

# 9-17 QUEEN STREET, LANCASTER, LANCASHIRE



## Archaeological Watching Brief



**Oxford Archaeology North**

June 2009

First Base Homes

Issue Number: 2009-10/762

OA North Job No: L9695

NGR: SD 5636 6650

Planning Reference: 05/00347/FUL

**Document Title:** 9-17 QUEEN STREET, LANCASTER, LANCASHIRE

**Document Type:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Client Name:** First Base Homes

**Issue Number:** 2009-10/762

**OA North Job Number:** L9695

**Site Code:** QS06

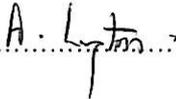
**National Grid Reference:** SD 5636 6650

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## SUMMARY

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In 2005 First Base Homes Ltd submitted a planning application (05/00347/FUL) for the redevelopment of land to the rear of 9-17 Queen Street, Lancaster, Lancashire (NGR SD 47750 61250). The proposed development comprised the demolition of an existing garage and joiner's workshop and construction of five dwellings. The site lies within an area of recognised archaeological potential and, accordingly, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS), the body responsible for advising Lancashire's local planning authorities on heritage matters, requested that a programme of archaeological works should be undertaken as a planning condition of the development. Following acceptance of a project design (*Appendix 1*) compiled to meet the requirements of a verbal communication from LCAS, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by First Base Homes to conduct the programme of archaeological watching brief, which was undertaken between October 2006 and February 2007.

During the works, a single feature of archaeological interest was identified. The backfill of this small, square, pit-like feature contained fragments of charcoal and calcined bone (all of which was too small for positive identification). Considering the location of the site, close to the Penny Street Roman cemetery, it is possible that the feature represents a Roman cremation burial, within which a token sample of pyre debris had been placed. A sherd of medieval pottery was found close to the feature, and an alternative explanation may be that it represents the base of a small, truncated medieval pit.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Mike Stainton and Andrew Stanyon of First Base Homes for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Doug Moir and Peter Iles of Lancashire County Archaeology Service for their advice and support during the project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Chris Healey, Caroline Raynor and Richard Lee, who each contributed to the report. The finds were assessed and reported upon by Chris Howard-Davis. The illustrations were produced by Marie Rowland, whilst the palaeoenvironmental sample was processed and assessed by Sandra Bonsall and Elizabeth Huckerby. Stephen Rowland managed the project and also edited the report.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 In 2005 First Base Homes Ltd (henceforth, the Client) submitted a planning application (05/00347/FUL) for the redevelopment of land to the rear of 9-17 Queen Street, Lancaster, Lancashire (NGR SD 47750 61250; Fig 1). The proposed development comprised the demolition of an existing garage and joiner's workshop and construction of five dwellings. The site lies within an area of recognised archaeological potential and, accordingly, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS), the body responsible for advising Lancashire's local planning authorities on heritage matters, requested that a programme of archaeological works should be undertaken as a planning condition of the development. This scheme of archaeological works was to comprise a watching brief undertaken during all intrusive works at the site, including demolition of all ground-level and below-ground elements of the existing buildings, together with groundworks for the new buildings (ie, excavation of foundations and service trenches etc). Following acceptance of a project design (*Appendix 1*) compiled to meet the requirements of a verbal communication from LCAS, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by First Base Homes to conduct the programme of archaeological works. The following report summarises the results of the watching brief, which was conducted between October 2006 and February 2007.

### 1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The development site lies on the south-western edge of Lancaster's historic city centre, just to the north of the canal. The roughly square site occupies a c 625m<sup>2</sup> plot of flat land to the rear of 9-17 Queen Street.

1.2.2 The solid geology of Lancaster consists predominantly of Silesian (Upper Carboniferous) grey/brown or reddened medium- to coarse-grained sandstones of the Pendle Grit Formation, which is part of the Millstone Grit Group (British Geological Survey 1992, 5). These sandstones are thickly bedded with thin siltstone partings, but with mixed sandstone/siltstone units near the top. The drift geology for the site has been mapped as glaciofluvial sheet deposits of clayey sands and gravels. Previous work in the area has demonstrated the survival of soil sequences above the natural drift geology, representing between 0.45-0.7m of ploughsoil above 0.2-0.5m of sandy loam (LUAU 2001).

### 1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 **Introduction:** the following section is intended only to provide a brief context to the results of the present watching brief. Many, exhaustive, accounts of the archaeology and history of Lancaster are readily available elsewhere for consultation if required.

