Overtown Cable, Overtown, Cowan Bridge, Lancashire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Oxford Archaeology North

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Electricity North West

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SUMMARY

Electricity North West (ENW), commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) North to undertake an archaeological watching brief during alterations to the overhead system of powerlines close to Overtown, Cowan Bridge, Lancashire (from NGR SD 62944 76236 to SD 63004 76293). The works comprised the installation of a below ground 112m-section of high-voltage electricity cable. As the development site is located within an area of archaeological potential, with a Roman Road traversing the proposed development site, and Burrow in Lonsdale Roman Fort 1km to the south, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) requested that a programme of archaeological monitoring should be undertaken during ground-disturbing activities. The following report documents the results of the watching brief.

A cable trench, measuring 112m in length and 2m in width, was opened by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench largely comprised 0.2m of topsoil (***100***); *c* 0.3m of subsoil (***101***); and natural geology (***102***). Towards the eastern end of the trench a section of putative Roman Road was identified, which comprised several ephemeral layers of pebble, clay, gravel and cobble hardcore (***103***, ***104***, ***105*** and ***106***). Truncating much of the putative road was a large modern cut (***109***) that had been backfilled, and was most likely the cut for the septic tank for Overtown Cottage, inserted *c* 20 years ago. There was no evidence of a metalled surface, nor roadside ditch, suggesting that the feature had been robbed and disturbed. The small fragment of road material that survived, sealed an area of former soil horizon (***114***).

Based upon the results of the watching brief, it seems likely that much of the Roman Road has been truncated by later development in the Overtown area, and that the chances of other sections surviving intact in the vicinity are restricted to the relatively untouched surrounding fields. Nevertheless, the proximity of the hamlet to the Roman Fort at Burrow in Lonsdale, and its location near the heart of so many ancient communication routes, would suggest that the area has high potential for further archaeological remains.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North would like to thank Electricity North West for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Doug Moir from LCAS for his advice, and Tim Maloney from Murphy's for his assistance throughout the fieldwork.

The watching brief was undertaken by Kelly Clapperton with assistance from Paul Dunn. The report was written by Kelly Clapperton, with the drawings produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, while Adam Tinsley edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 Electricity North West (ENW) commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) North to undertake an archaeological watching brief during alterations to the overhead system of powerlines close to Overtown, Cowan Bridge, Lancashire. The works comprised the installation of a below ground 112m-section of high-voltage electricity cable. The development site is located within an area of archaeological potential and, accordingly, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) requested that a programme of archaeological works should be undertaken during ground-disturbing activities. The following report documents the results of the watching brief.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The cable trench runs north-east/south-west from Overtown Farm to Overtown Cottage (from NGR SD 62944 76236 to SD 63004 76293) for a length of approximately 112m, through two small paddocks. The surrounding topography comprises, to the south and west, undulating farmland running down to the Leck Beck and the River Lune, and to the north and east, the high hills and limestone pavements of Ingleborough. The underlying geology comprises a mix of the harder Millstone Grit rocks, and softer mudstones and limestones (Countryside Commission 1998), while the drift geology consists of a series of glacial deposits, including tills, sands, and gravels (*ibid*).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 ***Pre-Roman periods:*** while documented prehistoric activity in the immediate area of Overtown is limited to the find of a Bronze Age socketed axe to the south-east of Cowan Bridge (NMR 43965), there is evidence for extensive settlement across the wider region. Several Iron Age and Romano-British settlements and field systems are situated in the upland areas at Collingholme Farm (NMR 44068), Leck Hall (NMR 44013), and Castle Hill (NMR 43942), to the east of Cowan Bridge and Leck. To the south-east of Overtown, at Eller Beck near Westhouses, further field systems, settlements, funerary, and clearance cairns have been recorded (Higham 1983). The village also lies within the Aire Gap, a geological fault that is thought to be one of the main prehistoric routes implicated in the transportation of stone axes for the Lake District to east of the Pennines (Higham 1986).

