

# CEMETERY HOUSE TRACK, FLIMBY, MARYPORT, CUMBRIA



## Archaeological Rapid Desk-Based Assessment and Watching Brief

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**Capita Symonds**

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## SUMMARY

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Capita Symonds proposed the construction of a 600m-long cycle track at Cemetery House, Flimby, Maryport, Cumbria (Grid reference NY 0198 3264 - NY 0220 3379). The proposed development area is located within an area of archaeological potential and, consequently, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) issued a brief requesting a rapid desk-based assessment, to be undertaken prior to the development, and a watching brief, to be conducted during any ground-disturbing activities associated with the development (Planning Application No 2/07/0976). Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was subsequently commissioned by Capita Symonds to undertake this work.

The desk-based assessment, undertaken in February 2008, identified ten sites of cultural heritage significance within a study area radiating 500m from the development route. The watching brief was undertaken in April 2008, during the excavation of a series of test pits in advance of the laying of a French drain on the western edge of the cycle track. In total, 14 test pits were dug within the first (northern-most) 300m of the route by a combination of manual and mechanical excavation. They were generally 1m long by 1m wide and up to 0.5m deep, the maximum depth of the proposed drain. Natural geology was reached a depth of 0.35m below ground level, but there was no evidence of archaeological deposits, features or finds.

Subsequent works for the cycle path involved the scraping of weathered material from the existing footpath, and its subsequent build up. Given that there was no chance that these shallow works would impact upon any archaeological features and, in consideration of the negative results from the test pits, it was agreed with CCCHES that monitoring the scraping of the cycle track was unnecessary.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Tony Jackson of Capita Symonds for commissioning the project and James McGonigle and Tim Coats of Stobbarts Ltd for their assistance on site. OA North are also grateful to Jeremy Parsons of CCCHES for his advice and liaison throughout the project, and to Jo Mackintosh of the Cumbria Historic Record.

Kathryn Blythe undertook and wrote the rapid desk-based assessment; Nathaniel Jepson undertook the watching brief and, together with Jeremy Bradley, compiled the report, which was illustrated by Marie Rowland. Stephen Rowland managed the project and edited the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Capita Symonds proposed the construction of a 600m-long cycle track at Cemetery House, Flimby, Maryport, Cumbria (Grid reference NY 0198 3264 - NY 0220 3379). The proposed ground works comprised the scraping-off and relaying of an existing footpath to form the cycle track, and the installation of French drains flanking the route. The development site lies on north-west coast of Cumbria, which in Roman times was defended by a network of installations including forts, fortlets and signal stations that effectively formed an extension of those of Hadrian's Wall. The closest fort is that of Maryport (*Alauna Carvetiorum*), about 2km to the north of Flimby, whilst the site of another, smaller, fort, Burrow Walls (*Magis*), lies about 5km to the south, near Seaton. The closest site is the signal station at Risehow (just to the north of Flimby). All of these sites were connected by a network of roads, and it one such road, running between Burrow Walls and Risehow, that could potentially coincide with part of the cycle track.
- 1.1.2 Accordingly, a condition was placed on planning consent (Planning Application No 2/07/0976) for the proposed development, comprising a programme of archaeological works. Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) issued a brief for this work (*Appendix 1*), which recommended a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment to be undertaken to cover the application area in advance of the proposed development. A watching brief during the course of the ground works was also required.
- 1.1.3 Following the submission of a project design (*Appendix 2*), Capita Symonds subsequently commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to carry out this work. This report sets out the results of the rapid desk-based assessment and watching brief, outlining the findings in the form of a short document.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 The CCCHES-approved OA North project Design (*Appendix 2*) was adhered to in full, and all works were consistent with the relevant standards and procedures established by the Institute for Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice. In accordance with the brief (*Appendix 2*), CCCHES were consulted when ground works had been conducted along the first (northern-most) 300m of the 600m-long route (Fig 2). Given the negative results of the test pits along this initial stretch, it was agreed with CCCHES that further monitoring of the test pits was not required. Furthermore, excavations for the cycle track itself comprised only the scraping of weathered material from the existing footpath prior to the building-up of material. Consequently, it was agreed with CCCHES that this scraping need not be archaeologically monitored.

### 2.2 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 The rapid desk-based assessment comprised a search of the archives and library held at OA North. Sites listed by the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (CHER) within a study area of 500m centred on the proposed development and all known previous archaeological investigations in close proximity to the proposed development have also been integrated into the Archaeological and Historical Background (*Section 3*). The results were analysed using the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments, outlined in Annex 4 of *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990). The following were consulted as appropriate:

2.2.2 ***Cumbria Historic Environment Record (CHER)***: the CHER held in Kendal was consulted to establish the sites of archaeological interest already known within the study area, and the extent and number of these. The CHER is a database of all known archaeological sites in Cumbria, and is maintained by Cumbria County Council. Each entry was included in the Site Gazetteer (*Section 5*). Aerial photographs were also consulted.

2.2.3 ***Oxford Archaeology North***: OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

### 2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

2.3.1 Close liaison was maintained between OA North staff and the site contractors during the watching brief. The monitored groundworks were carried out by a mechanical excavator using a 0.8m-wide ditching bucket to excavate of a

series of test pits approximately 20-25m apart. Each test pit measured 1m by 0.5m by 0.5m deep in order to investigate the full depth of the proposed French drain to be laid on the western side of the cycle track. The programme of field observation examined and recorded the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features, horizons and artefacts.

- 2.3.2 The recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of deposits on OA North *pro-forma* sheets, and their accurate location in plan. In addition, an indexed photographic record in colour-slide and monochrome formats was compiled.

## **2.4 ARCHIVE**

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991). The paper and digital archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and will be submitted to the Cumbria Record Office on completion of the project. The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database Online Access index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) was completed as part of the archiving phase of the project. A copy of the report will be sent to Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record and a copy will also be offered to the National Monuments Record.