- 1.3.2 **Prehistoric period (c 8000 BC - AD 43)**: although generally scarce around Lancaster and in the North West as a whole, three findspots comprising Bronze Age burials are recorded in the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER). These include antiquarian observations from the area of King Street and Penny Street, and may as such represent Roman cremations (*Section 1.3.3*) (White 1988; Shotter and White 1990, 5). Such remains give little indication of settlement or activities other than funerary deposition. A Neolithic Mortlake bowl has also been found on Church Street (White 1988).
- 1.3.3 **Romano-British period (AD 43 - 410)**: concentrated settlement within Lancaster is likely to have commenced when the Romans first made use of the town's strategic location towards the end of the first century AD (Shotter and White 1995, 19-21). A sequence of three forts was established on Castle Hill, which afforded a commanding position over a crossing of the River Lune (Shotter 1993, 92-92). The alignment of the latest, fourth-century, fort differed from its predecessors and seems to have been built parallel to the Lune, in a manner similar to contemporary forts on the Saxon Shore and the Welsh coast (Shotter and White 1990, 26; 1995, 78-9). As such, the fort at Lancaster is likely to have ensured the security of the harbour and acted as a supply base (*ibid*). Excavations have shown that the main area of extramural development extended along Church Street (LUAU 2000a), and later extended as far as the Market Place (Drury forthcoming), with some activity along Penny Street (LUAU 1996), which, together with Cheapside, may follow the line of a Roman road running towards a presumed river crossing and passing to the east of the fort (Shotter 2001, 16, 20). While the evidence from the Church Street area shows significant settlement and small-scale industrial activity, the Penny Street Roman road, in typical fashion, is likely to have been flanked by a Romano-British cremation cemetery. A number of second-century AD Roman cremations with urns have been recorded from this area, with examples at 77-79 Penny Street (SD 4773 6158; LUAU 1996), 81 Penny Street (SD 4773 6158; OA North 2003a) and the former Streamline Garage site on King Street (SD 4765 6135; LUAU 2000b), as well as at St Thomas's Church (LUAU 1996). Lancaster's famous late first-/early second-century AD 'Rider' tombstone was recovered from Aldcliffe Road, within 100m of the site on Queen Street. Two subsequent investigations in the area, at 99-101 Penny Street (OA North 2003b), and on Spring Garden Street in 2006 (Schofield and Zant in prep), failed to find evidence for Roman funerary activity.
- 1.3.4 **Early medieval period (AD 410 - 1066)**: the evidence for the immediate post-Roman period is slight, based largely upon isolated chance finds, but it is likely that settlement persisted in the vicinity of, and most probably within, the defences of the Roman fort. A substantial piece of a seventh-century Anglian runic cross from the adjacent Priory may indicate the presence of a contemporary monastic foundation on Castle Hill, continued use of which is evidenced by several fragments of carved stone crosses with a more Scandinavian influence. A hoard of ninth-century Northumbrian *stycas* from Vicarage Field are again likely to relate to such a period of activity on the site (Penney 1981, 13). It seems likely that any occupation of the hill would have utilised extant elements of the Roman fortifications, together with the reuse of materials from unwanted structures. If Castle Hill was a religious focus, it may

be one of a network of early Christian sites located along the lower Lune Valley, with similar sites at Halton, Hornby, Gressingham, Melling and, of course, the chapel and rock-cut graves at Heysham Head (Newman 1996). As such, an early predecessor of Lancaster's Priory church, is likely to be that mentioned in Domesday Book (Faull and Stinson 1986).

- 1.3.5 **Later medieval period (AD 1066 - 1540):** place names and written documents become the principal sources of evidence in the late medieval period, although excavations have suggested the physical form of the settlement at Lancaster (Howard-Davis *et al* forthcoming; White 1988; Penney 1981). The Domesday Survey of 1080-86 records two independent villis of the manor of Halton, 'Loncastre' and 'Chercaloncastre', the latter being in the area of the Priory on Castle Hill (Penney 1981, 13-14; Jones and Shotter 1988; White 1993, 11; Newman 1996, 98). The centre of Lordship was moved to Lancaster shortly after 1086, and Lancaster Castle, on the site of the earlier Roman forts, was founded by 1094 (*op cit*, 19). A borough was created in 1193, with Church Street, Market Street and Penny Street being the main thoroughfares (*op cit*, 11-14; 26-29), a pattern conforming closely to that of the Roman settlement (LUAU 2001, 7).
- 1.3.6 **Post-medieval and industrial periods (AD 1540 - 1900):** there is extensive evidence for the extent and nature of activity within Lancaster during this period from cartographic and documentary sources, as well as from archaeological investigations. The earliest map record is that produced by John Speed in 1610 which, although rather stylised, shows King Street (then known as Chennel Lane) and Penny Street. The map does not allow the confident identification of the study area, although the western side of King Street is occupied by groups of houses, which seem to be terraced. Docton's (reconstructed) map of Lancaster *c* 1684, indicates that the area of Queen Street was occupied by arable land running off of Back Lane (now King Street, the A6) and it would appear that Queen Street was laid out during the eighteenth century. The street is shown (although not named as such) on MacKreth's map of 1778, but appears not to have been developed extensively; a single building is depicted fronting Queens Square, but both sides of the remainder are occupied by a number of allotments or gardens.
- 1.3.7 It seems, therefore, that serious development along the street took place around the turn of the nineteenth century, as Clark's map of 1807 (Plate 1) shows a number of disparate terraces on either side of the street; there would appear to be no buildings within the present development area itself. The first edition 6":1 mile map (OS 1849; Plate 2) demonstrates clearly the gradual development of Queen Street within the framework of the earlier plots and gardens. With the exception of the appearance of "Steam Saw Mills" at the backs of the houses along the eastern side of Queen Street (OS 1893; Plate 3), this situation seems to persist until 1919. By that date the eastern side of Queen Street was occupied by a single terraced frontage with a Timber Yard, presumably associated with the Saw Mill, to the rear (Plate 4). This arrangement does not appear to have changed by the 1933 survey (Plate 5), although the area surrounding Queen Street had become increasingly built-up.

