

COCKERMOUTH LEISURE CENTRE, COCKERMOUTH, CUMBRIA



Archaeological Desk- Based Assessment and Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North

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SUMMARY

Day Cummins Ltd have submitted proposals (Planning Reference 2/06/1344) for the construction of an extension to Cockermouth Leisure Centre, Castlegate, Cockermouth, Cumbria (NGR NY 1243 3081), together with footpaths, cyclepaths and additional carparking bays within the carpark. The development site lies partially within the Cockermouth Urban Conservation Area and is situated very close to Tute Hill motte, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 23798). Following consultation from Allerdale Borough Council, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) issued a brief for a programme of archaeological investigation to be undertaken in association with the development, comprising a desk-based assessment and a watching brief. Following CCCHES approval of a project design, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were commissioned by Day Cummins Ltd to undertake the work.

The desk-based assessment, undertaken in April 2007, identified 13 known sites of archaeological interest within a 500m radius of the proposed development site. As well as the adjacent Tute Hill motte (Site **01**), which will not be directly affected by the proposals, parts of the Deer Orchard (Site **03**), a medieval deer park attached to the later Cockermouth Castle (Site **02**), fall within the development site. It has been contended that the Tute Hill motte, the origins of which may actually lie in the prehistoric period, was the focus of a pre-twelfth-century urban centre located east of the River Cocker on St Helen's Street. That the motte was later subsumed into the Deer Orchard, which protected the area around Tute Hill from the depredations of both agriculture and development, would suggest that there is potential for archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to medieval periods to survive in the area. Moreover, these remains have the potential to relate not only to the use of Tute Hill as a medieval defensive feature, and latterly as a deer park, but might also include deposits and features relating to the putative early urban settlement.

As such, there is the possibility that groundworks within the proposed development area may have an impact upon any putative structures and boundary features associated with the Deer Orchard (Site **03**), upon any remains associated with the prehistoric or medieval use of Tute Hill (Site **01**) that may extend beyond the scheduled area, and upon any conjectured medieval settlement remains lying outside of the St Helen's Street burgages. Although the proposed development site lies within a conservation area containing a large number of listed buildings, any impact upon these structures will be visual only. This impact will be partially mitigated by the location of the development to the rear of these historic properties and might in any case be considered minimal when compared to that of the existing leisure centre.

The watching brief was undertaken in July 2007 during the groundworks for the new cycle path and parking areas. These ran for a distance of 69m, skirting the existing access road and carpark to a maximum width of 4.2m and, on the western side of the access road, passing within 5m of Tute Hill. The groundworks were carried out by a mechanical excavator operating to a maximum depth of 0.8m below ground level, but rarely penetrating the surrounding deposits of made ground to reveal the underlying natural geology. As such, no archaeological features were identified, although their presence below the level of the made ground cannot be discounted. Of some interest was a relict soil horizon opposite Tute Hill.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Michael Dawson of Day Cummins Ltd for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Jo Mackintosh at Cumbria Historic Environment Record, and all the staff of the County Record Office in Whitehaven for their assistance with this project. OA North are also grateful to Gary Killip, Clive Allinson and Philip Williams for their assistance during the watching brief

The desk-based assessment was undertaken and compiled by Jeremy Bradley, with the drawings produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The watching brief was undertaken and reported upon by Steve Clarke, with the illustrations produced by Marie Rowland. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Day Cummins Ltd have submitted proposals (Planning Reference 2/06/1344) for the construction of an extension, footpaths and additional carparking bays within the carpark of the Cockermouth Leisure Centre, Castlegate, Cockermouth, Cumbria (NGR NY 1243 3081). The site lies partially within the Cockermouth Urban Conservation Area, and very close to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Tute Hill (SAM 23798); consequently, after consultation with Allerdale Borough Council, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) issued a brief (*Appendix 1*) for a programme of archaeological investigation to be undertaken in association with the development. Following submission of a project design (*Appendix 2*) for a desk-based assessment and watching brief to meet the requirements of the CCCHES brief, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were commissioned by Day Cummins Ltd to undertake the work.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment, undertaken in April 2007, comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Cumbria Historic Record (CHER) in Kendal, the Cumbria County Record Office in Whitehaven, and the archives and library held at OA North. This report sets out the results of the desk-based assessment in the form of a short document, outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential and significance, and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development. The significance criteria detailed in PPG 16 (DoE 1990) was employed during the assessment. The watching brief of the groundworks for the new cycle path and parking areas (Fig 10) was undertaken in July 2007, and the results are detailed in *Section 7*.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 The CCCHEs-approved OA North project design (*Appendix 2*) 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 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 The desk-based assessment involved the consultation of a number of sources, including the Cumbria Historic Environment Record, the Cumbria County Record Offices in Whitehaven and Carlisle, and OA North's library. The assessment focused on a study area covering a 500m radius around the proposed development site, although relevant information from the wider area has been summarised in order to place the results of the assessment into context. All known archaeological sites within the study area have been included in the Site Gazetteer (*Section 4*), with the exception of listed buildings of a domestic nature, the local profusion of which meant that only those buildings within a 250m radius of the development site have been included in this report and are tabulated at the end of *Section 4*. The results of the research were analysed in terms of significance using the Secretary of State's criteria assessing the importance of an ancient monument as presented in Annex 4 of PPG16 (DoE 1990).
- 2.2.2 ***Cumbria Historic Environment Record (CHER)***: the CHER, held in Kendal, comprises a list of all known sites of cultural heritage interest and was duly consulted to establish the presence and nature of any such sites within the study area. The CHER also hold copies of recent archaeological reports on works undertaken in the county, and these too were consulted where relevant.
- 2.2.3 ***Cumbria County Record Office, Whitehaven (CRO(W))***: the CRO in Whitehaven is the principal repository for primary documents for the Cockermouth area, including a range of maps, and also holds a library of secondary published sources; these were consulted as appropriate.
- 2.2.4 ***Cumbria County Record Office, Carlisle (CRO(C))***: a number of resources pertinent to the study area are held at the CRO in Carlisle, and these too were examined.
- 2.2.5 ***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 groundworks, (Fig 10) were carried out by a mechanical excavator using a 0.8m ditching bucket. The programme of field observation recorded the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features. This work comprised observation during the groundworks, the examination of any horizons exposed, and the recording of all archaeological features, horizons and any artefacts found during the excavations.
- 2.3.2 The recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of revealed features or structures 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 the project design (*Appendix 2*) and with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). On completion of the project, a copy of the report will be forwarded to the CHER and the paper and digital archive, together with copies of the report in hard and digital formats, will be deposited with the CRO in Whitehaven.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The proposed development, covering *c* 0.3ha, is located within the existing carpark of the Cockermouth Leisure centre on Castlegate, which lies at the centre of the modern town and on the eastern edge of the medieval historic core of Cockermouth. The town is situated within the West Cumbrian Coastal Plain to the north-east of the principal towns of Workington and Whitehaven. The local topography and townscape is dominated by the broad flood plain of the river Derwent that flows through Cockermouth and joins the north-flowing river Cocker just to the west of the proposed development site (Countryside Commission 1998, 27).
- 3.1.2 The solid geology is typified by outcrops of Coal Measures, shales and sandstones of the Hensingham Group and the Chief Limestone Group, all of which date to the Carboniferous period (*ibid*). The local drift geology comprises deposits of glacial boulder clay, sand, and gravel (*ibid*).

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 ***Prehistoric period:*** whilst no definite evidence for prehistoric activity has been identified in Cockermouth itself, there are a number of sites within the wider area and Tute Hill itself is identified as a prehistoric tumulus on the first Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1866 (CHER 849; Bradbury 1995, 10). Neolithic activity in the area is exemplified by numerous stone axes recovered from the Solway Plain (Bewley 1994, 54) and by the Elva Plain Stone circle located approximately 5km to the west of Cockermouth (NY 177 317; www.visitcumbria.com/cm/elva.htm). Evidence for Bronze Age activity in the general area is suggested by a collared urn found at Papcastle, *c* 3km to the west of Cockermouth (Bewley 1994, 61). There is possible Iron Age activity within Cockermouth in Fitz Wood on the western edge of the town, where a 'well-preserved rampart and ditch, 750 feet (229m) round, with a straight ditch cutting across' has been identified (Bradbury 1995, 11).
- 3.2.2 ***Roman period:*** no Roman evidence has been recovered within the town of Cockermouth, but the fort of *Derventio* at Papcastle lies approximately 2km to the west of the town (Birley 1963, 122). This relatively large fort was excavated in the mid-1980s (Shotter 1993, 34), indicating evidence of its importance in the communications network to other forts in the region (Holder 2004, 62).
- 3.2.3 ***Early medieval period:*** the name 'cocker' may derive from the Welsh 'cock-or', meaning the red (heather?) of the mountain face (Bradbury 1995, 26). Alternatively, it could come from the old English word 'kukra' (*ibid*), meaning crooked, possibly relating to the shape of the river. Little is known about post-Roman Cumbria, not least because of lack of recognisable and datable material culture following the end of Roman administration *c* 410 AD (O'Sullivan 1985) and although there is no direct evidence of this period from

Cockermouth itself, a number of sites and placenames suggest various cultural and linguistic influences. The native British kingdom of Rheged is known to have expanded into the Solway plain by the fifth century (Higham 1986) but most of the archaeological remains from this Early Christian period comprise burials of uncertain date, including a short-cist cemetery at Moreseby, c 10km to the south-west of Cockermouth, a single, empty, cist from Beckfoot, c 15km to the north-west (O'Sullivan 1985), and the cemetery at Eaglesfield, c 3km to the south-west (Wilson 1978). By the mid-seventh century, Cumbria had been incorporated into the kingdom of Northumbria (Kirkby 1962) and an Anglian influence can be seen on local place names (Rollinson 1996). Although there is very little settlement evidence from this period, it has been suggested that curvilinear churchyards (of which around 30 survive in some form and continue in use into the present, including four within 10km of Cockermouth), may well be of Anglo-Saxon origin (O'Sullivan 1985). From the later ninth century, a Scandinavian influence predominates via the Danes of Yorkshire and, from AD 902, the Norse Irish, evicted from Dublin (Higham 1985), who had the most considerable effect on the area, not least toponymically (Higham 1986). It is possible that one such settler, or perhaps an earlier raider, was buried at Eaglesfield (Higham 1985), while examples of Scandinavian sculpture within the Derwent valley to the west of Cockermouth further attest to the presence of such settlers (*ibid*). The political history of Cumbria during the early medieval period was complex but it would seem that the area, either as a whole, or in part, fell variably within the influences of the Strathclyde Britons, the Angles of Northumbria and, in particular the Scots. During the tenth century the Scots seem to have set up a semi-autonomous king of Cumbria, whom on various occasions owed fealty to an English suzerain; on the eve of the Norman Conquest, Northumbrian influence would appear to be dominant (Kirby 1962).