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## 3. BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1.1 Flimby is located on the Cumbrian coast, approximately 2km to the south of Maryport. The proposed development is located to the immediate south of Flimby along an existing track, which runs south-westwards from Cemetery House. The track runs roughly parallel with the coastline, which is approximately 500m away. The track is located at approximately 25m OD on a gentle slope, which rises up from the coastline.
- 3.1.2 The solid geology consists of Westphalian grey mudstones, with numerous coal seams (British Geological Survey 1982). The overlying soils are Clifton, typical stagnogley soils (Soil Survey 1983), here noted as a yellowish-brown sandy silt (LUAU 1997a).

### 3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 The following section provides a brief summary of the historical and archaeological background of the proposed development area. The summary has been compiled largely from secondary sources, and is intended to provide a context for the results of the archaeological works, rather than an exhaustive account of the archaeology and history of the area.
- 3.2.2 ***The Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age Periods (c 8000 - 600 BC)***: the climatic amelioration which followed the recession of the glacial ice encouraged the population of the area during the Mesolithic period, and tools, in the form of flint scatters, have been recorded on the west and south Cumbrian coasts at St Bees and Walney Island (Cherry and Cherry 1983, 8). There appears to be a degree of continuity from the end of the Mesolithic period to the early Neolithic period; the flint artefacts are essentially indistinguishable (*ibid*). Settlement evidence is scarce, but may be represented by cropmarks, and it appears from the limited evidence available that Neolithic settlement in the west of Cumbria was a mixture of seasonal transhumance and permanently occupied sites (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 33). Settlement evidence in the Bronze Age is rather more problematic, as the small number of excavations which have been conducted have not produced secure dating evidence (*ibid*). A large enclosure identified by aerial photography at Ewanrigg, to the south of Maryport, was recently excavated and proved to have been in use from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman period (LUAU 1997b; Bewley 1992). A picture of mixed permanent settlement and transhumance may have persisted into the Bronze Age, although there were undoubtedly changes in other aspects of society and economy (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 33). There are known no sites from this period within the study area.
- 3.2.3 ***The Iron Age (c 600 BC - AD 43)***: evidence for Iron Age activity in Cumbria is rare, with this largely aceramic period proving difficult to identify and date

in the archaeological record (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 51). The pollen record seems to show lower levels of human activity in the earlier part of the Iron Age, with a marked increase towards the end of the period, manifested in large-scale woodland clearances and cereal cultivation (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 114-15; McCarthy 2002, 43). The dating of physical remains of settlement is more problematic, however. It is likely that some of the lowland enclosed sites, visible as cropmarks, as well as enclosed and unenclosed settlement remains in the uplands, date to the Iron Age (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 53; Philpott 2006, 74). The 'hillfort'-type triple-ditched enclosure at Swarthy Hill, approximately 8km to the north of Flimby, produced a single Middle Iron Age date (Bewley 1992), while potential enclosure sites at Burgh-by-Sands and Scotby Road, Carlisle, remain undated (McCarthy 2002, 43). Overall, the evidence remains too scant to reconstruct anything but an outline of Iron Age society prior to the Roman invasion. Woodland clearance, enclosures and potential field systems suggest mixed farming was practised, with little evidence of hierarchy in settlements or material culture. It has recently been argued, however, that the Roman army invaded and occupied the North West because the economic and agricultural structure was already in place to support a large garrison (Wells 2003, 81). There are no known sites from this period within the study area.

3.2.4 **Roman Period:** the military systems employed by the Roman army along the Solway coast are poorly understood when compared to Hadrian's Wall (Breeze 2004, 83). The coastal defences have traditionally been viewed as an extension of the Hadrian's Wall frontier, the physical barrier which was created in the AD 120s parallel to the broad line of the supply route known as the Stanegate (Breeze and Dobson 2000). The nascent early frontier along the Stanegate appears under Hadrian to have been extended west of Carlisle to protect the fertile Solway plain against incursions from the adjacent coast (Daniels 1978, 33). At Bowness, the western end of Hadrian's Wall, the Solway estuary widens rapidly, but to the south and west of this formal end to the Wall, a series of regularly spaced fortlets and towers has been identified, traced down the Cumbrian coast (Bellhouse 1989).

3.2.5 The existence of a series of four forts along this coast is well recorded at Beckfoot, Maryport (*Alauna Carvetiorum*), Burrow Walls (*Magis*), and Moresby (Breeze 2004, 78). Fortlets would have been positioned at one Roman mile intervals between the forts and two signalling stations at 1/3 Roman mile intervals were positioned between the fortlets (LUAU 1997b). This system corresponds well to that of forts, milecastles and turrets on Hadrian's Wall (Daniels 1978, 33). The most southerly of the signal stations so far identified is just to the north of Flimby at Risehow (LUAU 1997b) and it has been suggested that a fortlet lies under Flimby itself (Wooliscroft 1994, 57). The relationship between the forts and the smaller structures is unclear: they may have formed a coherent system for a time (Breeze 2004, 79) and, while there are strong indicators of Antonine abandonment of installations smaller than forts, the forts appear to have at least been occupied into the fourth century (*op cit*, 81-2). The lack of clarity in the chronology and development of this putative extension of the Hadrianic frontier results from

the relative lack of modern archaeological work when compared to the wider frontier (*op cit*, 84).