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## 2 METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 The LCAS-approved OA North project design (*Appendix 1*) was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

### 2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 Close liaison was maintained with the groundwork contractors throughout the programme of works. As far as possible, an archaeologist monitored negative groundworks associated with the development. The concrete raft of the buildings formerly occupying the site was removed using an 8-ton 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a breaker and toothed bucket, whilst the remainder of the works utilised a 3-ton machine with a toothless ditching bucket. These works involved the excavation of a c 0.5m deep and 10m-wide cut for the new raft across the full length of the eastern half of the site, and also a series of 0.55m to 0.95m-deep drainage runs within the western half (Fig 2). Identified archaeological deposits were cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date.
- 2.2.2 All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system, adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Written notes were made on *pro-forma* recording sheets and accurate plans and sections were produced at an appropriate scale and these were located using taped measurements from existing boundaries and landmarks. A full, detailed and indexed photographic record was maintained of individual contexts, features, general views and working shots from standard view points using 35mm cameras on archivable monochrome print film and colour transparency; all frames included a visible, graduated metric scale. Primary records were available for inspection at all times. Artefacts were handled and stored according to standard practice (following current IFA guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.

### 2.3 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 2.3.1 Two bulk samples were taken from the east and west halves of a pit for the purposes of assessing the analytical potential of any preserved plant remains, and for the recovery of small artefacts and cultural residues. Ten litres of each sample was desegregated in water by hand, with the light fraction (flot) collected on a 250 micron mesh and the dense residue collected within a series of graded sieves; both fractions were allowed to dry. The flot was scanned with a Leica MZ6 stereo microscope and the plant material was provisionally identified and recorded; botanical nomenclature followed Stace (2001). Plant remains were scored on a scale of abundance of 1-4, where 1 is rare (up to 5

items) and 4 is abundant (>100 items); the components of the matrix were also noted and scored on a similar scale.

## **2.4 ARCHIVE**

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited at the County Record Office, Preston and the finds archive will be deposited in the museum of Lancashire, Preston on completion of the project. Copies of this report and an index to the archive will be lodged with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, Preston.

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## 3 RESULTS

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### 3.1 WATCHING BRIEF

3.1.1 **Raft base:** at the start of the programme, the modern surface was removed. This comprised, a mixture of tarmac and concrete bedded on a layer of mixed rubble, collectively 0.15m to 0.25m thick, together with one or two remaining walls (**5** and **6**) of frogged machine-made bricks, likely to relate to the recently demolished structures. This revealed layer **2**, a 0.25m-thick horizon of dark brown soil with 15% stone inclusions and charcoal flecks, possibly representing a buried soil. This in turn sealed the natural geology, **1**, a pale reddish-brown coarse silty sand with occasional rounded pebbles. A single square-cut pit, **4**, measuring 0.27m across and 0.13m deep, was identified cutting the natural sand within the north-east quadrant of the site (Fig 2; Plates 8 and 9). The mid-orange/brown clay sand fill, **3**, contained infrequent (<5%) sub-angular stones (<60mm), and clear evidence of burned material, including small fragments of calcined bone; the fill was completely sampled. A single piece of pottery was found in close association with pit **4**, but appeared not to derive directly from it. The natural sand was truncated by approximately 0.15m during the excavations for the raft base.

3.1.2 **Drainage runs:** monitoring during the excavation of the main part of the service trench encountered stratigraphy similar to that observed during the raft excavation. However, the greater depth of more recent deposits in this area meant that the 0.55m-deep excavations at the southern end of the site made little impression on the natural sand, whilst the 0.74m-deep excavations to the north truncated the natural sand by c 0.15m. Slightly different stratigraphy, comprising 0.9m of various made ground deposits, was noted in the section of trench that linked with Queen Street.

### 3.2 FINDS

3.2.1 **Introduction:** in all, 16 fragments of artefacts were recovered during the investigation, comprising eight sherds of ceramic vessel, five fragments of ceramic tobacco pipe, a piece of ceramic building material, and two bits of industrial debris. All were recovered from unstratified deposits.

3.2.2 **Pottery:** the earliest fragment recovered was a small and abraded base sherd in an unglazed sandy oxidized fabric, pale orange with brownish surfaces. This is likely to be of medieval date, perhaps reflecting the twelfth- to fourteenth-century Northern Gritty Ware tradition. The oblique angle of base with regard to the wall of the vessel suggests a sagging base cooking pot.