1.3.2 ***Roman Period:*** A well known Roman Road passes north/south through the hamlet of Overtown (Margary 1957; Graystone 2002), and across the development site. It follows the current parish boundary, crossing the Leck Beck at a ford, the precise position of which is open to question (Graystone 2002), although Margary (1957) claimed that stones were still visible in the stream. To the north of the settlement, along the line of the road, are the remains of a Roman Milestone (Margary 1957; Graystone 2002; Shotter 1993). It has been broken and has no inscription, but is located approximately

one Roman mile from Burrow in Lonsdale Roman Fort to the south-west (Graystone 2002), which would probably have been connected by a branch road running alongside the Leck Beck (Margary 1957; Shotter 1993).

1.3.3 Burrow in Lonsdale is located *c* 2.5km south from Kirkby Lonsdale, and has been described as part of a network of communication and supply routes extending to Hadrian's Wall (SMR 2630; CCC 2006), occupying an important point in the Lune Valley, between Low Borrow Bridge Fort to the north-west, and Lancaster Fort to the south (Shotter 1993). Little remains above ground of the fort, although excavations conducted in the 1950s, established the fort walls and alignment of the roads (Shotter and White 1995). The excavations uncovered an early timber version, possibly established during the reign of Vespasian (AD 71-74; Shotter and White 1995; Shotter 1993), before it was rebuilt in stone during Trajan's reign (AD 98-117). It is thought likely that any civilian settlement would have been located on the level fields to the west, possibly in the form of ribbon development along the road to Kendal (Shotter and White 1995). It was probably abandoned in the late fifth century (Shotter 1997), although, there is the unconfirmed suggestion that there was Post-Roman settlement in the fort (Shotter and White 1995).

1.3.4 ***Medieval and Post-medieval Periods:*** As with much of North-West England, the area around Overtown would have been included in the Kingdom of Northumberland by the seventh century. However, by the ninth century this had collapsed through pressure from Scandinavian raids and settlement (Higham 1986). Although Overtown is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, the parishes of Over Burrow and Leck are ascribed to the Earl Tosti (Williams and Martin 1992). According to Farrer and Brownbill (1914), the parishes of Nether and Over Burrow were divided into two by the Leck Beck, with the former being part of Thornton in Lonsdale. By 1252 Overburrow was in the ownership of Matthew de Burgh, and stayed within the family until 1370, when it was acquired, along with Nether Burrow, by William de Tunstall (Farrer and Brownbill 1914). The Lordship has stayed within the Tunstall family ever since (*ibid*). The main estate of Burrow Hall was owned by the Girlingtons until 1650 when they sold it to the Tathams (*ibid*), who, in turn, through marriage passed the manor to the Fenwicks of Northumberland in 1687. The Fenwicks have remained in the hall ever since (*ibid*). No known sites of medieval date are known in Overtown itself.

1.3.5 Since the medieval period Overtown has remained rural in nature. It currently comprises a hamlet, comprising a couple of farms and several cottages, the majority of which date to the post-medieval and modern periods.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North in response to a verbal request from ENW. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and English Heritage guidelines (CIfA 2014a, 2014b, 2014c; English Heritage 2006).

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 A permanent archaeological presence was maintained during groundworks. The purpose was to identify, investigate, and record, any archaeological remains encountered.

2.2.2 A daily record of the nature, extent, and depths of groundworks was maintained throughout the duration of the project. All archaeological contexts were manually investigated and recorded on OA North's *pro-forma* sheets, using a system based on that of the English Heritage, now Historic England, former Centre for Archaeology. A monochrome and digital photographic record was maintained throughout.

2.3 ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current CIfA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2006). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in Preston County Record Office, Lancashire, on completion of the project. The material archive is to be retained by the landowner/deposited with Lancaster Museum.

3. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify, investigate, and record any archaeological remains encountered during the groundworks for the proposed development, and the following is a summary of the findings. The area of the watching brief is plotted in Figure 1. A list of contexts issued has been provided in *Appendix 2*.