- 3.2.6 The archaeological material recovered from the forts at Beckfoot and Maryport from the later fourth century appears to indicate a continued occupation of these sites throughout the third and fourth centuries AD. The reasons for the continued importance of a frontier along this section of coast have been associated with the healthy economy of the *Carvetii*, bolstered by Roman economics, and the threat of raiding from across the Solway Firth (Shotter 2004). Given the favoured hypothesis that a primary function of Hadrian's Wall was to control goods, stock, and money across the border, the Solway coast would also have needed monitoring in the face of smuggling (*ibid*). Persistent attacks from the north early in the third century seem to have coincided with an hiatus in the maintenance of the frontier (Philpott 2006). Most forts seem to have remained in occupation throughout the fourth century and military occupation is demonstrable at Carlisle and Birdoswald well into the fifth century (Zant 2010; Wilmott 1997, 218).
- 3.2.7 There is one site for this period within the study area, HER 16695. This is Cemetery House Trackway, which is thought to be the possible line of a Roman road linking the signal tower at Risehow (NY 0267 3502) with the fort at Burrow Walls. It is likely that a network of roads linked the forts, fortlets and signal towers along the coast. Two alternative routes for the road have been suggested for this area south of Flimby. One follows Cemetery House Trackway and the other is located further west along a gravel bank on the coastline (LUAU 1997b; Bellhouse 1989).
- 3.2.8 **Early Medieval:** little is known of the period immediately after the collapse of Roman rule in the North West, although increasing archaeological evidence supports the few documentary references to a broadly Roman lifestyle persisting into at least the sixth century, in major centres such as Carlisle (Newman 2006; Webb 1998). Place-name evidence also suggests that there was a degree of continuity, with 'Celtic' name elements surviving in a number of places (Haverfield 1900; Armstrong *et al* 1950).
- 3.2.9 It is assumed that the Solway coast was incorporated into the British Kingdom of Rheged and, by the mid-seventh century, into the Anglian Kingdom of Northumbria, (Kirby 1962). Much of the evidence for settlement in this period on the west Cumbrian coastal plain comes from ecclesiastical sites. A putative monastic site was located at St Bees, traditionally established by the Irish saint Bega during the mid-seventh century, and mentioned by the Venerable Bede (OA North, 2004b; Colgrave and Mynors 1940). The site was destroyed by the Vikings, under the leadership of Halfdan, in AD 876, whose armies then fanned out across Cumbria to settle in the North-West in the tenth century (OA North, 2004b; Whelan 1860). Local place-name evidence indicated a presence of Norse speakers (Armstrong *et al* 1950), presumably from the tenth century onwards. The ending '-by' to many place names is of Viking origin, meaning settlement and could define anything from a single farmstead to a larger settlement (Roesdahl *et al* 1981, 79). However, this type of name was also used after the Norman Conquest and, therefore, should be interpreted with

caution as evidence for Viking settlement (*ibid*). A Scandinavian grave is known from Aspatria, approximately 12km to the north-east of Flimby (Cowen 1948). Early medieval remains have also been found at St Michael's Church in Workington, located approximately 5km to the south of Flimby. The first historical reference to the church is an early twelfth-century charter in the Register of St Bees (OA North 2004a; Flynn 1996, 1). The church was demolished in 1770 and replaced with a more elaborate church, which subsequently burnt down in 1887 (*ibid*). Numerous fragments of an Anglian cross, possibly dating to the eighth century, were found during the rebuild (OA North 2004a; Bailey and Cramp 1988). Other fragments include what may be parts of hog back gravestones, and other architectural pieces dating to the tenth century, were also found (*ibid*; Flynn 1996). Following another fire in 1994 a socketed cross base was found *in situ*, as well as tenth century burials (OA North, 2004a; Flynn, 1996). There are no known sites from this period within the study area.

- 3.2.10 **Medieval Period:** while the Norman Conquest may have marked a turning point in British history, it was not until 1092, when William Rufus retook Carlisle and the surrounding area from the Scots (Earle and Plummer 1892) that its impact was truly felt in the Solway region. The area was very volatile throughout the medieval period, at first due to continuous cross-border conflict with Scotland (Rollinson 1996, 87-9) and later as a result of general lawlessness associated with the border reivers, although the focus of this tended to be further east (Fraser 1995). This led to the construction of fortified houses and pele towers, to protect against raiders. The earliest manorial buildings in Workington are thought to have been built on the site of the fort at Burrow Walls (OA North 2004a; Byers 1998). There are no known sites from this period within the study area.
- 3.2.11 **Post-medieval:** from the middle of the seventeenth century the west Cumberland coastal plain experienced an economic acceleration based largely on the industrial-scale exploitation of the coal measures, for both domestic use and export. Coastal ports were established by the most important regional landowners, notably the Lowthers at Whitehaven in the 1660s and the Senhouses at Maryport in the 1740s. The coal measures around Boughton Moor in the early eighteenth century were some of the richest in the British Isles (LUAU 1997a; Wood 1988).
- 3.2.12 There are seven HER sites for this period within the study area, and two additional sites which are uncertain in date, but are likely to be post-medieval. HER 40261 is Allanby Farm, a post-medieval building located in Flimby. HER 16696 refers to an area of ridge and furrow located close to Cemetery House, to the south of Flimby. The ridges were noted as being 6m apart on a walkover survey (LUAU 1997b). Whilst this width of ridge and furrow suggests a medieval characteristic of cultivation, it was also noted that the ridge and furrow was straight rather than having the typical medieval reverse-‘S’ shaped curve; moreover it respected existing field boundaries, indicating that it post-dated the enclosure of this land (*ibid*). At the south extent of the study area is the site of a brick and tile works at White House (HER 10972).

- 3.2.13 The other sites within the study area are all linked with the post-medieval and industrial-period coal mining, which took place in this area. St Helen's Colliery (HER 10973) is located towards the south-west extent of the study area and an airshaft is located to its south-east (HER 10964). Gillhead Colliery (HER 10975) is located to the east of the study area; this was begun in 1867 by Messrs Lucock and Carlton and became the Gillhead Coal and Firebrick Company (LUAU 1997b; Wood 1988, 171). There is also a mineshaft recorded at White House (HER 10971). The site of a tramway (HER 5466) is located to the north-west of St Helen's Colliery. HER 16997 refers to mounting blocks, for now removed structures, located in Buckbank Wood. These comprise two partially earthbound blocks, 4m wide and 0.3m high, each with a square platform on top and a stone block at each corner. Each stone block has an iron bolt in its centre (LUAU 1997a). The function of the structures to which these mounting blocks relate is unclear, they may represent the remains of a roadway designed for the transmittal of power to a number of mine shafts from a single point (*ibid*).
- 3.2.14 As part of this assessment Ordnance Survey mapping was consulted from both 1867 and 1900 ([www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)). In the area of the proposed development the landscape as shown on the 1867 mapping is very similar to its present configuration. The surrounding fields are generally rectangular strips, possibly indicating medieval origins. Some of the boundaries of these fields have been removed since 1867 to create larger fields. The cemetery at the north end of Cemetery House Track is not shown on the 1867 mapping, but it is depicted on the 1900 mapping. Flimby has expanded to both the north and west since the 1867 mapping.