3.2.3 The remainder of the pottery recovered was post-medieval in date. Four fragments of black-glazed redwares included part of the base of a pedestalled cup, a distinctive late seventeenth-century form made in South Lancashire at Prescott (Philpott 1989) and Rainford (Davey 1991). The fabric of the other sherds was suggestive of a similar date, but they were otherwise undiagnostic.

There were, in addition, single small sherds in white salt-glazed stoneware, creamware, and Chinese porcelain. All are typical of the second half of the eighteenth century.

3.2.4 **Other finds:** other finds were confined to clay tobacco pipe fragments and ceramic building material. The tobacco pipe comprised four fragments of stem, and one bowl. The latter is probably a South Lancashire product, and can be dated to *c* 1640-60 (Davey 1985). The building material comprises a large fragment of chimney pot in a very coarse stoneware fabric, which seems most likely to be of twentieth-century or later date. There were, in addition, two small fragments of what appear to be coke, and can probably be identified as originating in a domestic hearth.

3.2.5 **Potential:** none of the finds from the site has any potential for further analysis.

### 3.3 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

3.3.1 The results of the assessment are shown in Table 1; it should be borne in mind that the division of the samples is arbitrary, based on excavation methodology. Those few waterlogged plant remains that could be identified included *Sambucus nigra* (elderberry), *Stellaria media* (common chickweed) and *Rubus fruticosus* (blackberry) seeds. The matrix consisted of charcoal, coal clinker and a few fragments of small vertebrate bone and calcined bone. The calcined bone, totalling less than 20 pieces, was highly fragmented with only one piece exceeding 5mm across. This latter was a highly pitted fragment of shaft, and could not be identified securely as either human or animal.

3.3.2 The very small assemblage of plant remains provides no information concerning the economy and environment of the site, and it is also possible that the few waterlogged seeds may represent either modern contamination or differential preservation of the plant remains and hence a skewed dataset. There is no potential for any further analysis of these samples due to the low numbers of plant remains and the uncertain taphonomy of the seeds.

Feature	Flot Volume (L)	Flot description	Plant Remains	Potential
West half of pit 4	0.18	Charcoal (2), coal (4), clinker (4), burnt bone (1), bone (1)	WPR (1) <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Stellaria media</i> , <i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Low
East half of pit 4	0.18	Charcoal (1), coal (3), clinker (4), burnt bone (2)		None

Table 1: Assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains from Queen Street. Plants recorded on a scale of 1-4, where 1 is rare (up to 5 items) and 4 is abundant (>100 items). WPR = waterlogged plant remains.

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## 4 CONCLUSION

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### 4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The most salient feature identified during the course of the works is that of the small square pit. Although no datable finds were identified from fill **3**, the single sherd of medieval pottery was disturbed by the machine at a point quite close to pit **4**. The absence of such finds from elsewhere during the watching brief would suggest that similar artefacts were not widespread within soil horizon **2**, and it may be that pit **4** was the base of a truncated medieval feature. The location of the site on the periphery of medieval town might then explain why no other such features were found.
- 4.1.2 An alternative interpretation, in consideration of the small size and regular shape of pit **4** and the sites' location close to the known Penny Street Roman cemetery, is that pit **4** represents a form of cremation burial. Although this could not be verified from the small amount of calcined bone that was present, it is not uncommon for Roman cremation burials to have been made without use of a pottery vessel, and to contain a 'representative scoop' from the pyre, rather than the entire collected remains of the deceased. Similar features containing charcoal and small amounts of calcined bone were recorded at several sites on Penny Street (Numbers 77-79 and also at 81) and at the Streamline Garage site, King Street (Zant *et al* forthcoming), and have been described as 'cenotaphs' (Mckinley in Zant *et al* forthcoming). Under such circumstances, the origin of the medieval pottery may be buried soil horizon **2**, and pertain to the manuring of tofts or fields with domestic refuse.
- 4.1.3 There was no apparent evidence for the early twentieth-century structures on the site, although the amount of made ground identified at the western end of the drainage dig may suggest that these could have been removed in their entirety prior to the development of the recently demolished workshops. If so, these structures must have been quite shallowly founded, as they would appear to have made little impression on the natural geology or the buried soil horizon, which, as suggested by the range of finds, is likely to have continued to develop through the use of this area for gardens until at least 1893 (OS).

