lynchet along the crest of the hill was natural in origin, and the pond did not produce any finds pre-dating the post-medieval period. Three pits situated to the north-west of the pond, **105**, **107** and **109**, were the truncated remains of rubbish pits dating to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries, and most likely related to the construction of Goodenber Road and its houses in the early 1900s.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OA North would like to thank Bowman Riley Architects for commissioning the project on behalf of their client, Yorkshire Housing Ltd. Thanks are also extended to Lee Carr of Strata for all his assistance.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Bates and Kelly Clapperton. The report was written by Kelly Clapperton, and the illustrations produced by Anne Stewardson. The report was edited by Emily Mercer, who also managed the project.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Bowman Riley Architects, on behalf of their client Yorkshire Housing Ltd, commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a residential development. The site concerns land to the west of Wesley Way, on the north-west side of High Bentham (centred at NGR SD 667 696, Fig 1). The presence of putative lynchets was identified from aerial photographs suggesting the potential for surviving archaeological remains. Consequently, planning permission for the construction of 34 houses and flats on the site was granted with a condition that a permanent archaeological presence was maintained during earth-moving activities to enable any archaeological remains that may be disturbed by the construction works to be recorded in mitigation of the development.
- 1.1.2 The following report documents the results of the archaeological watching brief, and discusses them in their historical and archaeological context.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The site at High Bentham was located to the north-west of the town, off Wesley Close, to the west of Goodenber Road, and to the north of Main Street. It generally comprised a 45° slope, levelling off towards the south and north.
- 1.2.2 The general topography of the Bentham area comprises pastoral fields enclosed by mature hedgerows, with areas of ancient deciduous woodland concentrated in the valleys (Countryside Commission 1998, 92). The underlying geology comprises Carboniferous Millstone Grit that forms the undulating landscape and sharp scarps, which was subsequently overlain with thick glacial deposits, mainly comprising boulder clay, but with some areas of sands and gravels (*op cit*, 93). This was sealed by layers of Cambix Stagnogley soils (Ordnance Survey 1983).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 ***The Prehistoric Period:*** evidence for Upper Palaeolithic activity in Yorkshire is sparse, though some findspots have indicated at least a presence, with a flint being recovered from Raven Scar Cave at Chapel-le-Dale to the north-east of the site (Howard 2004, 8). Evidence for the Mesolithic is more forthcoming, with industry sites being identified at Malham and Malham Tarn to the east (Manby 2003, 33), while later Mesolithic assemblages have been recovered from areas along the main east/west routes through the Pennines, at Teesdale, Swaledale and Wensleydale (*ibid*). This would suggest seasonal movement from winter estuarine camps, to summer upland sites (Laurie 2003, 225).

- 1.3.2 The Neolithic saw the spread of monumental architecture in the region, such as the chambered cairns of Giants Grave, to the east of High Bentham, and Devils Altar to the south of Skipton (Manby *et al* 2003, 101-3). Field systems and nucleated settlements that occupy upland sites in the local area have often been attributed to the Iron Age, but may have their roots in earlier prehistory, such as at Wharfedale and Ribblesdale (*op cit* 103). To the north of Clapham a possible Neolithic enclosure is located at Clapdale, and a single stone axe was recovered from Crow Nest Farm near Lawkland, to the south-east (Howard 2004, 8-9).
- 1.3.3 By the Bronze Age it is clear the many of the 'Celtic Field Systems' were in use, demonstrated by the discovery of a Beaker inhumation at Grassington, and the presence of ring-works and stone circles across the region (Manby *et al* 2003, 103). As in the Neolithic period, many of these sites were concentrated towards the higher ground, exemplified by the presence of Ingleborough Hillfort, which dominated the landscape to the north-east, and most likely had a ceremonial function prior to the Iron Age (Howard 2004, 10).
- 1.3.4 As with all the previous prehistoric periods, no known features or finds dating to the Iron Age are located in High Bentham, although there is a very definite presence across the district. The so-called 'Celtic Fields' continued into the Iron Age, and occupied several areas of upland (Manby *et al* 2003, 103), while five Iron Age burials were located near the Ribblesdale Viaduct. The very existence of Ingleborough Hillfort would suggest that there was a significant Iron Age presence in the vicinity.
- 1.3.5 It was likely that the Craven Gap was a very important line of communication and transport during the prehistoric and later periods, therefore there is reasonable potential for prehistoric remains of archaeological interest in the High Bentham area.
- 1.3.6 ***The Romano-British Period:*** there are no known features or finds dating to the Roman period in High Bentham. However, the Romano-British settlement of Broadwood is located near Ingleton, to the north-east (Johnson 2004), and pottery dating to the period has been recovered from the hillfort at Ingleborough (Howard 2004, 11). It was likely that the Craven Gap formed one of the key cross-Pennine routes, and it has been suggested that a Roman road ran from Skipton to Ingleton (Margary 1957, 139), though no earthworks have been identified, and some features observed on aerial photographs are dubious at best (Craven District Council 1993).
- 1.3.7 ***The Medieval Period:*** although there are no known sites pre-dating the Norman Conquest, High Bentham is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, with a church and population of approximately 100 (Hudson undated, 4). In common with much of the surrounding district, High Bentham's name derives from the Old English *Benetain* meaning 'homestead amongst the bents', a form of rough moorland. By 1202 *Benethaim* comprised eight farmsteads formed from the Kings grant allowing forest clearance, an assart, most likely near Low Bentham (*ibid*). In 1235, a charter gave permission for the creation of a farmstead at Bigber on the outskirts of High Bentham (*ibid*).