### 3.3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 3.3.1 An archaeological assessment and subsequent evaluation were carried out in 1997 by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) on the route of a water pipeline from Broughton Moor to Flimby (NY 0491 3360 to NY 0175 3328) (LUAU 1997a and 1997b). A walkover survey along the length of the pipeline route was carried out as part of the assessment. There was no visual evidence that Cemetery House Trackway was Roman in date. A programme of trial trenching was commissioned to further investigate the track. Four trenches were excavated (each 10m long and 1.8m wide) on either side of the trackway. Due to hedges and ditches preventing access on this part of the pipeline route, none of the trenches was closer than 2.5m to the conjectural route of the possible Roman road. No evidence of any road metalling was identified in the excavated trenches and there were no finds of Roman date. One trench contained a nineteenth-century rubbish pit, dated from numerous finds of ceramics. Nineteenth- and twentieth-century ceramics were found in all the trenches, which is consistent with manuring over this area. The evaluation was, therefore, inconclusive as it was not possible to locate trenches directly over the putative Roman road (LUAU 1997b).

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## 4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

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### 4.1 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 All the test pits revealed similar stratigraphic make-up of topsoil **1000**, subsoil **1001**, and natural geology **1002**. As the pits were next to a field boundary there was evidence of root activity and, in some of the pits, a clean section was difficult to obtain. The topsoil, **1000**, was 0.15m thick and consisted of dark greyish-brown sandy silt, containing less than 1% small stones. The base of the subsoil, **1001**, was located 0.32m below the present ground level and was composed of mid-reddish-brown silty sand, and contained less than 1% stones. Natural geology **1002** comprised light sand, with less than 1% stone inclusions. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were observed.

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## 5. CONCLUSIONS

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### 5.1 DISCUSSION

- 5.1.1 The rapid desk-based assessment highlighted the potential for the putative Roman road linking Risehow signal station to Burrow Walls to be located on the approximate line of Cemetery House Track. However, during the watching brief, no evidence was found to suggest the presence of this or other archaeological features. Whilst the test pits must represent rather limited interventions in terms of identifying archaeological features, they should have been sufficient to identify the presence of a broad linear feature such as a Roman Road.

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### 6.3 WEBSITES

[http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/countryside/historic-environment/HER\\_online.asp](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/countryside/historic-environment/HER_online.asp) (for HER sites)

<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.htm> (for consultation of the Ordnance Survey mapping, 1867, 1:10,560 and Ordnance Survey mapping, 1900, 1:2500)

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## 7. ILLUSTRATIONS

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### 7.1 FIGURES

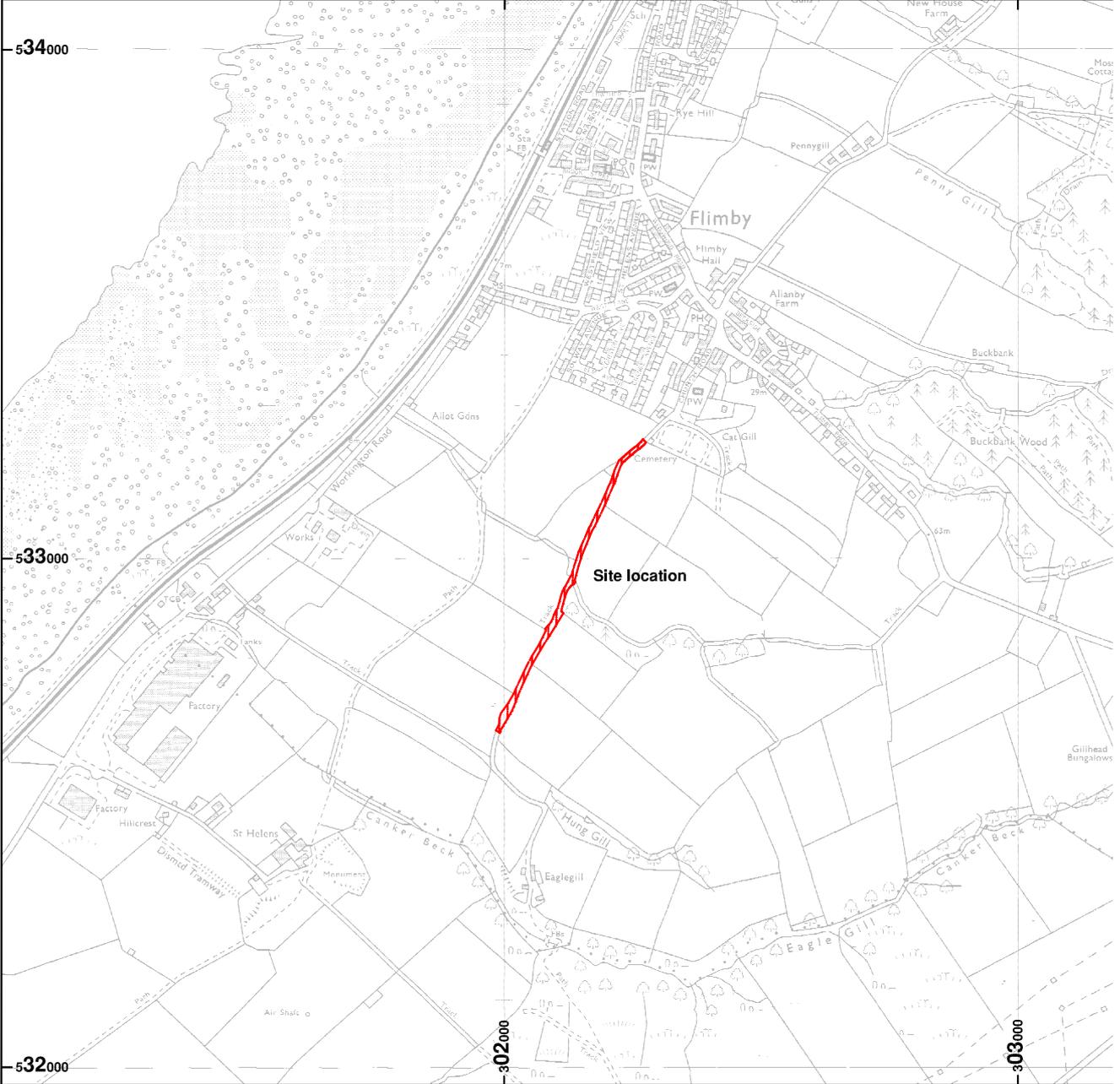
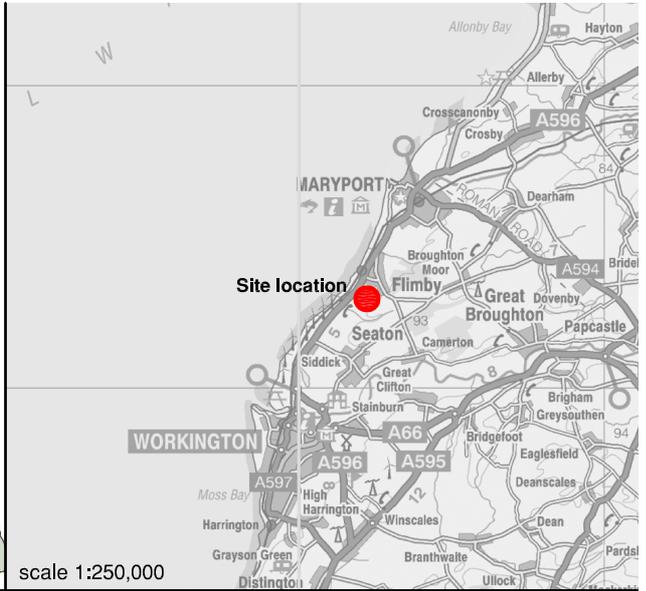
Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Location of sites of cultural heritage significance and watching brief