3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 Overburden was removed from a cable trench measuring 112m in length and 2m in width, using a 6 tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket, operated under constant archaeological supervision. The trench comprised 0.2m of topsoil (***100***), which sealed *c* 0.3m of subsoil (***101***), which, in turn, overlaid natural geology (***102***). Both the subsoil and natural geology consisted of waterborne sands and gravels, most likely laid down by the Leck Beck, currently to the north of the site.

3.2.2 Towards the east end of the cable trench, a section of putative Roman Road was identified (Figs 1 and 2, Plates 1-3). This comprised several ephemeral layers of pebble, clay, gravel and cobble hardcore (***103***, ***104***, ***105*** and ***106***). These deposits sealed a possible soil horizon (***114***), from which an environmental sample was removed (see *Section 3.3*). Further to the east, and truncating much of the putative road, was a large modern cut (***109***). This had been backfilled with layers of redeposited material from the surrounding area (***110***, ***111***, ***112***, and ***113***). This most likely represented the cut for a septic tank previously servicing Overtown Cottage, inserted *c* 20 years ago (Mr Patterson pers comm). The only artefacts recovered were a few fragments of post-medieval pottery (not retained) deriving from the topsoil (***100***).

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

3.3.1 ***Environmental bulk sediment samples Methodology:*** in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), one bulk sample, amounting to 30 litres, was processed for environmental assessment. The sample was obtained from a former soil horizon (***114***) sealed beneath truncated deposits of a putative Roman Road, and therefore offered an opportunity to assess the environment contemporary with the foundation of the road.

3.3.2 The bulk sample was manually disaggregated in water, with the light fraction (flot) collected on a 250µm mesh, and the dense residue collected within a series of graded sieves, both fractions being allowed to dry for an appropriate period of time. The flot was scanned with a Leica MZ6 stereo microscope and any plant material was provisionally identified, where possible, using the standard keys. For fruits and seeds these were based upon Cappers *et al* (2006) and for charcoal Hather (2000). Botanical nomenclature followed Stace

(2010). Plant remains were scored on a scale of abundance of 1-4, where 1 is rare (up to five items) and 4 is abundant (>100 items). The components of the matrix were recorded as present (+) or abundant (++). A summary of the data is presented in Table 1.

3.3.3 ***Results***: very few charred plant remains were recorded in the bulk sample from the former soil horizon (Context ***114***). These included some medium sized (2-4mm) charred grass fruits (Poaceae caryopsis), occasional fragments of charred hazel nut (*Corylus avellana*), and some charred monocotyledenous stem and leaf fragments, possibly from grasses.

3.3.4 Frequent modern/waterlogged fruits and seeds were present in the sample and included elder (*Sambucus nigra*), bramble pips (*Rubus* sect 2 Glandulosus), and common sorrel seeds (*Rumex acetosa*). The taphonomy of these remains is uncertain, but are likely to be modern intrusions.

3.3.5 ***Charcoal:*** abundant charcoal fragments up to 2mm in size were recorded in the sample. Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and diffuse porous, probably hazel/alder (*Corylus*/*Alnus*) charcoal was identified together with some roundwood charcoal.

3.3.6 ***Other matrix components***: A single fragment of calcined bone was noted, together with some insect fragments and earthworm egg cases. The sample contained abundant modern contamination in the form of woody roots and wood fragments. Amorphous plant remains were also very frequent, but there taphonomy is uncertain and are likely to be recent.

3.3.7 ***Discussion:*** the data demonstrate that very few charred plant remains were preserved in former soil horizon ***114***. The charred remains of grasses tentatively suggest the presence of some grassland in the local environment prior to the construction of the road.

3.3.8 The charcoal and coal fragments suggest that wood or wood charcoal and coal were used locally as fuel sources. Ash and hazel/alder were being burnt and both trees could have been growing locally. A single fragment of slag in the sample might indicate some local industrial activity, but as only a single fragment was observed, it might be intrusive.