- 3.2.4 **Medieval Period:** following the turmoil of the Norman Conquest, Malcolm III of Scotland invaded Cumbria in 1070 (Kirby 1962), but, by the end of the eleventh century, Norman control had been asserted with William Rufus' capture of Carlisle in 1092 (Rowley 1983). Tute Hill, a name derived from the Middle English 'tote', a look-out hill (Bradbury 1995, 10), was likely to be the site of the motte for the first castle in Cockermouth, located as it was on a strategically important plateau close to the confluence of the Rivers Cocker and Derwent. The installation was thought to have been constructed in the early to mid-twelfth century, but to have been quickly superseded by a second fortification, this time built with both motte and bailey, by William de Fortibus II in the mid-twelfth century on the site of the present Cockermouth Castle (CHER 3035; SM 27653; Site 02), about 200m to the north-west and almost adjoining the river confluence. Using stone from the Roman fort at Papcastle, Cockermouth Castle was rebuilt in triangular form c 1225, and was extended during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries for protection against the Scots, who brutally sacked Cockermouth a number of times. Further wars, such as the Wars of the Roses and the Civil War, have led to its present ruinous condition.
- 3.2.5 The development of Cockermouth Castle is likely to have stimulated urban development, the earliest evidence for which lies in a charter referring to Alan

son of Waldeve at 'Cokyrmoth' dating to around the mid-twelfth century (Winchester 1986, 109). A fulling mill, the first of a number of such features involved with the textile and leather industries, was recorded as early as 1156, whilst in 1227 a market was granted by Royal Charter (Bradbury 1994). All these documents pre-date the planned town of approximately 175 burgage plots laid out along Main Street *c* 1270 (Leech *et al* forthcoming). Indeed, it has been suggested that the 'location of the [later] castle, church and market place on the east bank of the Cocker suggests...that an earlier urban core is to be sought' (Winchester 1986, 117), possibly around the market place in the Bitter Beck valley (Leech *et al* forthcoming). Winchester (1986) goes on to suggest that the winding course of St Helen's Street (which runs immediately to the south-east of Tute Hill; Fig 1), as well as the much less regular plan of the corresponding burgage plots, contrast with the regular layout of Main Street to the west of the Cocker, implying a difference in origin between the two parts of the town (*ibid*). Indeed, the now lost chapel of St Helen, thought to have stood at the head of the street to which it lends its name, has a dedication which can be indicative of a pre-Conquest foundation, and may be suggestive of a much earlier settlement focus (*op cit*, 124). However, whilst this may be good evidence for an early date for the St Helen's area of Cockermouth, the first record of the street by this name, *via sancte Elane*, is as late as 1524 (*ibid*).

- 3.2.6 The town's population and economy would appear to have fluctuated through the Middle Ages, with the later thirteenth and fourteenth centuries disrupted by economic and political struggles, as well as plague and pestilence, resulting in a lack of tenants for the burgage plots (Bradbury 1994); the sheep murrains of the later thirteenth century had a particular impact upon the town's economy, depending as it did upon the cloth industry (Winchester 1986). By the later fourteenth century, however, over 60% of the burgesses held less than one complete burgage, with the plots being divided into quarter, three-quarter and half burgage holdings, indicating a lively land market (Winchester 1987, 128). Such dwellings are exemplified by the fourteenth-century boulder-founded and cob-walled structures found during excavations at 75-85 Main Street in 1980 (Leech *et al* forthcoming).
- 3.2.7 A deer park (Site **03**), known to have been in existence since 1259 (Winchester 1986), was attached to Cockermouth Castle and occupied the area of land north of St Helen's Street well into the post-medieval period. Known as the 'Deer Orchard', the park would have encompassed Tute Hill.
- 3.2.8 **Post-medieval period:** by the sixteenth century, the town was a thriving market centre, and was described by Leland as a 'goode market towne' (Winchester 1987, 128). This prosperity, albeit interrupted by the English Civil Wars, was maintained through the seventeenth and into the eighteenth centuries (Leech *et al* forthcoming), when much of the affluent stone housing along St Helen's Street was built, a marked contrast with their medieval predecessors. The textile industry remained an important focus and by the mid-nineteenth century there were over 40 industrial sites, including wool, linen and cotton mills, hat factories and tanneries, with the workforce living in cottages and terraces converted from the old burgage plots (*ibid*). In 1965, the

Council for British Archaeology (CBA) selected Cockermouth as one of 51 'Gem Towns' worthy of special care in preservation and development (Bradbury 1994).

3.3 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 3.3.1 ***Early seventeenth-century map of Cockermouth (c 1620) (Fig 3):*** this semi-pictorial view of the town, very much on the lines of later prospect views, shows housing on both sides of the Cocker, along Main Street, Kirkgate, Market Place and St Helen's Street. The housing facing the viewer on the south side of St Helen's Street might indicate that some of the corresponding burgrave plots had been built upon, although due to the way the map is drawn this information is not forthcoming for the north side of the street. The area immediately to the north of St Helen's Street is divided into fields in which Tute Hill can clearly be discerned.
- 3.3.2 ***Hodkinson and Donald's Map of Cockermouth, 1770/71 (Fig 4):*** although direct comparisons between this and the previous map are not easy due to the way they depict the town, very little new development appears to have happened during the intervening 150 years, particularly around St Helen's Street - although there is noticeable development spreading southwards down Kirkgate. The hatching on the map portrays built-up areas and, whilst the borders of the burgrave plots are noted, they are not subdivided. Tute Hill and the fields round about are not depicted, although Park Lane, running contiguous with Castlegate, and a bowling green, to the east of the castle are shown.
- 3.3.3 ***Extract of the Enclosure Map c 1832 (Fig 5):*** the enclosure map is quite selective in the information it portrays, particularly for the area around St Helen's Street. The rear (northern) boundary of the burgrave plots, which do not appear to have changed significantly since the previous map, are shown for the area of Tute Hill, although the feature itself is not. The area to the east of the castle and north of St Helen's Street, originally part of the deer park, is now shown as being sub-divided into fields.
- 3.3.4 ***Extract of Wood's Plan of Cockermouth, 1832 (after Bradbury 1995; Fig 6):*** this map is very much more detailed than the enclosure map and is the first accurate survey of the town (Bradbury 1995, 17). It shows the St Helen's area, including the individual burgrave plots, the buildings contained within and the owners of all properties. One difference on this particular map to previous and later surveys is the curving boundary of the northern burgrave plots in the region of Tute Hill, suggesting that this depiction is not quite correct. Tute Hill appears within an open area, without any shading, whilst the enclosed fields to the east appear as they have done since the Hodkinson and Donald's plan of 1770/71, but marked with dashed lines, presumably portraying arable.
- 3.3.5 ***Extract of First Edition Ordnance Survey 25":1 mile, 1866 (Fig 7):*** the burgrave plots north of St Helen's Street, which are again portrayed with the more usual linear boundaries, show no variation to the previous surveys, although the division of individual structures is shown in greater detail. The

major change to the area around the Tute Hill, now marked as a tumulus, is the construction of a new road (Castlegate Drive) branching east-north-east of Castlegate and cutting through the deer park, or Deer Orchard as it is so named on the map. The areas south of the new road and around Tute Hill are marked as open, with various paths. The fields east of Tute Hill are still extant, although one has been turned into an orchard, while another is a (horticultural) nursery. The map is sufficiently large scale to depict various stones within the Deer Orchard, including one approximately 85m to the north-east of Tute Hill. It is uncertain whether they indicate glacial erratics, similar natural boulders, or are anthropogenic in origin, although had the latter been suspected at the time of the survey, it is possible that this would have been indicated in gothic script, or with some sort of descriptive prefix (ie *Standing Stone*).

- 3.3.6 ***Extract of First Edition Ordnance Survey 10' to 1 mile, 1886 (Fig 8):*** these very large scale maps show a considerable amount of detail, especially within the burgage plots. The close proximity of Tute Hill to the northern boundary of the St Helen's Street plots, approximately 5m, would suggest that any remains to the south of Tute Hill are likely to have been truncated by sustained development within the burgage plots themselves over a long period of time; this would be particularly so, if the plots are medieval in origin. That the Deer Orchard seems to have been used for some form of grazing is indicated by the presence of a stone trough to the north-east of Tute Hill. The stone first identified on the 1866 OS map is shown as being rectangular in plan and aligned roughly east/west.
- 3.3.7 ***Extract of Second and Third Edition Ordnance Survey 25":1 mile, 1900 and 1925 (Fig 9):*** both of these editions are very similar in detail and would suggest stagnation in terms of development east of the River Cocker and around the St Helen's Street area, probably relating to a proscription on further development of the Deer Orchard. The two main intrusions within and around the area of the Deer Orchard are the erection of the Cottage Hospital to the south of Park Lane, some time between 1866 and 1900, and of a Drill Hall to the east of Tute Hill. This latter structure was erected between 1900 and 1925 within one of the fields marked on the Wood map (1832) as being in private possession. The stones and trough seen on the earlier editions are no longer shown.
- 3.3.8 ***Extract of Ordnance Survey 1:10,000, c 1975:*** by the 1970s, the eastern half of the Deer Orchard, including the area immediately around Tute Hill, has been completely boxed-in with development to the north, west and east, together with ribbon development along the north and south sides of Castlegate Drive. These new developments can clearly be seen to conform to the older urban elements, with the form of the burgages along St Helen's Street, as well as the old path through the Deer Orchard, still preserved.

3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

- 3.4.1 Previous archaeological interventions in 1980–1 on 75–87 Main Street, to the west of the proposed development area, uncovered evidence for a succession of buildings dating from the twelfth to the nineteenth centuries within burgage

plots (Leech *et al* forthcoming). The earliest buildings, dating to the twelfth to fourteenth centuries, were confined to the street frontage with a garden or cultivated area to the rear. The buildings were constructed around a framework of earthfast posts; whilst this construction method is known from other parts of England, such as the South and the Midlands, this is the first known example in the North West (*ibid*). These structures were then abandoned by the fifteenth century and new structures erected, with further re-building occurring during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

- 3.4.2 Despite the known antiquity of Cockermouth, very little archaeology has been encountered during more recent interventions within the town. In 1999, Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) monitored the line of a new flood defence, along Rubby Banks Road on the West bank of the River Cocker, 600m to the south-west of the leisure centre (NAA 2000), while in 2000 Carlisle Archaeology Ltd (CA) undertook an evaluation at Bridge Street, some 500m to the west of the present development site (CAL 2000); no archaeology was encountered at either site. A watching brief at Curwen Grove, Crown Street, 800m to the west of the leisure centre, encountered a 0.3m - 0.4m thick charcoal-rich subsoil above the gravelly yellow natural geology (CCC 2002). An evaluation by North Pennines Heritage Trust (NPHT) at Mitre Court, St Helen's Street, to the east of the present proposed development area, recorded a cobbled surface and drains associated with the former Crown and Mitre Hotel (NPHT 2002). The same unit conducted watching briefs behind 39 Market Place and at Cockermouth Castle, but no archaeological features were observed (NPHT 2003a; 2003b). In 2005 OA North undertook a watching brief immediately to the south of the Post Office on Station Street, but no archaeological features of importance were observed (OA North; 2005; 2006).

4. GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number	01
Site name	Tute Hill
NGR	NY 12450 30780
Site type	Motte
Period	Prehistoric/Medieval
HER No	849
Stat Designation	SM 23798
Sources	HER
Description	A truncated cone-shaped mound 2.6m high, with traces of a ditch on the north and west sides. The hill could be a reused tumulus, as it bears a strong resemblance to other round barrows in the north of England; it has also has been identified as a site of windmill. However, interpretation as a motte makes most sense, as it is placed in a strategic position close to the confluence of the Rivers Derwent and Cocker. The motte, without an associated bailey, is most likely to have originally been built in the early to mid-twelfth century, but was quickly superseded by a second fortification on the site of the present castle. Despite some truncation of the summit of the monument, the motte survives reasonably well. It is of particular archaeological interest because it is the only example of this type of monument in the Derwent Valley.
Assessment	The site lies within the development area and may be affected.

Site number	02
Site name	Cockermouth Castle
NGR	NY 12230 30870
Site type	Castle
Period	Medieval
HER No	3035
Stat Designation	SM27653
Sources	HER; Winchester 1978, 8; North Pennines Heritage Trust 2003b.
Description	The monument includes the up-standing and buried remains of the enclosure castle and its motte and bailey predecessor. It is strategically located on the western edge of a ridge overlooking the confluence of the Rivers Cocker and Derwent. The motte and bailey castle was replaced by a stone triangular castle on the same site in <i>c</i> 1225. The castle was strengthened by Thomas de Lucy in the mid- to late fourteenth century, with further work being undertaken in the latter years of the fourteenth century in what became known as the 'Percy Wing'. The castle also includes an outer gate house and barbican. The castle was known to be in a state of decay in the sixteenth century and was besieged in the Civil War of the following century. In the nineteenth century the castle was once more occupied, with new buildings being added until the early years of the twentieth century.
Assessment	The site does not lie within the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	03
Site name	Deer Orchard
NGR	NY 12710 30810
Site type	Deer Park
Period	Medieval
HER No	None
Sources	OS First Edition 1866; OS Second Edition 1900; Bradbury 1995, 55-57; Winchester 1986, 119; Winchester 1987, 105.
Description	Medieval deer park, first recorded in 1259 (Winchester 1986). As an open space it was still known as the Deer Orchard on the First Edition OS map (1866). Evidence of the park survived as place names such as Low Parks Farm and Park Lane.
Assessment	Parts of the deer park lie within the development area and may be affected.

Site number	04
Site name	Cockermouth Medieval Town
NGR	NY 12100 30700
Site type	Town
Period	Medieval
HER No	5553
Sources	Winchester 1986 and 1987
Description	The town of Cockermouth is a medieval foundation dating to the eleventh and twelfth centuries. There is however, conjectural evidence that part of the medieval town comprising Market Street, St Helen's Street and Kirkgate on the east bank of the Cocker may be much earlier than the planned medieval settlement on the west bank. During the later medieval period the town continued to grow in prosperity, with an increased demand for land in the fifteenth century.
Assessment	Parts of the medieval town lie close to the development area and may be affected.

Site number	05
Site name	Castle Brewery Windmill
NGR	NY 12200 30800
Site type	Windmill
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	2633
Sources	HER
Description	In 1972 the remains of a tower mill could be seen at Cockermouth. A unique feature was that it was constructed from brick, rather than sandstone. Although altered beyond recognition, an oil painting in the vestry of All Saints' Church shows it with four sails. The mill most likely dates to the eighteenth century and ceased to work about a century ago when the building became a foundry.
Assessment	The site does not lie within the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	06
Site name	Cockermouth Market Place, Cocker Bridge
NGR	NY 12290 30750
Site type	Market Place
Period	Medieval/post-medieval
HER No	3027
Stat Designation	Listed building
Sources	HER
Description	Market place adjacent to Cocker Bridge, surrounded by a group of buildings ranging from the late medieval to Victorian, which are all Grade II-listed.
Assessment	The site does not lie within the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	07
Site name	St Helen's Street Tannery
NGR	NY 12900 30800
Site type	Tannery
Period	post-medieval
HER No	3028
StatDesignation	Listed building
Sources	HER
Description	Tannery building dating from the late eighteenth century and constructed from hand-made brick and stone rubble.
Assessment	The site does not lie within the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	08
Site name	Little Mill, Fulling Mill
NGR	NY 12700 30400
Site type	Fulling Mill
Period	Medieval/post-medieval
HER No	3031
Sources	HER; Winchester 1978, 9.
Description	The mill can probably be identified with the water corn mill described in 1578 as lying on the waste near Long Croft and formerly being a fulling mill. In its former capacity as a fulling mill it can be traced back to the earliest surviving Ministers Account for 1437.
Assessment	The site does not lie within the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	09
Site name	Cockermouth Ropewalk
NGR	NY 12300 30900
Site type	Ropewalk
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	3033
Sources	HER
Description	Ropewalk. No details given.
Assessment	The site does not lie within the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	10
Site name	Windmill Lane Windmill
NGR	NY 12680 30390
Site type	Windmill
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	5323
Sources	HER; Wood's plan of Cockermouth, 1832
Description	One of three possible windmills within Cockermouth. This mill was shown on Wood's plan of Cockermouth of 1832.
Assessment	The site does not lie within the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	11
Site name	Derwent Mill/Harris Mill
NGR	NY 11900 30900
Site type	Flax Mill/Spinning Mill
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	5519
Stat Designation	Listed building
Sources	HER; Marshall and Davies-Shiel 1969, 235
Description	Derwent Mills were part of the flax and tow spinning industry of the Harris brothers, created in 1770.
Assessment	The site does not lie within the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	12
Site name	Castle Tannery
NGR	NY 12080 30840
Site type	Tannery
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	11071
Sources	OS 25", 1900
Description	A tannery site on the banks of the Derwent/Cocker confluence.
Assessment	The site does not lie within the development area and will not be affected.

Site number	13
Site name	Storage Building, Skinner Street
NGR	NY 12450 30360
Site type	Garage/Store house
Period	Post-medieval
HER No	41189
Sources	HER
Description	Single storey, stone built storage building and garage on the banks of the Tom Rudd Beck.
Assessment	The site does not lie within the development area and will not be affected.

Site	EH LB No.	HER No.	Grade	NGR
Garden walls of castle, Castlegate	71658	25796	II	NY 12346 30861
Castlegate House, Castlegate	71663	25801	II*	NY 12345 30841
Mill/Brewery, Brewery Lane	71684	25823	II	NY 12102 30829
Church of All Saints, Kirkgate	71695	25834	B	NY 12360 30638
10 Castlegate	71662	25800	II	NY 12320 30808
6 Castlegate	70660	25798	II*	NY 12314 30790
2-4 Castlegate	71659	25797	II	NY 12305 30779
14, 16 and 18-28 (even) Market Place	71730	25869	II	NY 12324 30767
4-6 Market Place (North Side)	71729	25868	II	NY 12381 30747
10 and 12 St Helen's Street (North Side)	71739	25879	II	NY 12429 30734
26-34 (even) St Helen's Street (North Side)	71740	25880	II	NY 12488 30720
1-35 (odd) St Helen's Street (south Side)	71742	25881	II	NY 12429 30710
Kirkgate House, Kirkgate	71698	25837	II	NY 12386 30576
38 Kirkgate (west side)	71697	25836	II	NY 12409 30554
46-50 (even) Kirkgate (west side)	71690	25838	II	NY 12409 30554
53-55 Kirkgate (east side)	71694	25833	II	NY 12442 30548
52 (Swan Inn) and 58-64 (even) Kirkgate	71700	25839	II	NY 12412 30527
27-39 Kirkgate (east side)	71690	25829	II	NY 12441 30614
17-25 (odd) Kirkgate (east side)	71687	25826	II	NY 12413 30645
41 & 43 Kirkgate (east side)	71691	25830	II	NY 12441 30600
13 Kirkgate (east side)	71686	25825	II	NY 12409 30672

Table 1: Listed buildings within 250m radius of development area

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REMAINS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The assessment has identified a total of 13 sites of archaeological interest within the study area (*Section 4*). Of these, 12 sites (Sites **01-02** and **04-13**) were recorded in the Cumbria HER, to which the Deer Orchard (Site **03**), identified from documentary and cartographic sources, and a further 21 listed buildings can be added (Table 1). In addition, the majority of the study area falls within Cockermouth's conservation areas, which collectively contain a large number of listed buildings preserved within a nationally significant townscape. Only two sites, the Tute Hill Scheduled Ancient Monument Site **01**, and part of the Deer Orchard (Site **03**) lie within or close to the proposed development area, and all fall within a designated conservation area.