In 1306 Edward I granted a market and fair charter to John de Mowbray, and there is some evidence for the expansion of farmland as the population grew (*op cit*, 5). It was likely that much of the area around Low and High Bentham had been cultivated during the medieval period, although it was not until 1404 that an 'Over Bentham' was recorded, or 1598 until 'Nether Bentham' documented. Only one site dating to the medieval period was identified in High Bentham, the Plague Stone (National Monuments Record (NMR) **43916**), thought to be a medieval cross-base, which was reused during the plague of 1666 to wash 'infected' money. It has been repositioned and is currently located on the Low Bentham Road. Medieval pottery, however, has been recovered from local garden soils (Jeremy Bradley *pers comm*).

- 1.3.8 ***The Post-Medieval Period:*** during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries there was a rapid growth in population, resulting in further expansion of the agricultural landscape, and leading to its subsequent enclosure during the mid-eighteenth century (Hudson *nd*, 5). A search of the NMR revealed several agricultural sites immediately to the north-east of High Bentham, comprising numerous post-medieval earthwork boundaries, ridge and furrow, and a square enclosure (NMR **44025**, **1037803-4**, **103807-9**). However, as the period progressed, other industries expanded. These included the extraction industries, with gravel pits, sand quarries and clay extraction pits located in the general vicinity (NMR **589057**, **509058**); while several mills, including textile and corn mills (NMR **946776**, **589051**, and **289053**) were situated along the banks of the River Wenning, to the south of the site. This also resulted in an expansion of the settlement during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- 1.3.9 Assessment of the early Ordnance Survey maps indicate that little altered across the development site. The First Edition (Ordnance Survey 1850) illustrates that Goodenber Road had not been created, and it had only been partially established by early twentieth century (Ordnance Survey 1909). Like the majority of High Bentham, this area has remained pastoral until relatively modern times.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 FIELDWORK

- 2.1.1 In advance of any groundworks, the site was subject to a brief walkover survey to identify any earthworks or extant features that might be of archaeological interest. These were photographed and recorded on *pro-forma* sheets provided by OA North.
- 2.1.2 The groundworks comprised a topsoil and subsoil strip of the development site, which comprised the excavation of an initial strip by a 22 ton, 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide ditching bucket, with the remainder of the strip being undertaken by a tracked bulldozer. All excavations undertaken by the mechanical excavator were constantly observed by an archaeologist, while the areas being stripped by the bulldozer were periodically walked to identify any possible features of archaeological interest. All deposits and features were investigated by hand, and the results recorded on *pro-forma* sheets provided by OA North. A photographic archive was produced, including monochrome prints and digital shots, and all features of archaeological interest were illustrated on permatrace at an appropriate scale. All features and deposits were located on large scale paper plans provided by the client and at a scale of 1:200.

2.2 FINDS

- 2.2.1 All finds recovered from stratified deposits were exposed, lifted, cleaned and bagged in accordance with the United Kingdom for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid for Finds*, 1998 (new edition).

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full and professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the Project Design (*Appendix I*), and with current Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008) and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The archive will be deposited with the County Record Office in Northallerton, following inspection by the County Archaeologist, and a copy of the report will be supplied to the North Yorkshire Historic Environmental Record (HER).