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## 6 ILLUSTRATIONS

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### 6.1 LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location plan

Figure 2: Watching brief location plan and section across pit **4**

### 6.2 LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Clark's *A plan of the town of Lancaster* 1807

Plate 2: Ordnance Survey first edition 6 inch to one mile map, published 1849

Plate 3: Ordnance Survey first edition 25 inch to 1 mile map, published 1893

Plate 4: Ordnance Survey 6 inch to one mile map, published 1919

Plate 5: Ordnance Survey 25 inch to one mile map, published 1933

Plate 6: Working shot during removal of concrete; facing south-west

Plate 7: Working shot during reduction for raft base; facing south

Plate 8: Pit **4** prior to excavation, facing west

Plate 9: Pit **4** after excavation, facing west

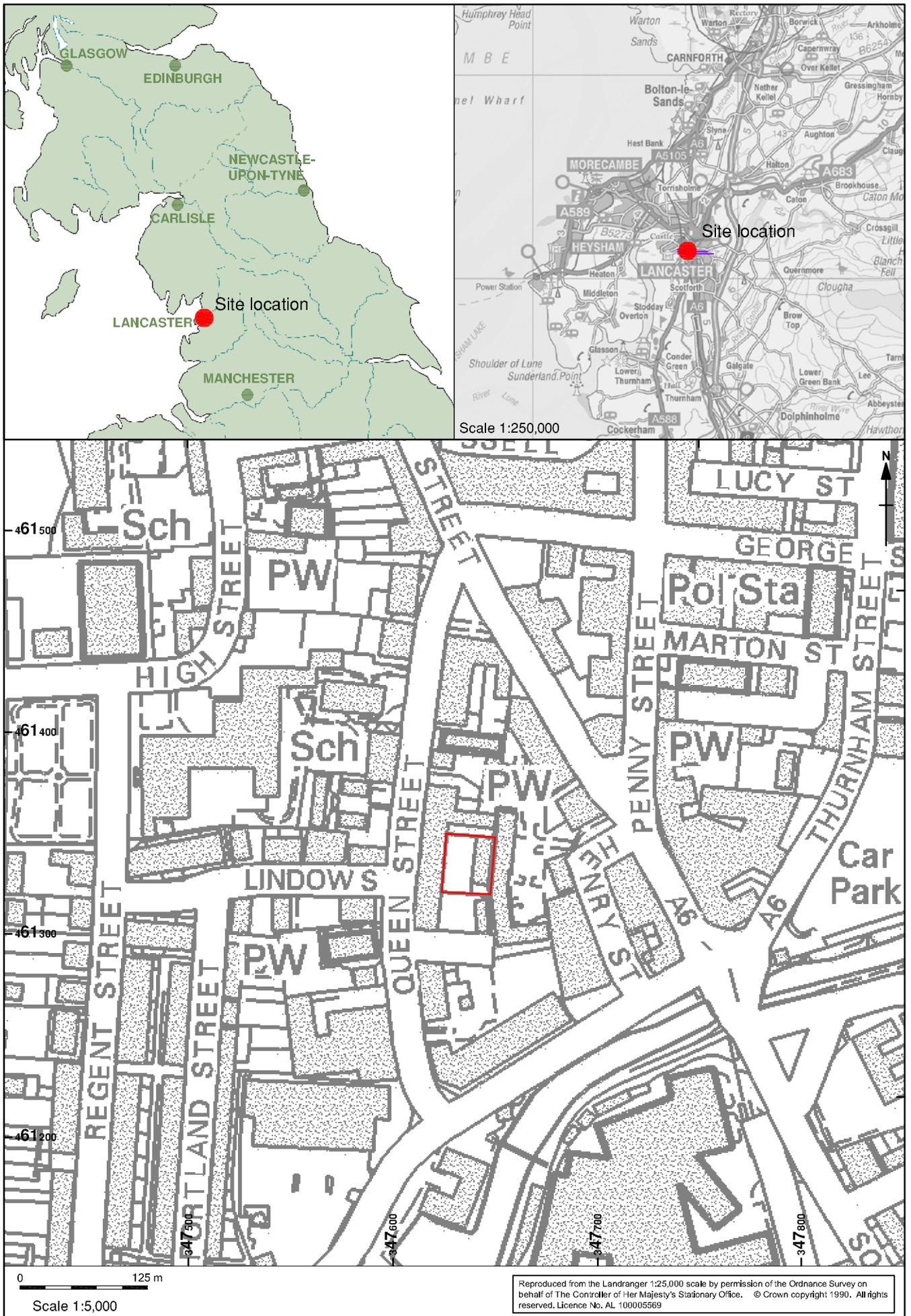
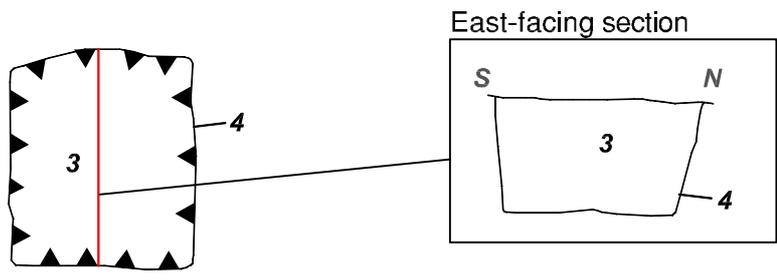
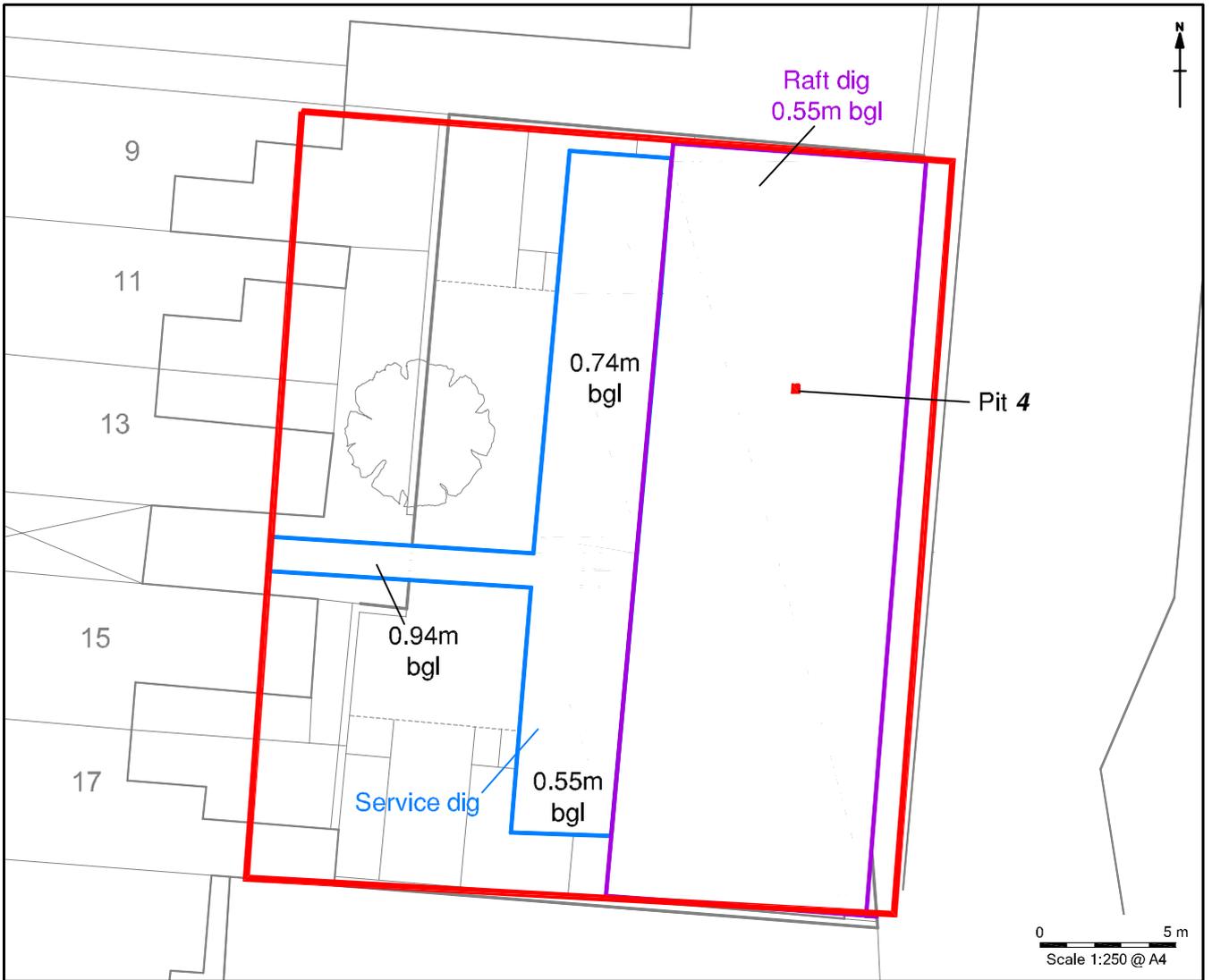