3.3.9 The frequent modern/waterlogged plant and amorphous plant remains are considered to be intrusive, given the presence of large numbers of wood fragments and woody roots. The sampled deposit occurred relatively close to the modern ground surface and is adjacent to a woody area, which would account for the presence woody roots in the flot.

3.3.10 ***Potential and recommendations:*** there is no potential for the further analysis of the plant remains preserved in this sample. The general paucity of charred plant remains, together with the uncertain taphonomy of the probably modern/waterlogged examples, indicate further analysis of the plant remains would not yield significant results. The charcoal fragments do have the potential to be scientifically dated, but given the relatively denuded significance of the archaeological remains this is not desirable or necessary.

Context number	Sample number	Feature	Matrix	Plant remains	Potential for further work	Potential for Dating
114	1	Buried former soil horizon	Charcoal >2mm ++, charcoal <2mm ++, AMP ++, calcined bone +, insect fragments +, earthworm egg cases +, fungal sclerotia +, modern wood fragments ++, modern woody roots ++, coal fragments ++, HAVM ++ , slag +, clay/silt +	CPR charred Poaceae caryopsis 2-4mm (1), Other charred material Charred hazel nut fragments (1), charred monocotyledenous stems (1) Modern/WPR seeds (3)	None	Yes

Table 1: the results of the assessment of the plant remains and charcoal from the Overton Cable, Overton, Cowan Bridge, Lancashire. Plant remains are scored on a scale of abundance of 1-4, where 1 is rare (up to five items) and 4 is abundant (>100 items). Matrix components are recorded as present + or abundant ++.

CPR = charred plant remains, WPR = waterlogged plant remains, AMP = amorphous plant remains

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 DISCUSSION

4.1.1 The cobble and hardcore deposits identified towards the eastern end of the cable trench, correlate with the postulated position of the Roman Road known to extend through the development area. These deposits, however, were very ephemeral and heavily disturbed. There was no evidence of a metalled surface, or a roadside ditch, suggesting that the feature had been heavily truncated by localised activity, possibly associated with the insertion of a modern septic tank associated with Overton Cottage to the north-east. The deposits putatively associated with the Roman Road did, however, seal an undisturbed former soil horizon (***114***), from which an environmental sample was obtained. Upon examination, this sample proved relatively sterile, was probably subject to modern contamination due to relatively recent activity and, consequently, yielded no significant results relating to the environmental conditions contemporary with the foundation of the road.

4.1.2 In the localised area of the current development, it seems likely that much of the road has been truncated by later development in the Overtown area. Nevertheless, the proximity of the hamlet to the Roman Fort at Burrow in Lonsdale, and its location near the heart of so many ancient communication routes, would suggest that the wider area retains high potential for further archaeological remains.

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

OVERTOWN CABLE, OVERTOWN, COWAN BRIDGE,

LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Rapid Desk-Based Assessment and Watching Brief Project Design

Oxford Archaeology North

May 2013

Electricity North West

NGR: NY 5452 2977

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Electricity North West (ENW, hereafter 'the Client'), has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken during alterations to the overhead system of powerlines close to Overtown, Cowan Bridge, Lancashire (from NGR SD 641530 to SD 641056). The works will comprise the laying below ground of an 112m-section of high-voltage electricity cable. The development site is located within an area of archaeological potential and, accordingly, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) requested that a programme of archaeological works should be undertaken, comprising a watching brief be conducted during ground-disturbing activities.

1.1.2 The following document represents a project design to carry out the above programme of work and has been prepared in accordance with standard LCAS, English Heritage (EH) and Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) standards and requirements.

1.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.2.1 The study area is located within the Lune Valley, an important communication route throughout history and a fertile area that hosted many sites of the prehistoric and Roman periods. A Roman Road runs across the development site, whilst Burrow in Lonsdale Roman Fort is located 1km to the south.

1.3.1 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 for Archaeologists (IfA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IfA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

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 LCAS, to provide a watching brief. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

Archaeological Watching Brief

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.

Report and Archive

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 WATCHING BRIEF

3.1.1 ***Methodology:*** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the whole area of the proposed ground disturbance. This work 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.