3. RESULTS OF FIELDWORK

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 The following section summarises the results of the archaeological watching brief during groundworks in advance of the construction of a housing development at Wesley Way, High Bentham (Fig 1). Prior to the groundworks a rapid walkover survey was conducted over the development site, to assess the potential for any archaeological remains. The groundworks comprised a topsoil and subsoil strip across the site down to natural geology. The strip was initiated by a 360° mechanical excavator, removing topsoil and subsoil to the required level, followed by a bulldozer, which removed the remaining soil horizons. In the eastern section of the development site, the slope of the hill is to be reduced to provide a level platform for the construction of the houses. As the majority of the topsoil and subsoil strip was carried out by a tracked bulldozer, the visibility across the site was much reduced. Nevertheless, all deposits and features observed were investigated and recorded (Fig 2).

3.2 RESULTS

- 3.2.1 **Rapid Walkover Survey:** in the south-east corner of the development site the area had already been reduced to natural geology and levelled up with stone for a small compound. Adjacent, and to the north, of the compound was a sub-circular pond (Fig 2), approximately 14m in diameter and located 4m from the eastern boundary of the site. It was filled by marsh grasses and bulrushes. Very few further features of archaeological interest were observed across the development site, although a putative lynchet was noted towards the crest of the hill. Along the boundary with the modern housing development to the south, much of the ground had been heavily disturbed.
- 3.2.2 **Watching Brief:** (Fig 2, Plates 1 and 2) roughly 0.3m of topsoil was stripped from the site by mechanical excavator and bulldozer. Topsoil, **100**, comprised a fine and friable, mid-dark grey-brown sandy-silt with less than 5% sub-angular sandstone fragments (less than 30mm diameter), 0.33m to 0.45m thick, towards the base of the slope. At the crest and top of the slope, topsoil, **101**, consisted of a fine and friable, mid-light orangey-brown sandy-silt, with less than 10% sub-rounded cobbles and pebbles (0.2m by 0.1m by 0.05m to less than 20mm diameter), more than 0.45m thick. Fragments of later post-medieval pottery were recovered from both deposits. The topsoil deposits sealed subsoil, **102**, a tacky, mid-light orange-brown sandy-clay, with less than 10% sub-angular and sub-rounded fragments of sandstone and limestone (0.3m by 0.2m by 0.1m to less than 5mm diameter), 0.45m thick, which extended over the entire development site. As visibility had been seriously reduced through the methodology, natural was observed across approximately 75% of the site towards the east, and only 50% to 60% to the west. Natural geology, **103**, comprised a firm, mid-light pink and orange-grey sandy-clay, with more than 5% sub-rounded sandstone and limestone pebbles (0.2m by 0.1m by 0.03m to 30mm diameter).

- 3.2.3 No deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the excavation of the pond, and only a few fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered. To the north-west of the pond, approximately 20m from the eastern site boundary, were three small rubbish pits, **105**, **107** and **109** (Figs 2 and 3, Plates 3 and 4). A slot was excavated through pit **105**. This comprised a circular pit, 2m in diameter, bowl-shaped in profile, and 0.21m deep. It was filled with a dark brown-grey clay-silt, **106**, which was coarse and friable in nature, and contained significant quantities of refuse, including brick fragments, later post-medieval pottery, metal, and coal and charcoal fragments. Pit **107** was near identical in nature, while pit **109** was only 0.55m in diameter, but contained a very similar fill, **110**.
- 3.2.4 Towards the southern edge of the development site, an area of disturbed ground was observed. This comprised a layer of tacky, mottled, mid-orange-brown and grey silty-clay, with 25% sub-rounded cobbles and pebbles (0.3m by 0.12m by 0.06m to less than 20mm diameter), and approximately 10% modern refuse, including plastic, ceramic and metal, **104**. This was most likely the result of the housing development that was constructed approximately two years ago to the south.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 High Bentham has existed since at least the Domesday Survey of 1086, and was a well established town by the fourteenth century, having been granted a charter for a market and a fair (Hudson undated, 4-5). Although no known sites dating to the prehistoric period are within High Bentham, there is a significant amount of activity in the surrounding landscape indicating potential for unknown prehistoric remains. During the post-medieval period, High Bentham began to divert from its purely agricultural and pastoral economy, with the development of textile mills along the River Wenning, and the expansion of the extraction industries, including gravel and sand quarries. Farming, however, was the mainstay of the local economy, emphasised by the presence of field boundaries and the remains of ridge and furrow agriculture immediately to the north-east of the town.
- 4.1.2 Although the close proximity of the development site to the town would indicate significant potential for remains of archaeological interest, no features pre-dating the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries were identified (Fig 2). The putative lynchet at the crest of the hill was natural in origin, and the pond to the north of the site compound did not produce any finds pre-dating the post-medieval period. The three pits situated to the north-west of the pond, **105**, **107** and **109**, were the truncated remains of rubbish pits dating to either the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries, and most likely related to the construction of Goodenber Road and its houses in the early 1900s (Fig 3, Plates 3 and 4).