Figure 1: Site Location



Key	
Development site	
Pit	
Feature	
Mapping	
Depth below ground level	bgl

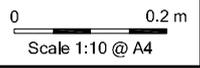


Figure 2: Watching brief location plan and and section of pit 4

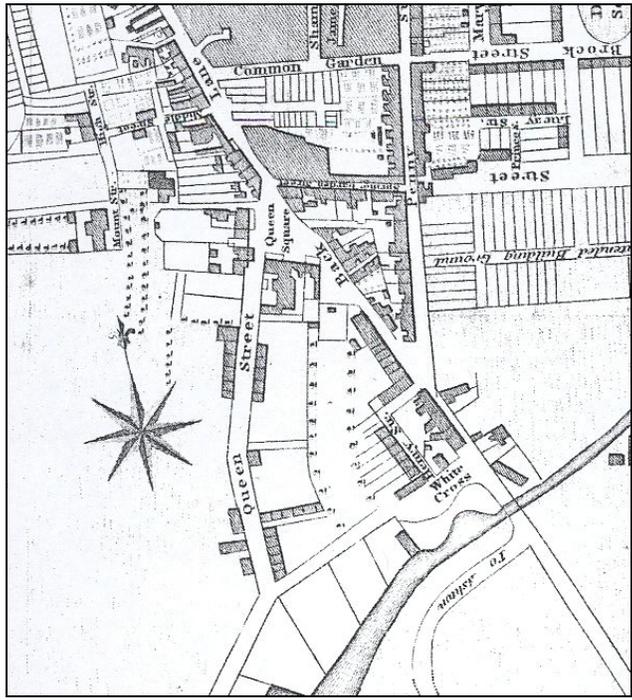


Plate 1: Clark's plan of the town of Lancaster 1807



Plate 2: Ordnance Survey first edition 6 inch to one mile map, published 1849



Plate 3: Ordnance Survey first edition 25 inch to 1 mile map, published 1893



Plate 4: Ordnance Survey 6 inch to one mile map, published 1919



Plate 5: Ordnance Survey 25 inch to one mile map, published 1933



Plate 6: Working shot during removal of concrete; facing south-west



Plate 7: Working shot during reduction for raft base; facing south



Plate 8: Pit 4 prior to excavation, facing west



Plate 9: Pit 4 after excavation, facing west

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

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**9-17 QUEEN  
STREET,  
LANCASTER,  
LANCASHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF:  
PROJECT DESIGN**



**Oxford Archaeology North**

December 2005

First Base Homes

OA North Job No: T2631

NGR: SD 5636 6650

Planning Reference: 05/00347/FUL

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 A planning application (05/00347/FUL) for the redevelopment of land to the rear of 9-17 Queen Street, Lancaster, Lancashire (NGR SD 47750 61250), was submitted to Lancashire County Council by First Base Homes Ltd (henceforth, the Client). The proposed development will comprise the demolition of the existing buildings on the site (consisting of a garage and a joiner's workshop) and their replacement with five houses. Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) have requested that a watching brief be undertaken during all ground-disturbing activities at the site, including the demolition of all ground level elements of the existing buildings and during groundworks (ie, the excavation of foundations, service trenches etc.) associated with the new buildings. The following project design has been compiled by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in response to a verbal communication with LCAS.

### 1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 Queen Street lies on the southern edge of Lancaster's historic city centre. The street would appear to have been laid out during the eighteenth century - it is absent from Docton's map of 1684 but does appear (although not named as such) on MacKreth's map of 1778, the former of which indicates that the area of Queen Street was occupied by arable land running off of Back Lane (now King Street, the A6). Very few buildings are shown on the 1778 map, and the eastern side of the street would appear to be occupied by a number of allotments or gardens. It seems, therefore, that serious development along the street took place around the turn of the nineteenth century, as Clark's map of 1807 shows the replacement of the allotments by houses and subsequent cartographic sources indicate continued development. As such, the development site lies outside the focus of early post-medieval and medieval Lancaster, with the majority of settlement concentrated further north and east, around the areas of Church Street, Stone Well, St Leonard's Gate and the northern end of Penny Street. The greatest potential for archaeological remains are those of Roman date. Although the development area again lies outside of the Roman settlement, thought to be concentrated around Church Street, there is strong evidence that the area to the south of the Roman settlement was used as a cemetery, with particular burial concentrations around the arterial roads, including modern Penny Street. A number of cremations have been recovered from the wider area of the development site, including from the intersections of Penny Street and Spring Garden Street with King Street and also from Queen's Square. Several of the cremations recovered from the area during nineteenth century developments are recorded as being of Bronze Age date, but may actually be Roman.

### 1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of undertaking watching briefs of all periods, having conducted a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 25 years. Fieldwork has taken place within the planning process and construction programmes, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) **registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed in accordance with the Lancashire County Archaeology Service document entitled *General Conditions for Appropriate Archaeological Contractors in Lancashire*.

- 2.2 **Watching Brief:** in order to determine the presence, date, quality and state of preservation of archaeological features on the site, a permanent presence archaeological watching brief will be maintained during the demolition and removal of all structural features at and below ground level and also during groundworks associated with the proposed development, including foundations and service trenches (*Section 1.1.1*).
- 2.3 **Report and Archive:** a report will be produced for the Client within about eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. The report will aim to summarise the results of the watching brief within the context of existing knowledge about the site and its surroundings. These results will provide the basis for any recommendations for further work, should this prove appropriate. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

### 3. WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.1 In line with the objectives and stages of the archaeological works stated above, the following work programme is submitted:
- 3.2 **Watching Brief:** to be maintained during any ground disturbing activities relating to the demolition of the existing structures and the construction of new buildings on the site (see *Sections 1.1.1 and 2.2*)
- 3.3 **Report and Archive:** production of a suitably illustrated report and properly ordered archive.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 4.1.1 A programme of field observation will accurately and systematically examine and record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features, horizons and/or deposits revealed during the course of ground disturbance, along with any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 4.1.2 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan. A photographic record of archaeological features and general working shots, utilising monochrome print and colour slide will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 4.1.3 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more measured sections will be produced, regardless of the presence of archaeology.
- 4.1.4 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified during 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).
- 4.1.5 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important deposits. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high density of archaeology is discovered, but this would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and LCAS and will require a variation to costing.