3.1.2 The watching brief will cover the whole of the area to be disturbed by the development including, topsoil and subsoil stripping and any other groundworks which would expose archaeological horizons and/or the natural drift geology.

3.1.3 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).

3.1.4 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.

3.1.5 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.

3.1.6 ***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.

3.1.7 ***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.

3.1.8 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.

3.1.9 ***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.

3.1.10 ***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.

3.2 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

3.2.1 ***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 Lancashire 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

3.2.2 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.

3.2.3 ***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.

3.2.4 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.

3.2.5 ***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.

3.2.6 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.

3.2.7 ***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 ***Archaeological Watching Brief:*** the duration of this element is dependant upon the duration of any ground disturbing activities on the site.

5.2 ***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.

5.3 ***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 All elements of the archaeological investigation will be supervised by either an OA North project officer or supervisor experienced in this type of project. Due to scheduling requirements it is not possible to provide these details at the present time. All OA North project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.

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.

7.4 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples which may be taken will be undertaken by **Elizabeth Huckerby MSc** (OA North project officer). Elizabeth has extensive knowledge of the palaeoecology of the North West through her work on the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey. Assessment of any faunal material will be undertaken by **Andrew Bates MSc** (OA North Supervisor).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Description	Interpretation
100	Dark orangey-brown, friable clayey-silt, with 20% sub-rounded cobbles and pebbles (0.3m-50mm). Heavy root disturbance	Topsoil
101	Mid-orangey-brown, loose and friable gravelly-silt, with 50-70% sub-rounded pebbles (30mm-0.5m).	Subsoil
102	Mottled light-orange and brown-grey clayey-sand, with >30% sub-rounded waterworn cobbles and boulders (<1.3m).	Natural geology
103	Mid-orangey-brown, loose sandy-silt, with 50% sub-rounded cobbles and pebbles (30mm-0.3m).	Possible gravel road make-up
104	Mid-ornage-pinkl, firm clay, with 10% small sub-rounded pebbles (10mm-40mm).	Possible clay road make-up
105	Mid-brown firm and friable silty-clay, with 40% small-medium sub-rounded cobbles and pebbles (10mm-0.4m).	Possible gravel road make-up
106	Dark-brown, friable silty with 70% sub-rounded, waterworn cobbles (0.5m x 0.3m x 0.1m).	Possible cobble hardcore for road
107	Linear: U-shaped profile, 0.78m wide and 0.28m deep.	Cut for modern service
108	Mixed and mottled orangey-brown, mid-brown and yellow-white sandy-silt, with 20% sub-rounded pebbles (<50mm).	Backfill of service trench ***107***
109	Not fully seen in plan or fully excavated. Steep convex sides, truncated putative Roman Road, cut by modern service ***107***.	Possible pit cut for modern septic tank
110	Mid-brown silt, with 30% sub-rounded pebbles (10mm-50mm).	Redeposited cobbles from the original surface in pit ***109***
111	Reddish-brown, fairly firm clay, with 10-20% small-medium rounded stones (10mm-0.1m), and 10% fragments of mortar (10mm-30mm).	Backfill in pit ***109***
112	Dark-brown, fairly firm silty-clay, with 30% small-medium rounded stones (10mm-0.1m).	Backfill in pit ***109***
113	Dark-brown, fairly friable, sandy-silt, with 10-20% small-medium rounded stones (10mm-0.1m).	Backfill in pit ***109***

114	Mid-brown, loose and friable sandy-silt, with 10% sub-rounded pebbles and cobbles (50mm)	Former soil horizon/ground surface