5. ILLUSTRATIONS

5.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Site plan

Figure 3: North-facing section through pit **105**

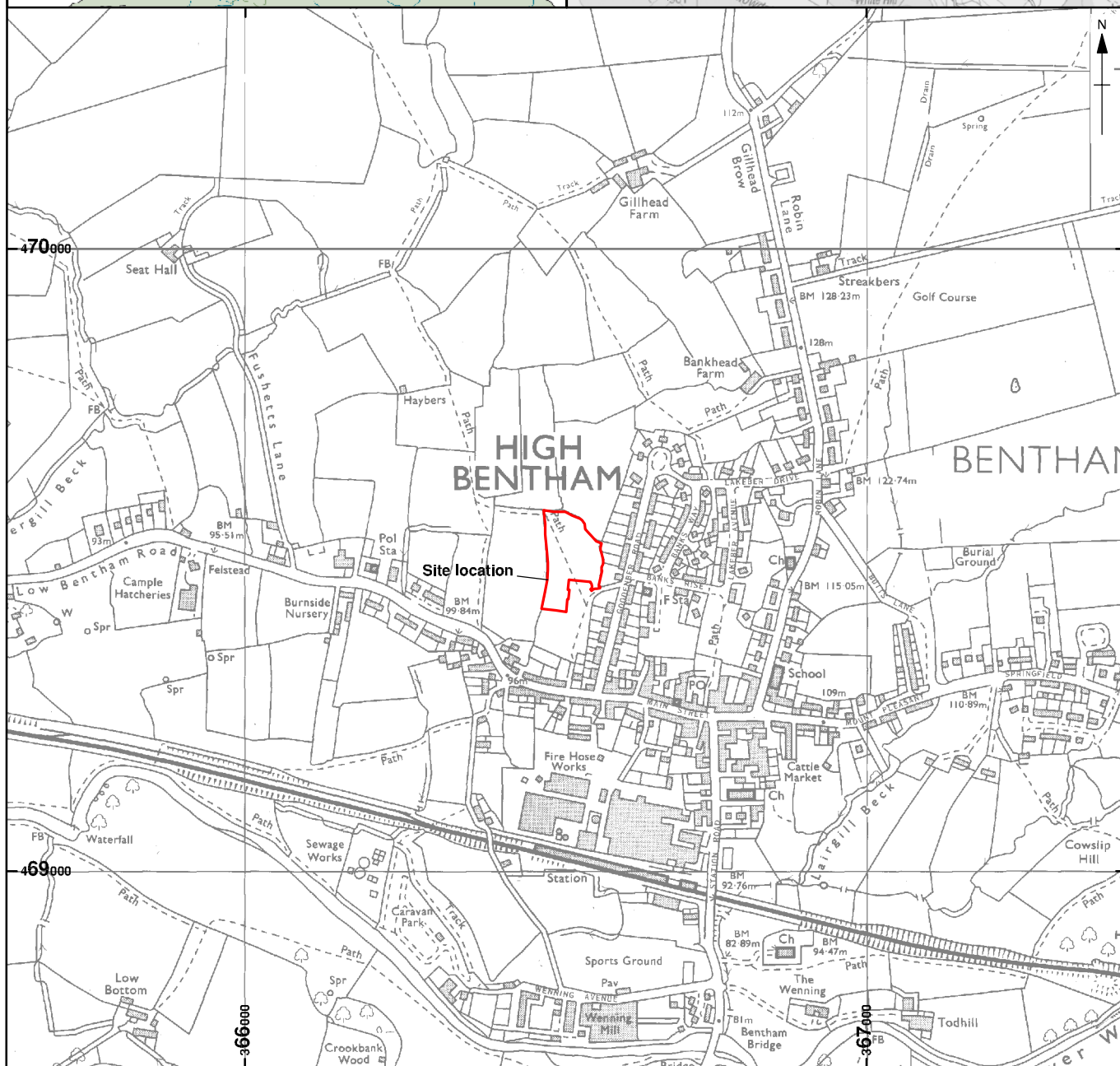