### 7.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Typical make-up layers found within the testpits (1m scales)



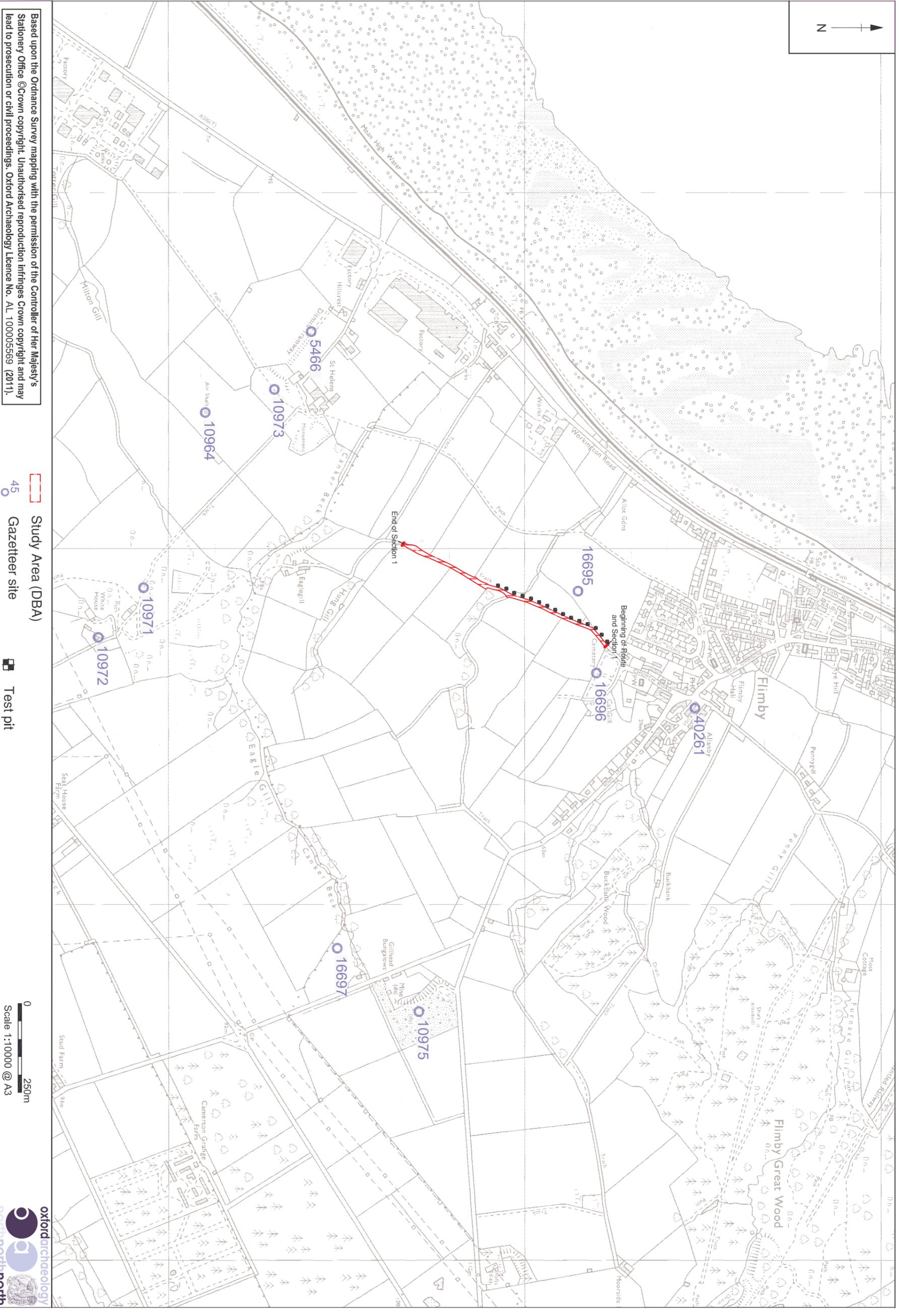


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Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: Location of nearby sites of cultural heritage significance, and of monitored test pits