- 4.1.6 **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. LCAS and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential, the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA) 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, and if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.
- 4.1.7 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the watching brief works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs or contact prints) to identify and illustrate individual features as well as the nature of the demolition work. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 4.1.8 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.
- 4.1.9 **Treatment of finds:** excavated soil will be searched as practicable for finds. The presence and nature of finds definitely dating to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries will be noted but they will not otherwise be retained. All other finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed, as appropriate, in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines. Except where noted above, 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.
- 4.1.10 **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.
- 4.1.11 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features or human remains being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Planning Archaeologist, as to the extent of further works to be carried out, and in agreement with the Client. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design.

## 5. REPORT

- 5.1 The results of the data gathered in *Section 4.1* above, will be collated and submitted in report format, illustrated with the relevant photographs and drawings. Where appropriate, the report will attempt to relate any findings to the known history and archaeology of the site, and to its local setting.
- 5.2 One bound and one unbound copy of the report will be submitted to the Client, and one bound copy and another in digital format will be submitted to LCAS and to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record together with an archive CD-ROM. Any subsequent work arising from this survey will be subject to separate consideration in liaison with LCAS and the Client.
- 5.3 The final report will include a copy of this project design, the relevant LCAS brief, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above, and will include details of the final deposition of the project archive. Illustrations will include a location map, trench location plan and plans and sections of trenches drawn at an appropriate scale.

- 5.3 A brief summary of the fieldwork will be prepared and submitted to the Council for British Archaeology North West *Archaeology North West* within 12 months of the completion of the project.

## 6. ARCHIVE

- 6.1 The results of the watching brief will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The fully indexed project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include all the original records and drawings along with fully labelled and indexed slides and contact prints. It will include summary processing and analysis of any features and finds recovered during fieldwork, in accordance with UKIC guidelines. 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, and arrangement to this effect will be made with the museum curator prior to the commencement of the project.
- 6.2 All finds will be treated in accordance with OA North standard practice, which follows current IFA guidelines and will be deposited, along with a copy of the report and of the original site records, with Lancaster City Museum.

## 7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1 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 written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.
- 7.2 The client would be asked to determine the nature of any utility services to the properties and site prior to any fieldwork being carried out.
- 7.3 OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

## 8. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 8.1 The final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.
- 8.2 Any proposed variations to the project design will be agreed with LCAS in co-ordination with the Client. OA North will arrange a preliminary meeting, if required, and LCAS will be informed of the commencement of the project in writing.

## 9. WORK PROGRAMME

- 9.1 The following programme is proposed:
- 9.2 **Watching Brief:** the duration of the watching brief will be dependent upon the progress of the contractor.

- 9.3 **Archive/Report:** the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be submitted within about eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork and the archive deposited within six months. If desired, an interim statement could be produced within ten days of completion of the fieldwork.

## 10. STAFFING

- 10.1 The project will be managed by **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 10.2 The watching brief will be undertaken by an OA North Supervisor, suitably experienced in fieldwork techniques. Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing at this stage exactly who will be undertaking this element of the project.
- 10.3 The archaeological work will be monitored by LCAS, which will be arranged accordingly.

## APPENDIX 2: FINDS CATALOGUE

Context	OR no	Material	Category	No frags	Description	Period
unstratified	1001	Ceramic	tobacco pipe	4	Four fragments of stem, one with a rouletted stamp.	Later nineteenth century
unstratified	1002	Ceramic	vessel	3	One small body fragment white salt-glazed stoneware; one small body fragment creamware; one small fragment Chinese porcelain, blue-painted.	Later eighteenth century
unstratified	1003	Ceramic	building material	1	Fragment of chimney pot in very coarse fabric. Internally sooted.	Twentieth century?
unstratified	1004	Ceramic	ind debris	2	Two small fragments of coke.	Twentieth century?
unstratified	1005	Ceramic	vessel	4	Four fragments black-glazed redware, including part of an early pedestal base.	Later seventeenth to early eighteenth century
unstratified	1006	Ceramic	vessel	1	One small fragment of unglazed sandy oxidized orange fabric with brown surfaces. Probably in the Northern gritty tradition. Sagging base?	Twelfth-fourteenth century
unstratified	1007	Ceramic	tobacco pipe	1	Bowl with short spur. Rim missing, and illegible stamp.	Seventeenth century.

## APPENDIX 3: ARCHIVE INDEX

Record group	Contents	Comments	Box/File Number
	<b>Introduction</b> Project Design		1
A	<b>Report</b> Final Report		1
B	<b>Primary Fieldwork Records</b> Context Records & Indices Watching Brief Records		1
C	<b>Primary Drawings</b> Developers Plans Annotated Plans Plans/Sections		1
D	<b>Finds Box and Bag Lists</b>		1
E	<b>Environmental Records</b>		1
F	<b>Photographic Record</b> Photographic Indices Monochrome Colour Slides Digital		1
G	<b>Electronic Media</b>		1