Period	No of sites	Sites
Bronze Age	1	?Tute Hill (Site 01)
Medieval	6	Tute Hill Motte (Site 01), Cockermouth Castle (Site 02), Deer Orchard (Site 03), Cockermouth Medieval Town (Site 04), Market Place (Site 06), Little Mill Fulling Mill (Site 08)
Post-medieval	9	Castle Brewery Windmill (Site 05), Market Place (Site 06), St Helen's Street Tannery (Site 07), Little Mill Fulling Mill (Site 08), Cockermouth Ropewalk (Site 09), Windmill Lane Windmill (Site 10), Derwent Mill/Harris Mill (Site 11), Castle Tannery (Site 12), Storage Building, Skinner Street (Site 13)

Table 2: Number of sites by period

5.2 CRITERIA

5.2.1 There are a number of different methodologies used to assess the archaeological significance of sites; that to be used here is the 'Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments' which is included as Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990). The following criteria are assessed:

- *Period*
- *Rarity*
- *Documentation*
- *Survival/Condition*
- *Group Value*
- *Fragility/Vulnerability*
- *Diversity Potential*

- 5.2.2 Those sites previously listed (*Section 4*) and which would either be affected by the proposed development, or lie sufficiently close as to provide clues about the nature of archaeological remains that might be encountered within the development area, were each considered using the criteria, with the results below. The significance of standing buildings within the study area is already recognised through their listed status and, since none are likely to be physically affected by the development, nor are sufficiently close to provide information on the nature of any archaeological remains within the study area, they are not extensively considered in the following section.
- 5.2.3 **Period:** a number of the identified sites are significant in terms of characterising their period. Tute Hill (Site **01**) can be considered a type-site whether it is interpreted as a Bronze Age round barrow or an Anglo-Norman motte (indeed, the use of a prehistoric feature as a motte is not unprecedented, as exemplified by the Anglo-Norman fort at Knowth, Co Meath). The same is true of Cockermouth Castle (Site **02**), the Deer Orchard (Site **03**), the planned medieval town (Site **04**), and the market place (Site **06**), which are characteristic elements of the medieval landscape. The significance of the St Helen's burgages is harder to ascertain, as although this part of the town on the east bank of the Cocker is reputed to be the oldest settlement focus (Winchester 1986, 117), this has not been definitively proven. With the exception of the Deer Orchard, the significance of these sites is already recognised through statutory designations or that they lie within conservation areas.
- 5.2.4 **Rarity:** Tute Hill is an extremely rare example of a motte castle (as opposed to a motte and bailey) in the Derwent valley. Similarly, were it to date to the Bronze Age, it would again be considered both rare and regionally significant, given the general lack of contemporary remains in the Cockermouth, area. The state of preservation of the planned medieval town (Site **04**) has long been recognised as both rare and significant, but were the St Helen's Street burgages shown to be peri-or pre-Conquest in origin, such remains would be extremely rare, regionally. The proximity of the Deer Orchard (Site **03**) to the later castle and the medieval town itself cannot be considered common place.
- 5.2.5 **Documentation:** Cockermouth belongs to a large class of small urban areas which have physical and documentary evidence of twelfth- and thirteenth-century planned urban development (Winchester 1986, 109). As such, the planned medieval town (Site **04**), gains further significance through this documentation. Arguably, this lends even greater significance to the putative earlier settlement indicated by the earlier documentary sources, as lying east of the Cocker in the area of St Helen's Street and the Bitter Beck. The significance of the other documented sites, including both castles (Sites **01** and **02**) and the Deer Orchard (Site **03**), are similarly enhanced.
- 5.2.6 **Group Value:** Cockermouth Castle (Site **02**), the Deer Orchard (Site **03**) and the market place (Site **06**) have a clear group value that enhances their already high individual importance. Although the planned medieval town (Site **04**) forms an important element in this medieval group, any evidence of the putative eastern settlement focus might be considered far more significant, given that it is likely to be contemporary in origin with the other sites in the eastern side of the Cocker. As such, Tute Hill (Site **01**) can be considered to be

a highly significant element of this early settlement group. Although they are not contemporary, Tute Hill and Cockermouth Castle share a group value in demonstrating the development of the town's defensive installations.

- 5.2.7 **Survival/condition:** the Tute Hill motte (Site **01**) survives to a height of 2.6m, albeit with some possible truncation and, aided by its Scheduled Monument Status, can be said to be preserved in reasonable condition. Elements such as the surrounding ditch have probably silted-up, but are technically likely to survive. The condition of remains associated with any structures that would have once surmounted the motte is harder to assess; any upstanding remains would certainly appear not to survive, but negative features, postholes and foundations may still be present as buried remains. Any survival of remains of earlier medieval Cockermouth are harder to define, not least because its location is somewhat conjectural; were such a settlement to have corresponded with the St Helen's Street burgages, then any settlement remains most probably lie to the south of the proposed development area. Although the Deer Orchard (Site **03**) has been intruded upon by post-medieval development, parts survive within the modern townscape. However, the survival of intrinsic medieval elements, such as the park pale and any lodges (although the proximity of the castle might negate the requirement for the latter), is harder to define and, had their survival as upstanding earthworks been extensive, one might expect this to have been observed previously. If once present, one might expect the southern pale to run along the rear of the St Helen's Street burgages, just to the south of Tute Hill. As such, any remains of the bank are likely to have been destroyed by more recent development, but the ditch may survive as a negative feature. Specifically within the proposed development area, the fact that the area was subsumed by the Deer Orchard by 1259 would indicate that any remains in the local area would have lain undisturbed for over 700 years prior to more recent development. As such, the area would have been spared the ravages of agriculture and, although the twentieth-century development in the area is likely to have had some negative impact, the fact that the area around Tute Hill is carparking may mean that negative features may be preserved in a relatively undisturbed state.
- 5.2.8 **Fragility/Vulnerability:** the statutory protection afforded to Tute Hill (Site **01**) only extends to 2m around the monument, and any below ground remains associated with the base of the monument would be vulnerable to encroachment from further development. Similarly, any remains of the putative Deer Orchard (Site **03**) park pale or of any associated structures, could be damaged by any intrusive groundworks. The remainder of the sites within the study area are unlikely to be affected by the development, and cannot be considered vulnerable in this particular instance.
- 5.2.9 **Diversity:** of the sites within the study area, only Tute Hill itself (Site **01**) displays anything in the way of diversity in terms of date and usage, although this is based on the conjectural interpretations of the mound as a prehistoric barrow, a Norman motte, or even the site of a windmill.
- 5.2.10 **Potential:** the combination of preservation through emparkation (Site **03**), the presence of a possible prehistoric burial mound (Site **01**) and the possibility that the earliest medieval settlement focus lay in the vicinity means that there is potential for the survival of well-preserved archaeological remains within

the development area dating from the prehistoric period to the medieval period.

5.3 SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.3.1 Although the significance of Tute Hill (Site **01**) is recognised through its statutory designation, the scheduled area is of limited extent; any associated remains lying outwith the scheduled area would be of great significance. Any such associated prehistoric remains would be locally significant, given the lack of contemporary material from Cockermouth. Were medieval settlement or military evidence to be found in a similar association then, due to the rarity of motte castles in the locality and to pre- or peri-Conquest settlements in the area, such remains would be considered as regionally or even nationally significant. Any structures or earthworks associated with the Deer Orchard would be considered regionally significant by virtue of the longevity of the park, and its group value with the Scheduled Monuments of Tute Hill and Cockermouth Castle.

6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 IMPACT

- 6.1.1 Of the thirteen sites of cultural heritage importance lying within the study area, only one, that of the regionally significant medieval Deer Orchard (Site **03**), actually lies within the proposed development area. A second, the scheduled area of the nationally significant Tute Hill Scheduled Ancient Monument (Site **01**), adjoins the eastern edge of the development area, whilst there is a possibility that elements of the medieval town (Site **04**) may extend into the development area.
- 6.1.2 The impact of the development upon the Deer Orchard can be assessed in a number of ways. As an open space, the part of the deer park that lies within the proposed development area has effectively been destroyed by twentieth-century development, and further building works would have no further effect. As an archaeological feature, the internal elements of the vast majority of the park, comprising areas of grazing and covert, are somewhat indefinable and, technically, the development would have no more physical impact upon these elements than it would upon an area of meadowland. However, the impact upon more definable remains, such as the putative park pale, any internal structures, areas of organised planting or even the paths depicted on the nineteenth-century OS maps, would be more severe. Any levelling to natural glacial deposits is likely to remove any vestiges of standing remains and banks, whilst the excavation of foundations and service runs could impact on negative features such as ditches, tree boles, paths and any earlier foundations.
- 6.1.3 Whilst Tute Hill (Site **01**) is technically protected by its statutory designation, the actual scheduled area extends only 2m from the monument itself. There is, therefore, the strong possibility that any, as yet unidentified, associated remains, be they prehistoric or medieval, could extend into the development area. Such remains would be extremely vulnerable to any negative groundworks.
- 6.1.4 Although the remains of the medieval town (Site **04**) lie on the western side of the Cocker, there is a strong possibility that earlier settlement remains survive in the area of Tute Hill. Whilst it seems probable that any associated archaeological features would lie within the existing St Helen's Street burgages, there is a small possibility that early settlement could have lain closer to the motte. The impact of any negative groundworks upon these putative remains would again be severe.
- 6.1.5 Although the proposed development site lies within a conservation area containing a large number of listed buildings, any impact upon these structures will be visual only. This impact will be partially mitigated by the location of the development to the rear of these historic properties and might in any case be considered minimal when compared to that of the existing leisure centre to which the new development will be appended.

7. WATCHING BRIEF

7.1 RESULTS

- 7.1.1 **Introduction:** the watching brief was carried out during the groundworks for the cycle path and parking bays alongside the existing access road (Fig 10), and was undertaken in three distinct stages, each with a separate corresponding area. **Area 1** related to groundworks for a series of carparking bays on the north-east side of the access road; **Area 2** consisted of parking bays to the north-west of the access road and a cycle path which ran between the access road to its east and Tute hill immediately to its west, before turning east as **Area 3** to run along the south boundary of the carpark. Detailed context descriptions are provided in *Appendix 3*.
- 7.1.2 **Area 1:** this area, 23m by 6m, was situated adjacent to the east side of the access road and 35m from the entrance, with the modern ground surface sloping from east to west. The topsoil and subsoil was removed to a maximum depth of 0.8m. The blackish-brown friable sandy clay topsoil, **100**, varied in depth from 0.15m at the north end to 0.53m at the south end. Subsoil, **101**, 0.15m in depth, was a re-deposited very stony light brown firm sandy clay with inclusions of brick, concrete and limestone chippings. The excavation terminated within this subsoil, and no archaeological features, finds, or the natural geology, were revealed.
- 7.1.3 **Area 2:** monitored groundworks within this area ran north for 80m along the west side of the access road; the southern part, corresponding with the cycle track, was 23m long by 2m wide before widening to 4m to accommodate parking bays for the remainder of its length. The depth of the excavation varied between 0.2m at the north end to a maximum of 0.8m towards the centre and 0.45m at the south end. Beneath the topsoil, **200**, a thin layer of made ground, **202**, 0.1-0.2m thick, was identified at the north end of the excavation. This extended southward for approximately 35m, whereat its southern-most extent just overlay a second, similarly shallow layer of made ground, **203**. The layer continued for approximately 10m and, in the vicinity of Tute Hill sealed a relict subsoil horizon, **204**, up to 0.2m thick, beneath which the natural geology, **201**, was revealed at a depth of approximately 0.53m below the modern ground level. Natural deposits were only intermittently revealed during excavation, and no archaeological features or finds were identified.
- 7.1.4 **Area 3:** the excavation in this area to the south edge of the carpark continued for a distance of 26m in a west to east direction, to a maximum depth of 0.45m. Topsoil **300** was 0.2m in depth and overlay a re-deposited mix of soil and ash, with 20% inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded stones. Groundworks in this area also did not reveal the natural geology, any archaeological features or finds.