PLATE

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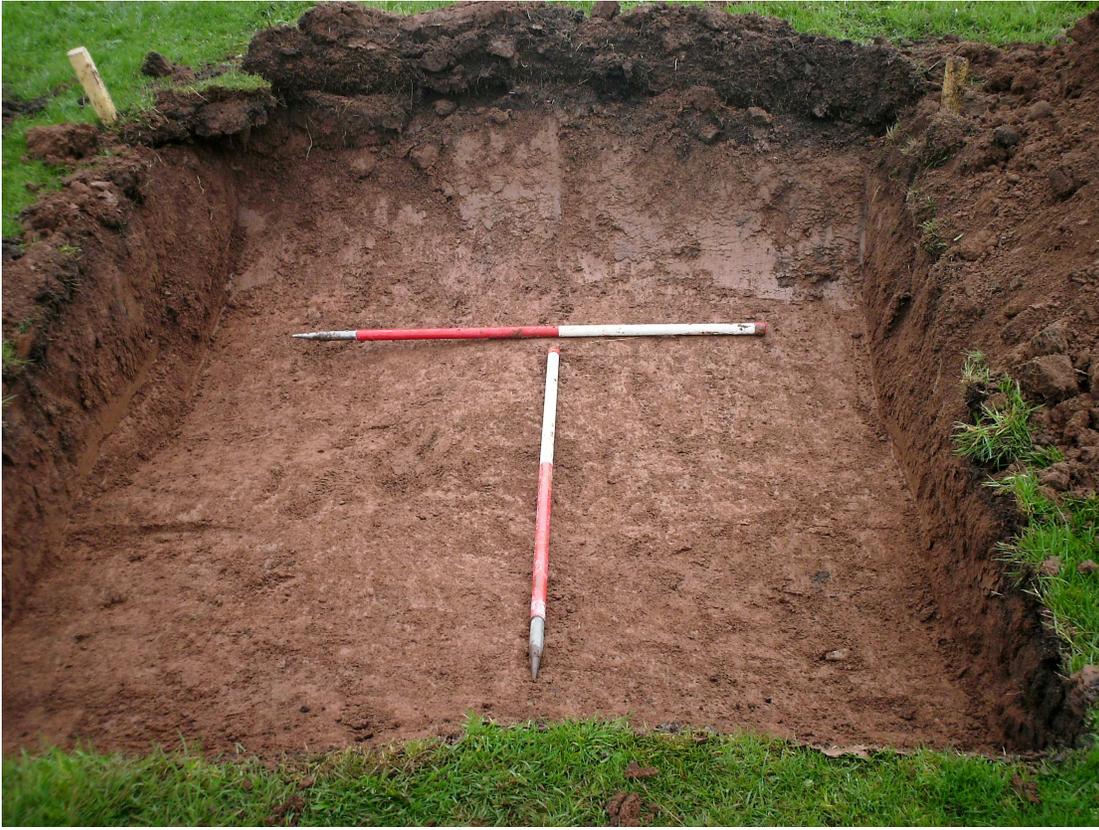


Plate 1: Typical deposits found within the test pits (1m scales).



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## APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

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**BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT CEMETERY HOUSE TRACK, FLIMBY, MARYPORT, CUMBRIA**

Issued by the

**County Historic Environment Service**

Environment Unit, Economy, Culture and Environment



**Date of Brief: 08 January 2008**

This Design Brief is only valid for 1 year after the above date. After this period the County Historic Environment Service should be contacted. Any specification resulting from this Brief will only be considered for the same period.

## 1. SITE DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY

**Site:** Cemetery House Track, Flimby, Maryport

**Grid Reference:** NY 021 329

**Planning Application No.:** 2/07/0976

**Scope of Watching Brief:** 600m of ground works between NY 0198 3264 and NY 0220 3319  
(a review will be undertaken after 300m, see below)

*Detailed proposals and tenders are invited from appropriately resourced, qualified and experienced archaeological contractors to undertake the archaeological project outlined by this Brief and to produce a report on that work. The work should be under the direct management of either an Associate or Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, or equivalent. Any response to this Brief should follow IFA Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, 2001. No fieldwork may commence until approval of a specification has been issued by the County Historic Environment Service.*

## 2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) has been consulted by Allerdale Borough Council regarding a planning application for the construction of a cycleway to the south of Flimby.
- 2.2 One section of the scheme, along part of Cemetery House Track, affects the line of a possible Roman Road. A programme of archaeological works comprising a watching brief is therefore required along this section of the scheme during the course of the ground works of the development.
- 2.3 This advice is in accordance with guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (Archaeology and Planning) and with local, sub-regional and regional planning policy.

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A section of the proposed cycle route following Cemetery House track is located on the possible line of a Roman road that linked the Roman signal station at Risehow and Burrow Walls, Seaton (Historic Environment Record no. 16695). An archaeological evaluation in the vicinity revealed no Roman remains, but the line of the track itself was not investigated.

## 4. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

### 4.1 Objectives

- 4.1.1 To identify, investigate and record any surviving archaeological remains revealed during the course of the development ground works along a section of Cemetery House Track between NY 0198 3264 and NY 0220 3319.

### 4.2 Work Required

- 4.2.1 Before any on site work commences the County Historic Environment Record should be consulted and a *rapid* desk-based survey of the existing resource undertaken. This should include an assessment of those primary and secondary sources and any relevant aerial photographs referenced in the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.2.2 All topsoil stripping and ground reduction must be carried out under archaeological supervision within the area of archaeological potential (600m length of track between NY 0198 3264 and NY 0220 3319). Any putative archaeological features must then be cleaned by hand and if possible a stratigraphic record made. Finds and environmental samples should be retrieved as appropriate. A reasonable period of uninterrupted access should be allowed to the archaeologist for all necessary archaeological recording.