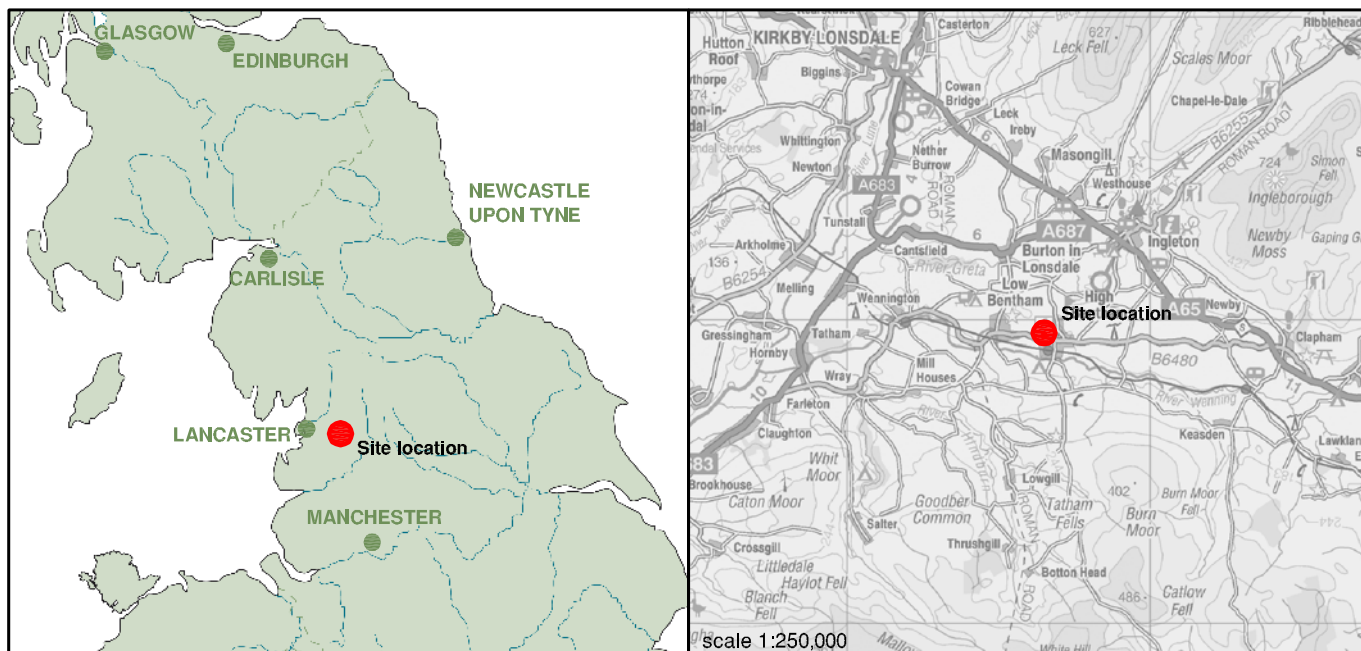
5.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Initial strip along the south edge of site, looking east