7.2 SYNTHESIS

- 7.2.1 Despite the potential for archaeological remains associated with medieval settlement, the deer park and with the Tute Hill mound, no archaeological features were identified. Where topsoil stripping and levelling of the areas alongside the access road revealed redeposited soils and make up layers, these are probably related to the construction of the access road itself. The layer of ash and soil, **302**, revealed at the south end of the site, may relate to the dumping of material from the adjacent properties, although the absence of any finds means that it is not possible to date this material. As such, it has not been possible to shed further light on the interpretation of Tute Hill as either a prehistoric burial mound or as a medieval motte. However, the shallow nature of the groundworks, which rarely reached the natural geology, means that there is potential for the preservation of archaeological remains below the excavated depth.

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9. ILLUSTRATIONS

9.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites

Figure 3: An early seventeenth-century map of Cockermouth (c 1620)

Figure 4: Hodkinson and Donald's map of Cockermouth (1775)

Figure 5: Extract of the Enclosure Map (c 1832)

Figure 6: Extract of Wood's Plan of Cockermouth (1832)

Figure 7: Extract of First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1866)

Figure 8: Extract of Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1900)

Figure 9: Extract of Third Edition Ordnance Survey map (1925)

9.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Area 1 on the eastern side of the access road, looking south. Tute Hill can be seen clearly in the background

Plate 2: North end of Area 2, looking south

Plate 3: East-facing section of Area 2 north of Tute Hill, showing topsoil **200** and natural geology **201**

Plate 4: South end of Area 2, looking south

Plate 5: Area 3 looking west.

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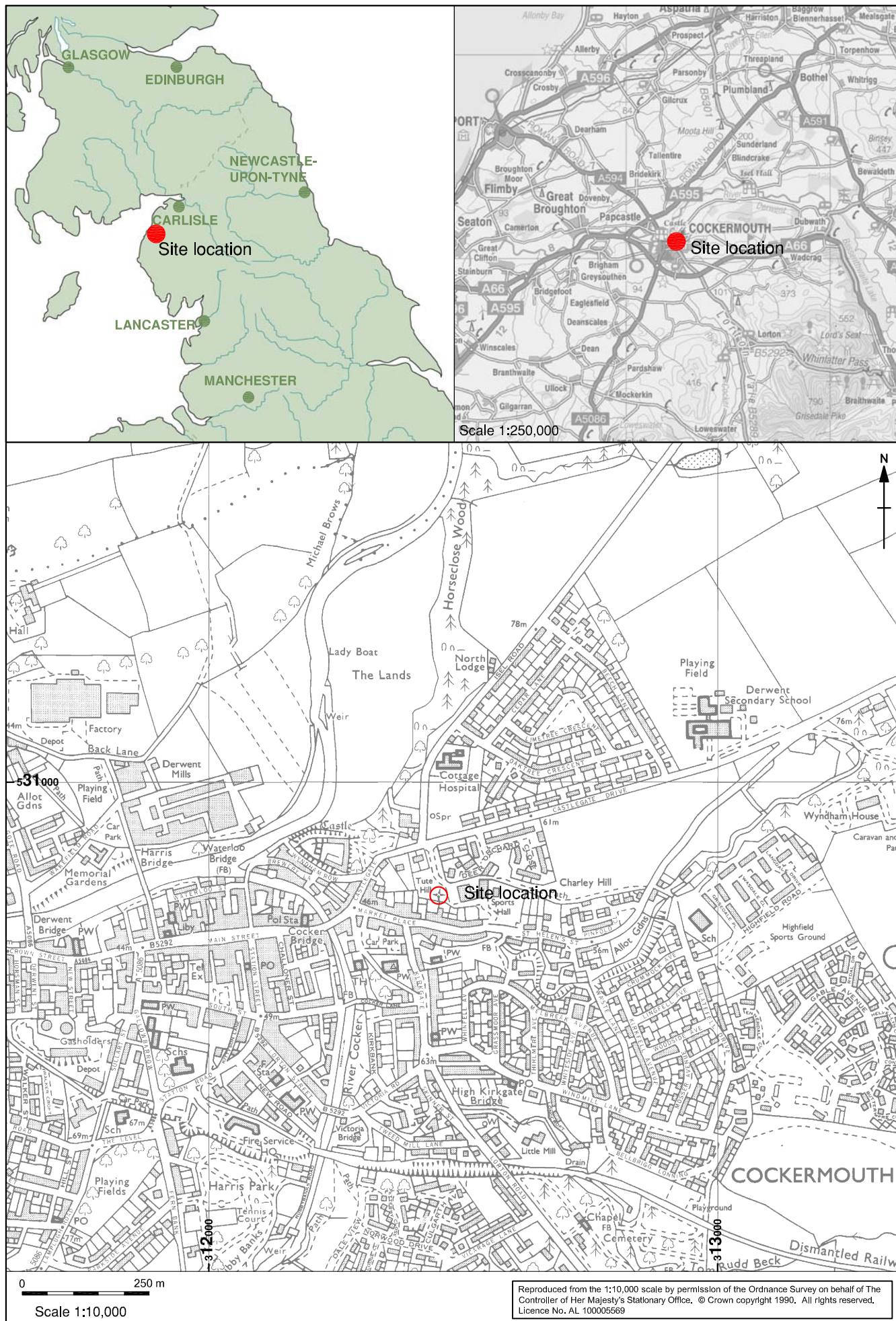


Figure 1: Site Location

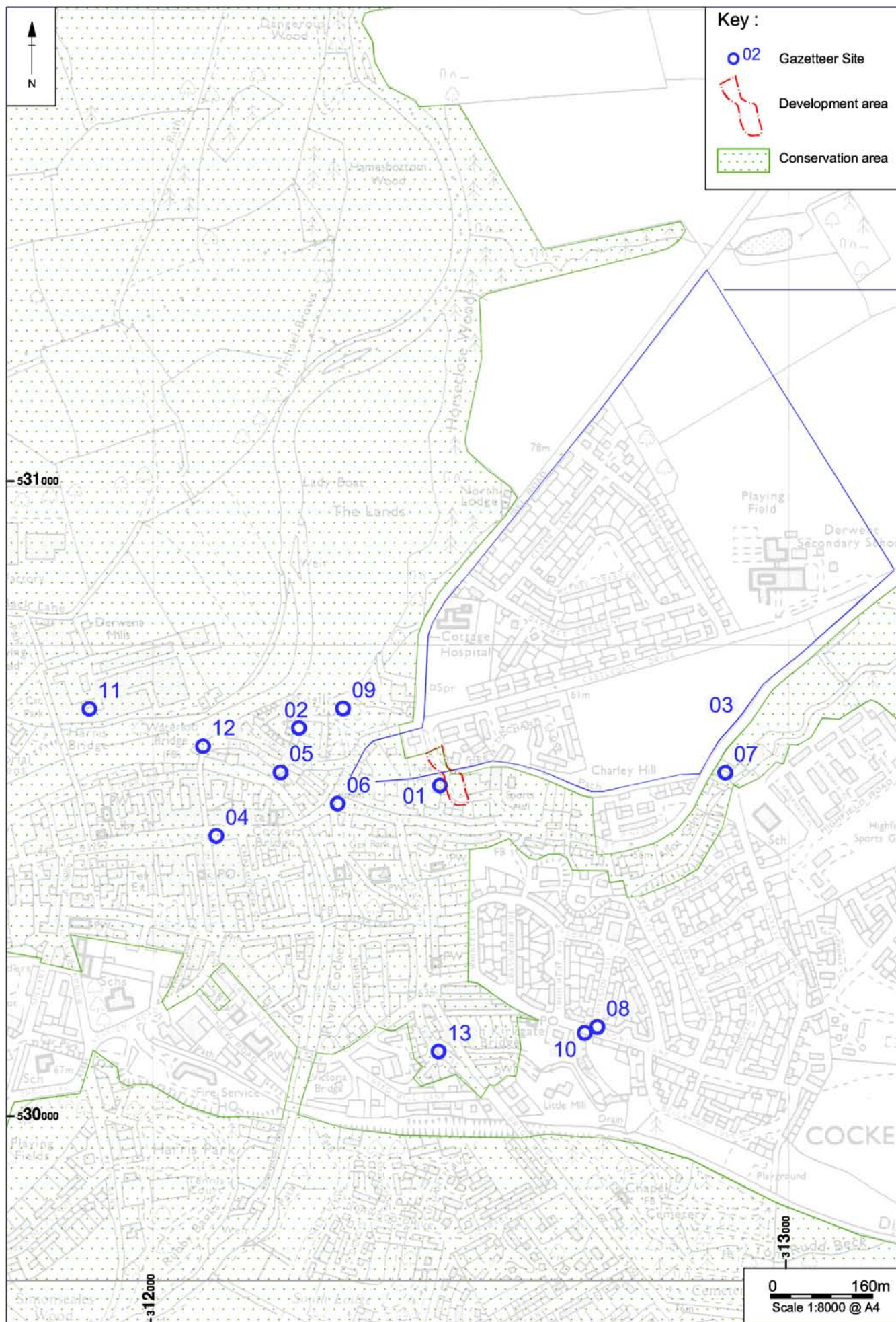


Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites



Figure 3: An early seventeenth-century map of Cockermouth (c1620)