- 4.2.3 Once 300m of the development ground works have been completed and archaeologically monitored within the area of archaeological potential (between NY 0198 3264 and NY 0220 3319), a review of the archaeological results will be undertaken. This review will comprise consultation between the archaeological contractor, CCCHES, and the developer. If significant archaeological remains have been encountered then archaeological monitoring will continue along the whole of the 600m of proposed works within the area of archaeological potential (between NY 0198 3264 and NY 0220 3319). If no significant archaeological remains have been revealed during the course of the ground works then it will not be considered necessary to continue archaeological monitoring along the remainder of the route.

## 5. SPECIFICATION

- 5.1 Before the project commences a specification must be submitted to and approved by the County Historic Environment Service.
- 5.2 Proposals to meet this Brief should take the form of a detailed specification prepared in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1991, and must include:
- ❖ A description of the methods of observation and recording system to be used
  - ❖ A description of the finds and environmental sampling strategies to be used
  - ❖ A description of the post excavation and reporting work that will be undertaken
  - ❖ Details of key project staff, including the names of the project manager, site supervisor, finds and environmental specialists and any other specialist sub-contractors to be employed
  - ❖ Details of on site staffing, e.g. the number of people to be employed on site per day
  - ❖ A projected timetable for all site work and post excavation work (through to final publication of results)
- 5.3 Any significant variations to the proposal must be agreed by the County Historic Environment Service in advance.

## 6. REPORTING AND PUBLICATION

- 6.1 The archaeological work should result in a report, this should include as a minimum:
- ❖ A site location plan, related to the national grid
  - ❖ A front cover/frontispiece which includes the planning application number and the national grid reference of the site
  - ❖ A concise, non-technical summary of the results
  - ❖ A date when the project was undertaken and by whom
  - ❖ A description of the methodology employed, work undertaken, and the results obtained
  - ❖ Plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of deposits and finds located
  - ❖ A brief photographic record of the site must be included, showing any features of archaeological interest. Where the results of the project revealed no significant archaeological remains a single photograph showing an indicative section of the ground works will suffice.
  - ❖ A list of, and dates for, any finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified
  - ❖ A description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained
- 6.2 Three copies of the report should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of fieldwork. This will be on the understanding that the report will be made available as a public document through the County Historic Environment Record.
- 6.3 A summary report should be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. If archaeological remains of significance are identified, one or more full reports should also be submitted to a suitable journal or other publication in due course.

- 6.4 Cumbria HER is taking part in the *Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)* project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> must therefore also be completed as part of the project. Information on projects undertaken in Cumbria will be made available through the above website, unless otherwise agreed.

## 7. THE ARCHIVE

- 7.1 An archive must be prepared in accordance with the recommendations in Brown, DH, 2007, *Archaeological Archives A Guide To Best Practice In Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum. Arrangements must be made for its long term storage and deposition with an appropriate repository. A copy shall also be offered to the National Monuments Record.
- 7.2 The landowner should be encouraged to transfer the ownership of finds to a local or relevant specialist museum. The museum's requirements for the transfer and storage of finds should be discussed before the project commences.
- 7.3 The County Historic Environment Service must be notified of the arrangements made.

## 8. PROJECT MONITORING

- 8.1 One weeks notice must be given to the County Historic Environment Service prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 8.2 Once 300m of the development ground works have been completed and archaeologically monitored within the area of archaeological potential (between NY 0198 3264 and NY 0220 3319), the archaeological contractor must contact CCHES's Historic Environment Officer so that a review of the archaeological results can be undertaken. A decision will then be made regarding the extent of archaeological monitoring over the remainder of the route.

## 9. FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to establish safe working practices in terms of current health and safety legislation, to ensure site access and to obtain notification of hazards (eg. services, contaminated ground, etc.). **The County Historic Environment Service bears no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief or subsequent specification.**
- 9.2 The Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists must be followed.
- 9.3 The involvement of the County Historic Environment Service should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## 10. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding this Brief, contact

Jeremy Parsons  
Historic Environment Officer  
Cumbria County Council  
County Offices  
Kendal  
Cumbria LA9 4RQ  
Tel: 01539 773431  
Email: [Jeremy.Parsons@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:Jeremy.Parsons@cumbriacc.gov.uk)

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APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

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**CEMETERY  
HOUSE TRACK,  
FLIMBY,  
MARYPORT,  
CUMBRIA**

**Rapid Desk-Based  
Assessment and  
Watching Brief Project  
Design**



**Oxford Archaeology North**

February 2008

**Capita Symonds**

OA North Ref No: t3220

NGR: NY 0198 3264 - NY 0220  
3379

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Capita Symonds (hereafter ‘the Client’), has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken in advance of, and during, groundworks associated with the development of a 600m long cycle track at Cemetery House, Flimby, Maryport, Cumbria (Grid reference NY 0198 3264 - NY 0220 3379). The development site is located within an area of archaeological potential and, consequently, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) issued a brief requesting a rapid desk-based assessment to be undertaken prior to the development and a watching brief to be conducted during any ground disturbing activities associated with the development, which will comprise the stripping of an area approximately 2m wide by up to 600m long. The requirement for archaeological monitoring will be reviewed after the first 300m has been monitored, and continuation for the remaining 300m will be dependent upon the nature of the results within that first 300m section. The following document represents a project design to carry out the above programme of work and has been prepared in accordance with communication from CCCHES.

### 1.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.2.1 At present, the principal archaeology features likely to be affected by the development are of Roman date, although it is possible that the rapid desk-based assessment will reveal potential for sites of other periods to lie within the area of the proposed cycle track. The development site lies on north-west coast of Cumbria, which in Roman times was defended by a network of installations including forts, fortlets and signal stations that effectively formed an extension of those of Hadrian’s Wall. The closest fort is that of Maryport (*Alauna Carvetiorum*), about 2km to the north of Flimby, whilst the site of another, smaller, fort, Burrow Walls (*Magis*), lies about 5km to the south, near Seaton. The closest site is the signal station at Risehow (just to the north of Flimby). All of these sites were connected by a network of roads, and it one such road, that running between Burrow Walls and Risehow, that could potentially coincide with part of the cycle track.