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

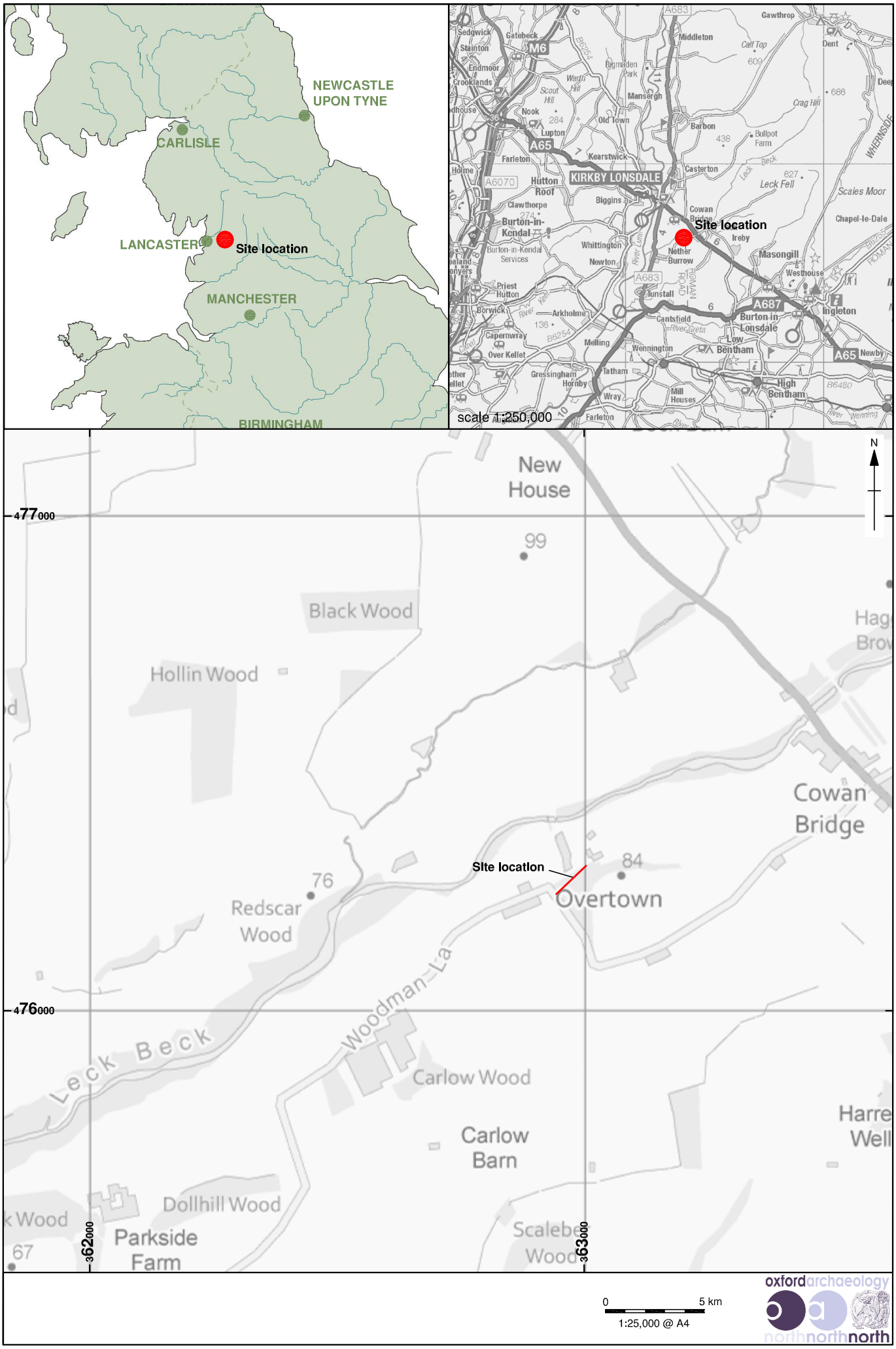
Figure 2: Plan and Section of putative Roman Road

PLATES

Plate 1: General shot of putative Roman Road, looking south-west. Septic tank cut runs east-west across the shot

Plate 2: Detail of putative Roman Road, looking south-east. Septic tank cut is in the foreground

Plate 3: Oblique section through putative Road, with the septic tank cut to the fore