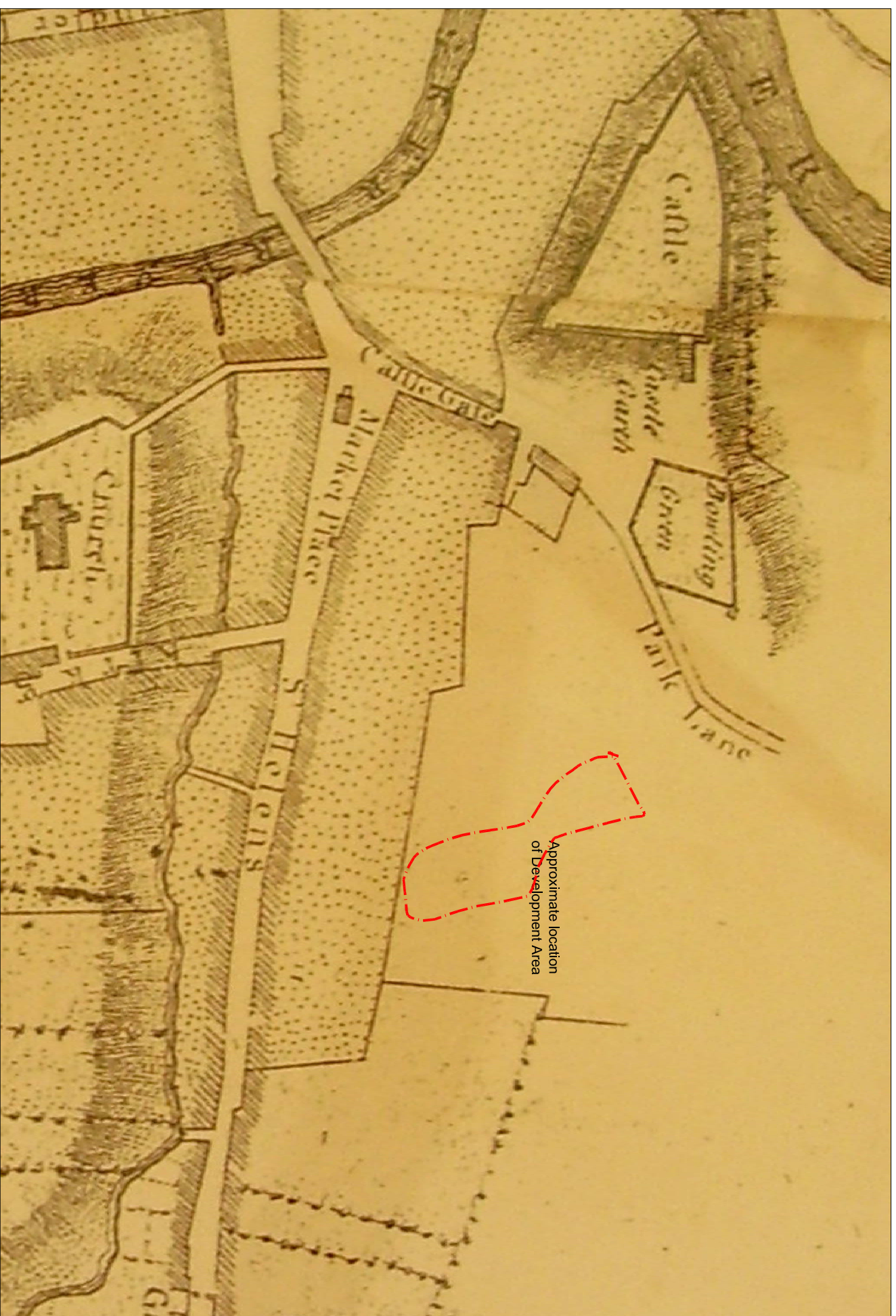


Figure 4: Hodkinson and Donald's map of Cockermouth (1770/1)

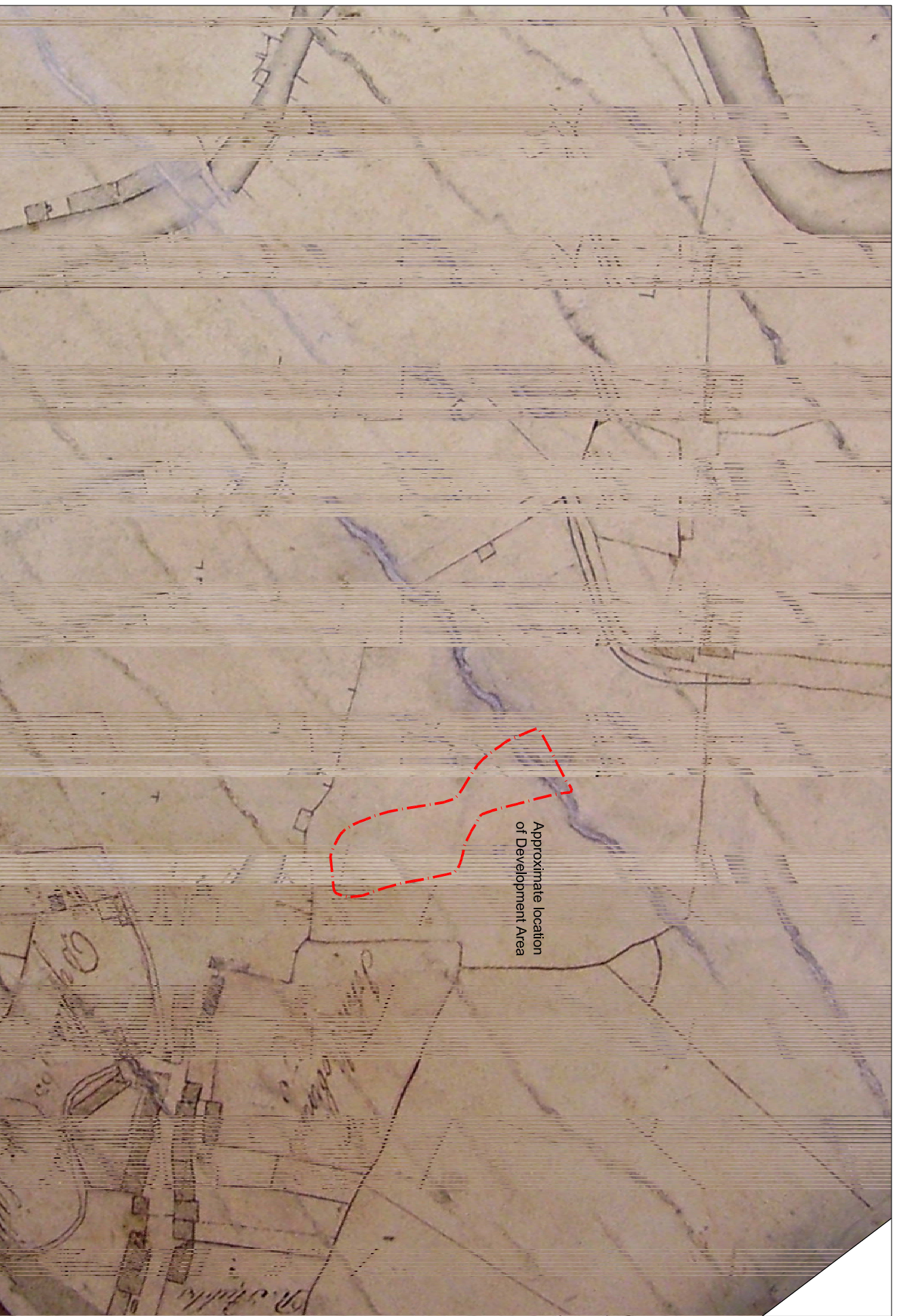


Figure 5: Extract of the Enclosure map (c1832)



Figure 6: Extract of Wood's plan of Cockermouth (1832)

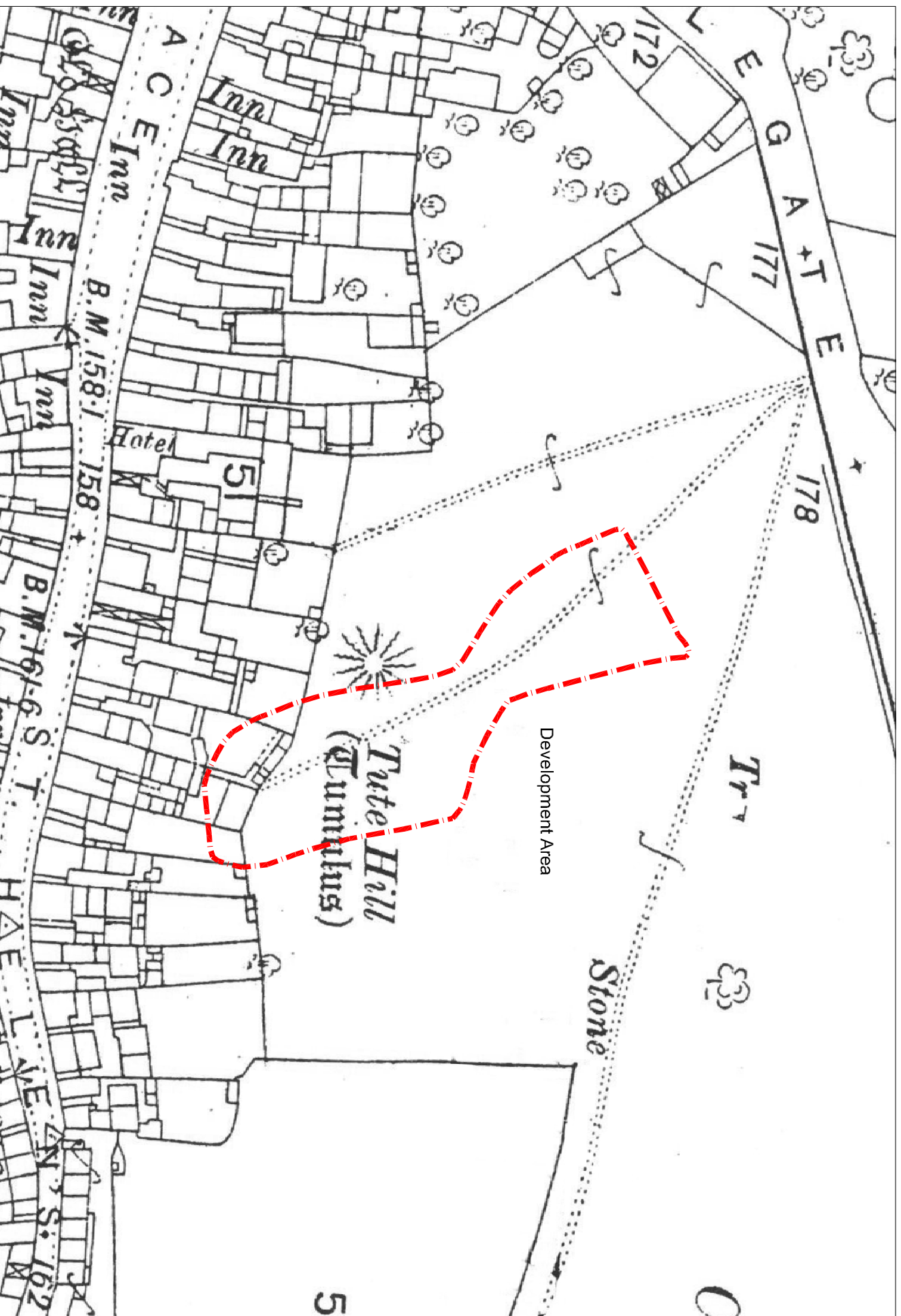


Figure 7: Extract of First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1866)