### 1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.3.1 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 25 years. Evaluations, desk-based 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 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 assess the potential for preserved archaeological remains and to record the archaeological deposits affected by the proposed development of the site, in order to determine their extent, nature and significance. To this end, the following programme has been designed, in accordance with CCCHES, to provide a rapid desk-based assessment, and watching brief. The results of the rapid desk-based assessment will provide important information on the nature of any archaeological remains uncovered during the watching brief. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

### 2.2 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 To undertake a rapid desk-based assessment of the existing resource, including primary and secondary sources.

## 2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.3.1 To undertake a programme of observation and recording during any ground disturbance to determine the presence, quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains on the site.

## 2.4 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A report will be produced for the Client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

## 3 METHOD STATEMENT

### 3.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 3.1.1 A rapid desk-based study will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material, and will seek to cover a 1km radius around the centre of the proposed development site. The level of such work will be dictated by the timescale of the project.
- 3.1.2 **Documentary and cartographic material:** this work will consult the range of potential sources of information, both primary and secondary, along with any relevant aerial photographs, referenced in the Cumbria Historic Environment Record, Kendal, including OS First and Second Edition maps (both 6" to 1 mile and 25" to 1 mile). Any published documentary sources and unpublished documents will also be examined where relevant and time allows. The study will also examine any place and field name evidence for the site and its environs. The report will not contain a gazetteer of individual sites, which will instead be described within a detailed historical background, referring to their CHER numbers. For ease of reference, the locations of these sites will be plotted onto a map, identified by their CHER number. Through this research, the document will assess the potential for the remains from each specific period to appear within the development area and its associated working easement.

### 3.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.2.1 **Methodology:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the first 300m of the 600m long area of the proposed ground disturbance. If significant archaeological remains are found within this first 300m length, observations will continue for the remainder of the groundworks. If no significant remains are identified, liaison will take place with CCCHEs, whom will advise on the necessity for the continuation of monitoring for the remainder of the groundworks.
- 3.2.2 The watching brief will comprise observation during all ground reduction and excavations for the proposed development, 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.
- 3.2.3 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified during the observation of groundworks, 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).
- 3.2.4 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 plan provided by the Client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.

- 3.2.5 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.
- 3.2.6 **Treatment of finds:** all finds 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.
- 3.2.7 **Treasure:** 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.
- 3.2.8 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 3.2.9 **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. CCCHES 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. The removal of human remains will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations.
- 3.2.10 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Planning Archaeologist or his representative, as to the extent of further works to be carried out. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design. In the event of environmental/organic deposits being present on site, it would be necessary to discuss and agree a programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling and or dating with the Planning Archaeologist.

### 3.3 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

- 3.3.1 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further three copies submitted to the Cumbria HER within eight weeks of completion. Copies of the desk-based assessment, and interim statements on the results of the watching brief can be issued within three weeks of the completion of these elements. The report will include:
- a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR
  - a site location plan, related to the national grid
  - the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken
  - a concise, non-technical summary of the results
  - a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained
  - plans and sections at an appropriate scale, showing the location of features
  - other illustrations and photographic plates showing, as appropriate, features of interest or to demonstrate the absence of archaeological features.
  - a description of any environmental, finds, or other specialist work undertaken, and the results obtained
  - the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.
  - a copy of this project design in the appendices, and indications of any agreed departure from that design
- 3.3.2 This report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on CD, if required.

- 3.3.3 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. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context. All artefacts will be processed to MAP2 standards and will be assessed by our in-house finds specialists.
- 3.3.4 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 HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects with the County Record Office, Kendal. The material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) will be deposited with an appropriate museum following agreement with the client.
- 3.3.5 Collation of data: the data generated will be collated and analysed in order to provide an assessment of the nature and significance of the known surface and subsurface remains within the designated area. It will also serve as a guide to the archaeological potential of the area to be investigated, and the basis for the formulation of any detailed field programme and associated sampling strategy, should these be required in the future.
- 3.3.6 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database project Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.
- 3.3.7 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. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

## 4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1 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). A risk assessment will be completed in advance of any on-site works and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

## 5 WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 Desk-Based Assessment: this element is expected to take approximately three days to complete.
- 5.2 Archaeological Watching Brief: the duration of this element is dependant upon the duration of any ground disturbing activities on the site.
- 5.3 Report and Archive: an evaluation report will be submitted within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. However, should an interim statement be required this can be issued within two weeks but instruction must be received from the client prior to completion of the fieldwork.

- 5.4 Written Instruction: OA North can execute projects at very short notice once written confirmation of commission has been received from the Client. One weeks notice would be sufficient to allow the necessary arrangements to be made to commence the task and inform CCCHES.

## 6 PROJECT MONITORING

- 6.1 Access: liaison for site access during the evaluation will be arranged with the client unless otherwise instructed prior to commencement of the archaeological investigation.
- 6.2 Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the County Archaeologist will be kept fully informed of the work and its results, and will be notified a week in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with CCCHES in consultation with the Client.

## 7 STAFFING PROPOSALS

- 7.1 The project will be under the direct management of Stephen Rowland (OA North project manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 7.2 The rapid desk-based assessment will be undertaken by Kathryn Blythe (OA North Project Officer). The watching brief will be undertaken by a suitably experienced OA North Supervisor or Assistant Supervisor.
- 7.3 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken under the auspices of OA North's in-house finds specialist Christine Howard-Davis BA MIFA (OA North project officer). Christine has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England. However, she has specialist knowledge regarding glass, metalwork, and leather, the recording and management of waterlogged wood, and most aspects of wetland and environmental archaeology.

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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, London

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

### APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT LIST

<b>Context</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Thickness</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1000</b>	0.15m	0.15m	Topsoil	Blackish-brown friable sandy silt, <1% inclusions of small sub-rounded stone
<b>1001</b>	0.32m	0.17m	Subsoil	Mid-reddish-brown silty sand, <1% inclusions small to medium sub-angular and sub-rounded stone, occasional brick fragments, and rubbish
<b>1002</b>	-	<1m	Natural	Light sand with <1% inclusions of small sub-rounded stone