Plate 2: Main strip looking north

Plate 3: Pre-excavation shot of pit **105**

Plate 4: North-facing section through pit **105**



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0 250 m
1:10,000 @ A4



Figure 1: Site location

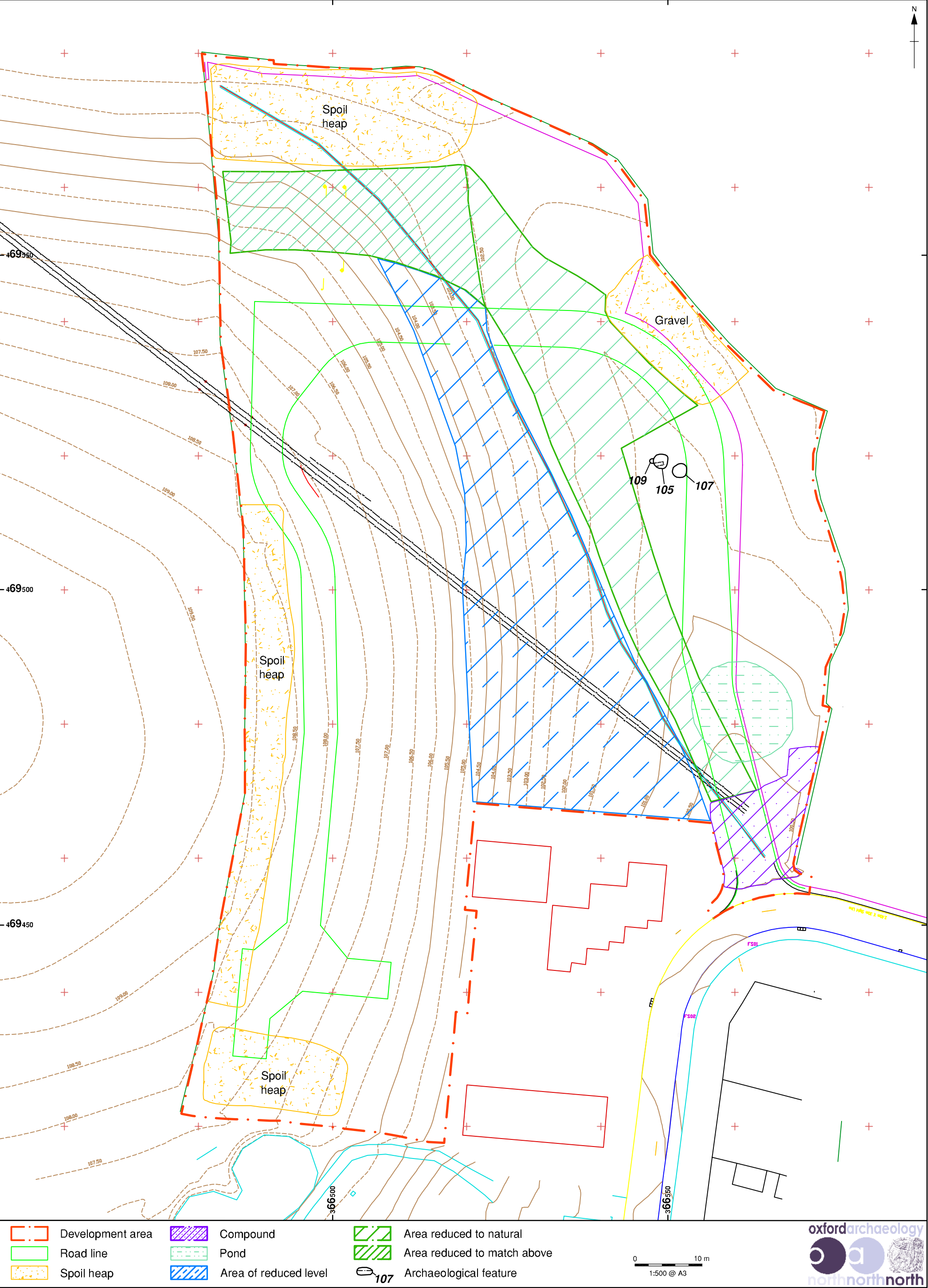


Figure 2: Site plan

North facing section



--- Limit of excavation
105 Feature

0 0.5 m
1:20 @ A4

Figure 3: North-facing section through pit **105**



Plate 1: Initial strip along the south edge of site, looking east



Plate 2: Main strip looking north



Plate 3: Pre-excavation shot of pit *105*



Plate 4: North-facing section through pit *105*

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Bowman Riley Architects (hereafter the 'client'), on behalf of their client Yorkshire Housing Ltd, has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for a programme of archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during ground disturbance for a proposed residential development. The site concerns land to the west of Wesley Way, on the north-west side of High Bentham (NGR centred SD 650 645), which is currently laid down to pasture. The presence of lynchets identified from aerial photographs, although undated, may suggest a potential for surviving archaeological remains. Consequently, planning permission for the construction of 34 houses and flats on the site has been granted with a condition that a permanent archaeological presence is maintained during earth moving activities to enable any archaeological remains that may be disturbed by the construction works to be recorded in mitigation of the development.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 OA North has considerable experience of fieldwork and post-excavation, having undertaken a great number of small and large-scale projects during the past 30 years. 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 to identify any archaeological deposits or features that may be present during the ground disturbance for the proposed development. It will be undertaken in order to mitigate the impact by means of preservation by record of any such archaeological features or deposits. The work will be carried out in line with current IfA guidelines and in line with the IfA Code of Conduct.
- 2.2 **Archaeological Watching Brief:** to maintain a permanent archaeological presence during earth moving activities. The purpose is to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains that may be encountered. Where such remains cannot be adequately recorded under watching brief conditions it will be necessary to undertake consultation with all interested parties to determine and implement the appropriate mitigation.
- 2.3 **Report:** the results of the fieldwork and any post-excavation assessment will culminate in a final report to be submitted within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork (subject to any specialist reports outstanding).
- 2.4 **Archive:** a site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2 (1991)). The information will be finally disseminated through the deposition of the archive at a local museum, and report at the Historic Environment Record (HER) Office in Northallerton.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 3.1.1 **Risk assessment:** 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 Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). OA North will liaise with the client to ensure all health and safety regulations are met. The outline risk assessment will be continuously monitored during the fieldwork and updated accordingly.