SR*L10606*AKH*24.06.2013

Figure 1: Site location

SR*L10606*AKH*25.06.2013

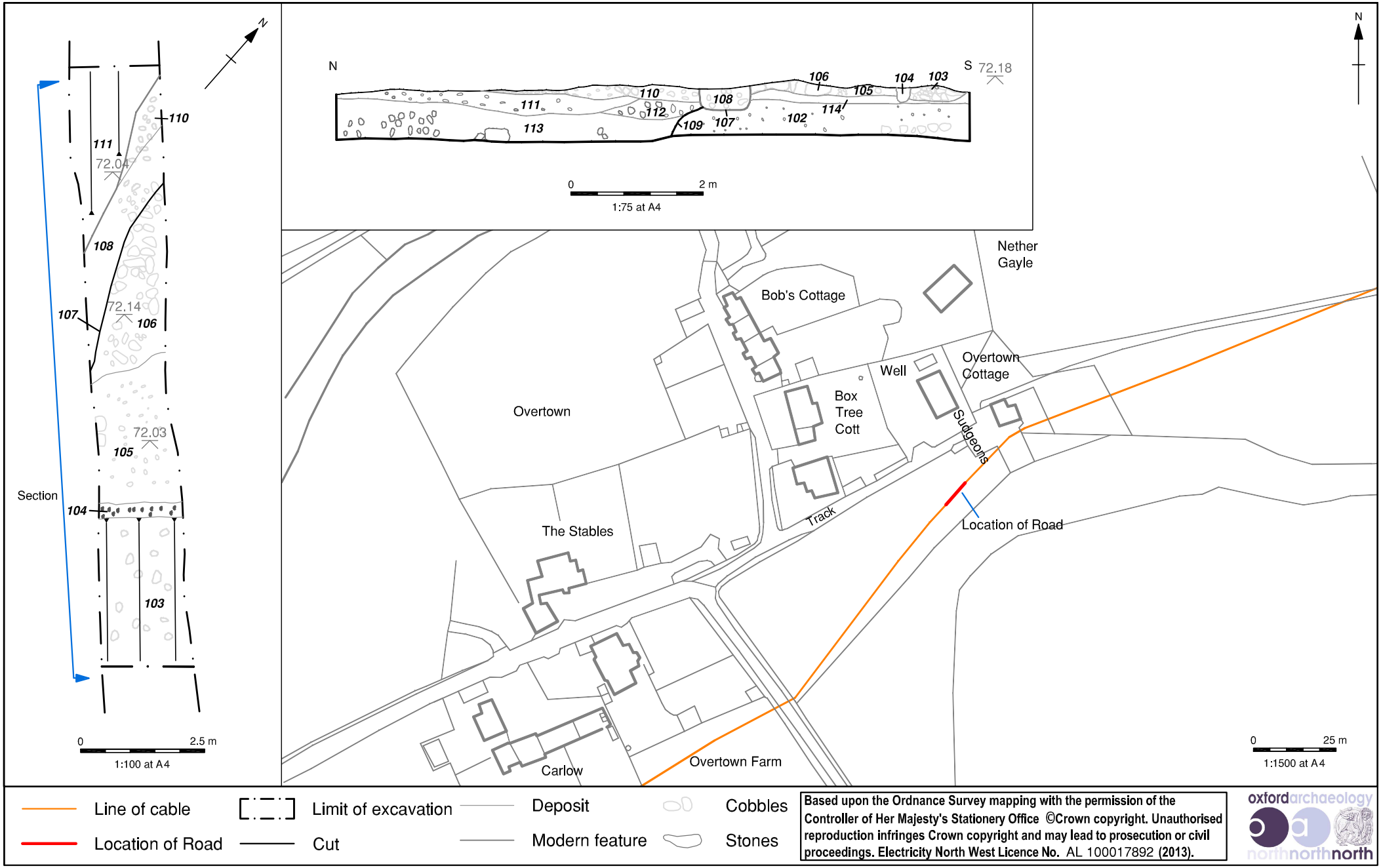


Figure 2: Plan and section of putative Roman road

Plate 1: General shot of putative Roman Road, looking south-west. Septic tank cut runs east-west across the shot

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