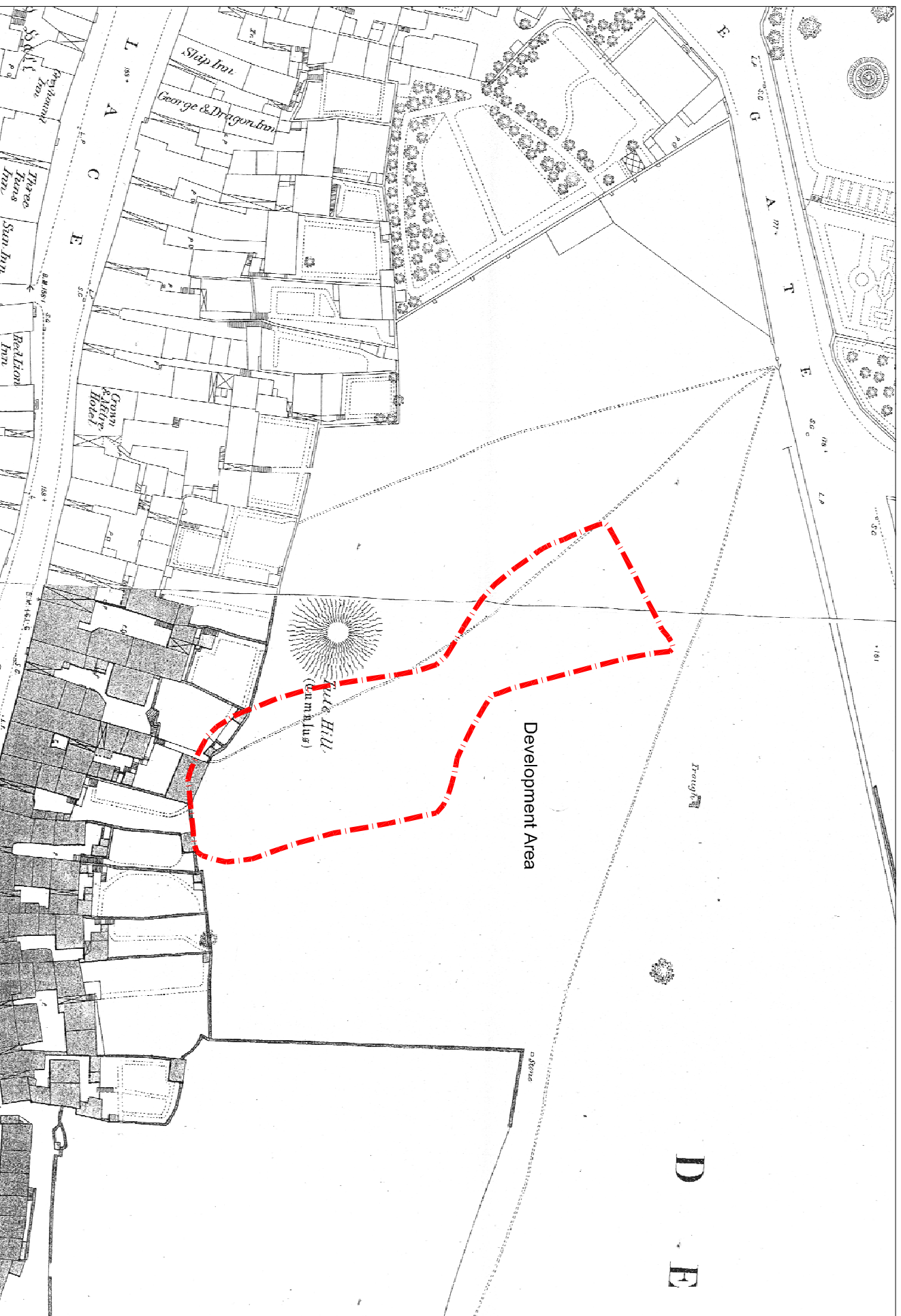


Figure 8: Extract of Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1886)

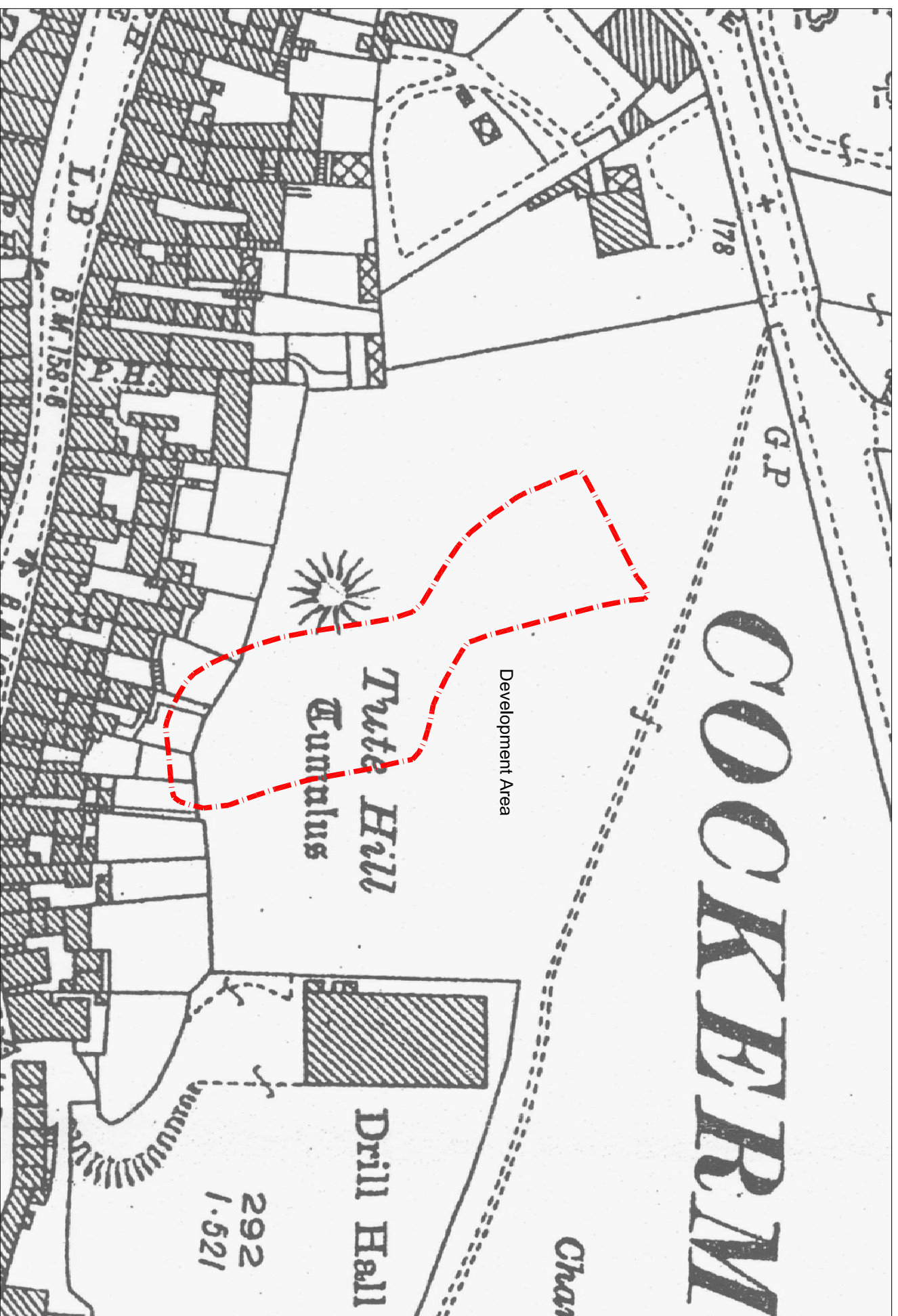


Figure 9: Extract of Third Edition Ordnance Survey map (1925)



Plate 1: Area 1 on eastern side of access road, looking south. Tute Hill mound can be seen clearly in the background



Plate 2: North end of Area 2, looking south



Plate 3: East-facing section of Area 2, north of Tute Hill, showing topsoil, *200*, and natural geology, *201*



Plate 4: South end of Area 2, looking south



Plate 5: Area 3 looking west.

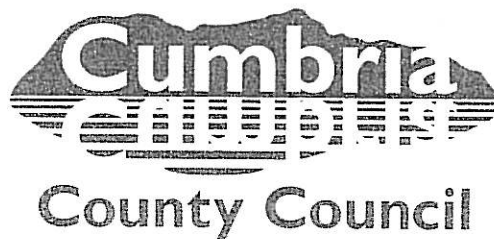
APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT COCKERMOUTH LEISURE CENTRE, CASTLEGATE DRIVE, COCKERMOUTH

Issued by the

County Historic Environment Service

Environment Unit, Economy, Culture and Environment



Date of Brief: 12 February 2007

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: Cockermouth Leisure Centre, Castlegate, Cockermouth

Grid Reference: NY 1243 3081

Planning Application No.: 2/06/1344

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. 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 erection of an extension and additional car parking spaces at Cockermouth Leisure Centre, Castlegate, Cockermouth
- 2.2 The scheme affects an area of archaeological potential, as it lies adjacent to Tute Hill Scheduled Monument (Scheduled Monument no. 23798). Consequently, a programme of archaeological works comprising a watching brief is required during the course of the ground works of the car park and pedestrian access.
- 2.3 This advice is in accordance with guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (Archaeology and Planning) and with policy CO23 of the Allerdale Local Plan.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The area of the proposed works is located close to Tute Hill, the earthworks remains of a 12th century motte castle, which is protected as a Scheduled Monument (SM no. 23798).

4. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

4.1 Objectives

- 4.1.1 To identify any surviving archaeological remains within the development groundworks and to investigate and record any revealed archaeological remains or deposits.
- 4.1.2 To collate and assess existing information about the historic environment of the site and to determine as fully as possible from the available evidence the nature, survival, quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains within the area affected by the development.

4.2 Work Required

- 4.2.1 Before any on site work commences a desk-based survey of the existing resource should be undertaken.

- ❖ Collation and assessment of any relevant information held in the County Historic Environment Record.

to identify important sites
to assess the potential of *known* sites

- ❖ Assessment of relevant published sources including articles in national, regional and local journals. A useful directory of the major archive, museum and library collections in Cumbria can be found in Winstanley, M & David, R, 2006, *A Guide to Cumbrian Historical Sources*, Lancaster University.

- ❖ Assessment of relevant unpublished documents including, where appropriate, reports compiled by heritage conservation professionals and students theses.
- ❖ Collation and assessment of all cartographic information relevant to the area.
 - to identify historic landuse
 - to provide an assessment of the potential extent of disturbance to the archaeological resource caused by cellars and other intrusive features

4.2.2 All topsoil stripping, ground reduction, and excavation of footings and services trenches must be carried out under archaeological supervision. 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.