- 3.1.2 **Contamination:** any contamination issues must also be made known to OA North in order that adequate PPE can be supplied prior to commencement. Should any presently unknown contamination be discovered during excavation, it may be necessary to halt the works and reassess the risk assessment. Any specialist safety requirements may be costed as a variation.

3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits during the ground disturbance for the development. These will be carried out under constant archaeological observation unless, with consultation and agreement of the client and other interested parties, it is identified that a more targeted and timetabled archaeological investigation would be more appropriate.
- 3.2.2 **Methodology:** the work will comprise archaeological observation during the removal of the topsoil, and to be followed by the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks (excavation of trenches for footings/foundations, and services as well as any levelling exercises), and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified. Machine excavation must be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket to maximise observational conditions.
- 3.2.3 Discovery of archaeological remains will require stoppage of the excavation. Areas of potential archaeological remains will require fencing-off from any construction works, preferably with netlon-type fencing, to allow OA North archaeologists sufficient time to undertake adequate recording under safe conditions. This will be carried out as efficiently as possible in order to minimise disruption. Depending on the deposits revealed, it is anticipated that the average time for the suspension of works will be approximately 2-4 hours.
- 3.2.4 Clearance will be given for construction to proceed once the archaeologist is satisfied that either no remains are present, or that they have been adequately recorded, or that the level of impact will not disturb any deeper remains that can be preserved *in situ*.
- 3.2.5 **Complex or extensive remains:** should the remains be too complex or extensive to be investigated and recorded under watching brief conditions then the area will be fenced-off and the client will be immediately contacted in order to determine the requirements for further investigation. All further construction works within the marked area will cease until clearance is given to proceed. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design.
- 3.2.6 **Investigation and recording:** 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 (i.e. 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).
- 3.2.7 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 co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale digital plan provided by the client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.2.8 Levels will be recorded and reduced to their OD heights, with all benchmark and TBMS to be shown. The location of all features excavated will be recorded by Total Station with appropriate spot heights and tied into the OS grid. Altitude information will be established with respect to OS Datum. The location of the remains within the areas of construction will be based on site plans provided by the client containing OS information.
- 3.2.9 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced.