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*, 2nd 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 trench 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 of *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed. 1991, and arrangements made for its deposit 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.

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

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APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

COCKERMOUTH LEISURE CENTRE, CASTLEGATE, COCKERMOUTH, CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK- BASED ASSESSMENT AND WATCHING BRIEF: PROJECT DESIGN



Oxford Archaeology North

February 2007

Day Cummins Ltd

OA North Job No: T2966

NGR: NY 1243 3081

Planning Application No: 2/06/1344

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Day Cummins Ltd (hereafter 'the client') have submitted proposals (Planning Reference 2/06/1344) for the construction of an extension, footpaths and additional carparking bays within the carpark of the Cockermouth Leisure Centre, Castlegate, Cockermouth, Cumbria (NGR NY 1243 3081). The site lies partially within the Cockermouth Urban Conservation Area, and very close to the Scheduled Monument of Tute Hill; consequently, following consultation with Allerdale Borough Council, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) issued a brief for a programme of archaeological investigation to be undertaken before and during groundworks associated with the development. At the client's request, the following document has been compiled by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in accordance with the requirements of the CCCHES brief, and represents a project design for a desk-based assessment and for a watching brief, to be undertaken respectively before and during any groundworks associated with the development of the site.

1.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 The area surrounding the site has been designated as an area of high archaeological importance by the Cumbria Extensive Urban Survey, and it would appear that there is particular potential for sites of medieval date within and around the development area. The proposed development is situated at the northern extent of the medieval core of the town of Cockermouth, now a conservation area, which is thought to have grown around the extant castle, just to the west of the present development site. The town received a borough charter in 1210, and much of the medieval street plan remains today. The extant castle is thought to have been first erected by the Normans in 1134, with significant additions in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, mainly as a result of the wars with Scotland when Cockermouth was sacked, plundered and put to the sword by the likes of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. It is possible, however, that the Tute Hill Scheduled Monument (SM no 23798), thought to represent the remains of a twelfth-century castle motte, either pre-dates the use of extant castle site, or perhaps represents the site of the Norman castle first recorded in 1134.
- 1.1.2 The potential for earlier remains is represented by the Roman fort at Papcastle (*Derventio*), about a mile north of the town and stone from which was probably utilised for the castle. Further afield, the earliest known activity in the surrounding area can be seen in the form of Elva Plain Stone Circle, which lies on a level terrace on the southern slope of Elva Hill and is probably Neolithic origin.

1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of the archaeological research and fieldwork investigation of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 25 years, both under the present name, but also in the former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.3.2 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, in accordance with the Cumbria County Council Archaeological Service (CCCHES) brief, to provide a desk-based assessment prior to, and watching brief during, groundworks associated with the proposed development. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 To provide a desk-based assessment of the site in order to identify the presence and assess the significance of any known archaeological remains within and immediately around the proposed development site, to outline the potential for further, presently unknown, archaeological features within the development area, and also to place any significant features discovered during the course of the watching brief within an historical and archaeological context.

2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.3.1 To identify, investigate and record any surviving archaeological features or deposits within the development area by means of detailed observation and recording in the course of the groundworks for the development.

2.4 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 An illustrated written report will present the results of the desk-based study and watching brief and assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. 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 **Introduction:** a desk-based assessment is usually undertaken as the first stage of a programme of archaeological recording. The desk-based assessment is not intended to reduce the requirement for evaluation, excavation or preservation of known or presumed archaeological deposits, but it will provide an appraisal of archaeological constraints and a guide to any requirement for further archaeological work.
- 3.1.2 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the time scale of the project.
- 3.1.3 **Documentary and Cartographic Material:** this work will include consultation of the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (CHER, formerly the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)) in Kendal, as well as the County Record Office, and local studies library in Whitehaven. Data from these sources will inform a review of all known and available resources of information relating to a study area comprising a 0.5km radius centred on the site of the proposed development. The aim of this is to give consideration not only to the archaeology and historic land use of the application site, but also its setting in terms of an appropriate historical and archaeological context, without reproducing large amounts of detailed background otherwise available elsewhere. Sources for consultation include:

- published and unpublished documentary sources, including journals and specialist reports
 - data held in local and national archaeological databases
 - printed and manuscript maps
 - place and field-name evidence
 - evidence for township, ecclesiastical and other ancient boundaries
 - aerial photographs in both national and local collections
 - other photographic/illustrative evidence
 - local museum catalogues and artefactual evidence
 - engineering/borehole data where applicable
 - geological/soil surveys
- 3.1.4 **Cumbria HER, Kendal:** the CHER is a database of known archaeological sites within the County. It also holds an extensive library of published materials and aerial photographs for consultation.
- 3.1.5 **Cumbria County Record Office, Whitehaven:** the Record Office in Whitehaven is the main repository of primary sources, including cartographic and documentary, and both historic and modern, for the present development site and its immediate surroundings.
- 3.1.6 **Map regression analysis:** a cartographic analysis will be undertaken of all available historical and modern maps in order to seek information concerning the post-medieval occupation and land-use of the area and its development through to its modern-day, or most recent, use. Such analysis also provides a method of highlighting areas of potential archaeological interest, in respect of which early cartographic sources, such as estate maps, tithe maps, and early edition Ordnance Survey maps are particularly significant.
- 3.1.7 **Geological/Soil Surveys:** a rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical and palaeoenvironmental information will be undertaken. It will be based on published geological mapping and any local geological surveys in the possession of the County Council or the client.
- 3.2 **WATCHING BRIEF**
- 3.2.1 **Health and Safety:** OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). OA North will liaise with the client to ensure all health and safety regulations are met. A detailed risk assessment will be completed in advance of any on-site works, with continuous monitoring and updating during the fieldwork. This can be supplied to all interested parties on request. All project staff will be CSCS qualified.
- 3.2.2 Any contamination issues must also be made known to OA North in order that adequate PPE can be supplied prior to commencement. Should any presently unknown contamination be discovered during excavation, it may be necessary to halt the works and amend the risk assessment. Any specialist safety requirements may be costed as a variation.
- 3.2.3 **Methodology:** all groundworks associated with the development, including topsoil stripping, ground reduction, and excavation of trenches for footings and services, will be undertaken during a programme of field observation. This will involve the systematic examination of any

subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks and the accurate recording of the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the proposed ground disturbance.

- 3.2.4 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified during observation, 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 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). Finds and environmental samples will be retrieved as appropriate.
- 3.2.5 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). Archaeological features and the extent of groundworks will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a **large-scale plan provided by the client**, and one or more measured sections will be produced. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.2.6 **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. 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. 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 environmental health regulations.
- 3.2.7 **Finds:** finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (current IFA guidelines) and subject to expert advice. All finds recovered during the watching brief 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.
- 3.2.8 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.
- 3.2.9 **Environmental Sampling:** subject to survival, environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). Subject to the results of the watching brief, an assessment of any environmental samples will be undertaken by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect appropriate deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of CCCHES and the client. All waterlogged finds will be treated as appropriate. In the case of large deposits of waterlogged environmental material (e.g. unmodified wood), advice will be sought with the OA North environmental manager with regard to an appropriate sampling strategy.
- 3.2.10 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with CCCHES 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 Assistant CCCHES Archaeologist.

3.3 ARCHIVE/REPORT

- 3.3.1 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the CHER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum.
- 3.3.2 **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 of fieldwork. A further copy will also be offered to the National Monuments Record. The report will include;
- a site location plan related to the national grid
 - a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results
 - the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken
 - description of the methodology and results
 - an interpretation of identified deposits
 - a finds list, including dates, and any other environmental/specialist work should it be undertaken
 - appropriate plans and sections, showing the location and position of deposits and finds located
 - a brief photographic record, showing any features of archaeological interest. Where no archaeological features are revealed, a photograph of an indicative section will be included
- 3.3.3 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the Client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

4 PROJECT MONITORING

- 4.1 **Access:** liaison for access to the buildings during the assessment will be arranged by the client, unless otherwise instructed prior to commencement of the archaeological investigation.
- 4.2 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the County Council Archaeologist or a representative, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work.

5 WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 **Desk-based Assessment:** this element is expected to take five days.
- 5.2 **Watching Brief:** the duration of the archaeological watching brief will be dictated by the schedule of groundworks.

- 5.3 **Report and Archive:** the client report will be completed within approximately eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork. The archive will be submitted within six months.

6 STAFFING

- 6.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.2 Present scheduling precludes the identification of a particular individual to undertake the desk-based assessment and watching brief, but OA North can confirm that such works would be undertaken by a suitably experienced archaeological Supervisor or Project Officer.
- 6.3 Assessment of any finds from the watching brief will be undertaken under the auspices of OA North's in-house finds specialist **Chris Howard-Davis** (OA North Finds Manager). Chris has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England. Any Environmental samples would be processed and assessed under the auspices of Elizabeth Huckerby (OA North Environmental Manager), who has extensive experience of undertaking and managing palaeoecological studies across the North West.

7 INSURANCE

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

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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<http://www.allerdale.gov.uk/downloads/page624/Car%20Park%20final.pdf>

SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers), 1991 *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

Context	Area	Depth (m)	Category	Description
100	1	0.2m	Topsoil	Blackish-brown friable silty sandy clay, 10% inclusions of small sub-rounded stone
102	1	0.1	Made ground	Light brown firm sandy clay, 20% inclusions small - medium sub-angular and sub-rounded stone, occasional brick fragments, limestone chippings
200	2	0.53m	Topsoil	Blackish-brown friable silty sandy clay, 10% inclusions of small sub-rounded stone
201	2	-	Natural geology	Mid-brown firm sandy clay, 30% inclusions of small - medium sub-angular and sub-rounded stone
202	2	0.23m	Made ground	Blackish-brown friable sandy clay, 30% inclusions of pea gravel and small - medium sub-angular and sub-rounded stone, occasional brick fragments
203	2	0.2m	Made ground	Yellowish-brown firm sandy clay; inclusions of 30% gravel
204	2	0.32m	Relict soil horizon	Blackish-brown firm fine sandy clay, <10% small - medium sub-rounded stone
300	3	0.20m	Topsoil	Blackish-brown friable silty sandy clay, 10% inclusions of small sub-rounded stone
301	3	-	Natural geology	Mid-brown firm sandy clay, 30% inclusions of small - medium sub-angular and sub-rounded stone
302	3	0.1m	Made ground	Mix of topsoil and ash