3.3 GENERAL PROCEDURES

- 3.3.1 **Environmental Sampling:** samples (bulk samples of 40 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). Monolith samples will be collected from freshly exposed sections through all buried soils/old ground surfaces by trained staff. These will be returned to OA North's offices for processing.
- 3.3.2 Deposits of particular interest may incur additional sampling, on advice from the appropriate in-house specialist.
- 3.3.3 The location of all samples will be recorded on drawings and sections with heights OD etc.
- 3.3.4 Between 50%-100% of bulk samples shall be selected for processing, based on the advice from OA North's in-house environmental manager. However, the basis of the advice will be agreed with the client prior to processing commences, which will be included in the final report. An assessment of the environmental potential would include soil pollen analysis and the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features. In addition, the samples would be assessed for plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits.
- 3.3.5 In order to achieve the aims of the programme of work, it may be required to obtain dating evidence through radiocarbon dating, dendrochronological or other such techniques. This would only be undertaken in consultation with the client.
- 3.3.6 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. The client, curator and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Home Office license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations. Any delays caused by unforeseen and complex excavation of inhumations may be subject to a variation to the cost of the contract and will be agreed with the client.
- 3.3.7 **Finds:** all finds recovered during the evaluation investigation (metal detecting and trial trenching) will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
- 3.3.8 Finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (current IFA guidelines) and subject to expert advice. OA has close contact with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs in-house 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. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC). Emergency access to conservation facilities is maintained by OA North with the Department of Archaeology, the University of Durham.
- 3.3.9 Neither artefacts nor ecofacts will be collected systematically during the mechanical excavation of the topsoil unless significant deposits, for example clay pipe waster dumps, are encountered. In such an eventuality, material will be sampled in such a manner as to provide data to enhance present knowledge of the production and dating of such artefacts, although any ensuing studies will not be regarded as a major element in any post-excavation analysis of the site. Other finds recovered during the removal of overburden will be retained only if of significance to the dating and/or interpretation of the site. It is not anticipated that ecofacts (eg unmodified animal bone) will be collected during this procedure.
- 3.3.10 Otherwise, artefacts and ecofacts will be collected and handled as per specification. All material will be collected and identified by stratigraphic unit during the evaluation trenching process. Hand collection by stratigraphic unit will be the principal method of collection, but targeted on-site sieving could serve as a check on recovery levels. Objects deemed to be of potential significance to the understanding, interpretation and dating of individual features, or of the site as a whole, will be recorded as individual items, and their location plotted in 3-D. This may include, for instance, material recovered from datable medieval pit groups.

- 3.3.11 All finds will be treated in accordance with OA standard practice, which is cognisant of IFA and UKIC Guidelines. In general this will mean that (where appropriate or safe to do so) finds are washed, dried, marked, bagged and packed in stable conditions; no attempt at conservation will be made unless special circumstances require prompt action. In such case guidance will be sought from OA North's consultant conservator.
- 3.3.12 All waterlogged finds will be treated as appropriate. In the case of large deposits of waterlogged environmental material (eg unmodified wood), advice will be sought with the OA North consultant with regard to an appropriate sampling strategy.
- 3.3.13 Where possible, spot dates will be obtained on pottery and other finds recovered from the site. Artefacts will be examined and commented upon by OA North in-house specialists. Initial artefact dating shall be integrated into the site matrix.
- 3.3.14 Any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.

3.4 REPORT

- 3.4.1 One bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, together with a copy on CD, within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork, unless an alternative deadline is agreed with the client beforehand. A copy will also be submitted to the HER for reference purposes. The report will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above in order to come to as full an understanding as possible of the archaeology of the development area. The report will include;
- a site location plan related to the national grid
 - a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results
 - the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken
 - description of the methodology, including the sources consulted
 - a summary of the historical background of the study area if available
 - appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located
 - a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the proposed development
 - illustrative photographs as appropriate
 - a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design
 - the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted
 - plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds
 - an index to the project archive
- 3.4.2 **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.

3.5 ARCHIVE

- 3.5.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, Appendix 3, 2nd edition, 1991). The archive will contain site matrices, and summary reports of the artefact record, context records, and any other records or materials recovered.

- 3.5.2 This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North will deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media), and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche), together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum, following inspection by the County Archaeologist or representative.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.1 **Archaeological Watching Brief:** the duration of the archaeological presence for the watching brief will be dictated by the client's schedule of works and is anticipated to commence in March/April 2009.
- 4.2 **Report:** the client report will be completed within approximately eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork, subject to any outstanding specialist reports.
- 4.3 **Archive:** the archive will be deposited within six months.

5. STAFFING

- 5.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc AIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 5.2 The fieldwork will be undertaken by an OA North supervisor or assistant supervisor experienced in this type of project, who will be responsible for liaison with the site contractors and the client, and other relevant interested parties with regards to on-site work and procedures.
- 5.3 The site teams will be supported by specialist staff based both on site and in the office in Lancaster. Finds management will be undertaken by **Christine Howard-Davis** who will also provide specialist input on certain finds categories. Environmental management will be undertaken by **Elizabeth Huckerby**, who will also provide specialist input on charred remains and pollen. Elizabeth will advise on site sampling procedures and co-ordinate the processing of samples and organise internal and external specialist input as required.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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

SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers), 1997 *Health and Safety Manual*, Poole

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of archives for long-term storage*

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1998 *First Aid for Finds* London