REEDYFORD WEIR, PENDLE WATER FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Photographic Record

Oxford Archaeology North

September 2005

Volker Stevin Ltd

Issue No: 2005-6/416
OA North Job No: L9531
NGR: SD 8550 3870

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SUMMARY

As part of the Pendle Water Flood Alleviation Scheme, Volker Stevin Ltd are currently undertaking work to improve the flood defences of Pendle Water. The proposed redevelopment would involve the demolition of Reedyford Weir, a water management scheme dating to the early part of the twentieth century. In light of its moderate historical significance, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) recommended that an archaeological photographic survey was completed to a RCHME Level I-Type standard, to provide a permanent record of the structure prior to its demolition. Proposals to undertake the required work were submitted by Oxford Archaeology North at the request of the client, and subsequently approved by LCAS. Immediately prior to the commencement of the fieldwork, the client also requested the recording of a retaining wall and outfall aperture northwards along Pendle Water adjacent to Romney Avenue, which was agreed to by LCAS. The survey of the two sites included an extensive photographic record, and a brief written description and photographic location plan; the work was undertaken on Friday 27th May 2005.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Richard Birchall of Volker Stevin Ltd for commissioning the project, and his logistical help on site.

Karl Taylor and Chris Ridings undertook the field investigation. The report was written by Chris Ridings, who also compiled the drawings, together with Karl Taylor. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who edited the report together with Alan Lupton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 Volker Stevin Ltd is currently undertaking work to improve the flood defences of Pendle Water as part of the Phase 2 works of a Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS). The proposed action plan will involve the demolition of Reedyford Weir, a water management scheme dating to the early part of the twentieth century, which is located to the north-west of Nelson and Colne College, Scotland Road, Nelson, Lancashire (SD 8550 3870). Additional work is also proposed on the stretch of Pendle Water adjacent to Romney Avenue, Nelson, Lancashire (SD 8580 3900). In light of its moderate historical significance, Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) requested that a photographic record, a brief written description and outline plan be undertaken to a Level I-type standard, in order to assess the weir's historical significance and provide a permanent record, prior to its demolition. Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by the client, Volker Stevin, to undertake the work in May 2005.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North, at the request of the client, in response to the recommendation by LCAS for a RCHME Level I-type survey. The project design 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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

2.2.1 ***Descriptive record***: written records using OA North *pro forma* record sheets were made of all principal structural elements, as well as any features of historical or architectural significance. Particular attention was also paid to the relationship between the various parts of the structure, especially those that would show its development and alterations. These records are essentially descriptive, although interpretation is carried out on site as required

2.2.2 ***Photographs***: photographs were taken in monochrome 35mmm print and colour slide formats. The photographic archive consists of both general shots of the whole structure and shots of specific features of interest. The location of the photographs have been plotted on site drawings in Figures 2 and 3, the details of which relate to the photographic lists in the archive.

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 IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). This will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Lancashire HER. In addition, the paper archive will be deposited in the County Record Office in Preston.

3. RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The photographic survey involved the investigation of two separate sites affected by the Pendle Water FAS. The focus of the investigation was Reedyford Weir, although the survey also included an out-fall and retaining wall on the stretch of Pendle Water approximately 700m upstream and adjacent to Romney Avenue.

3.2 REEDYFORD WEIR

3.2.1 ***The Weir:*** the weir (Plate 1) is aligned north/south and measures approximately 13m in length (Fig 2). It is constructed from timber baulks (Plate 2), that measure approximately 0.25m square and up to 7m long. The baulks are stacked up to three timbers high and are secured in place with large iron rods (Plate 3). Along the eastern face of the weir, there are the partial remains of vertical timber boards (Plate 4), whilst on the west side of the weir there is a platform of water-eroded concrete with cobble inclusions (Plate 5).

3.2.2 ***North Bank:*** the north bank has a retaining wall (Plate 6) measuring approximately 10m in length and 2m in height, which is constructed from coursed random sandstone rubble. At the west extent of this wall, the rubble stone is interspersed with both coursed dressed stones, each measuring up to 0.5m square, and smaller sub-angular rubble stone. Towards the centre of the elevation, there is a large blocked aperture (Plate 7) with a substantial sandstone lintel. This was originally an out-fall measuring 5m wide and 1.6m high that has subsequently been infilled with red brick. A small opening has been left within the brick blocking, which has a sandstone lintel and measures 0.6m wide and 0.4m high.

3.2.3 To the west of the weir, there is an arrangement of stone steps (Plate 8), with each individual step measuring up to 0.5 m high and 1m wide. These are joined together with narrow iron staples, approximately 0.03m wide. Further west, there is a stone wall of intermittent coursing, which is constructed using sub-angular and rectangular rubble stone. It stands at up to 1.5m high, and is topped with earth and the remains of a stone-aggregate concrete. This small stretch of wall runs for 5m along an east/west alignment, before curving towards the north-west for 2.3m, then heading south-west for 2.6m. In the centre of the straight stretch of walling, there is a small aperture measuring 0.6m square, from which runs a modern plastic pipe. In addition, at the base of the curved section, there is a concrete platform, above which are located two large iron out-take covers (Plate 9). The more westerly cover has the mark 'Tuke and Bell of London' and measures 0.66m in diameter and 0.05m thick. The second is marked 'Ames, Crosta, Mills and Co Ltd' and measures 0.52m in diameter and 0.03m thick. This latter pipe is evidently still in use, whilst the former has been blocked with modern brick.

3.2.4 ***South Bank**:* the south bank consists of a retaining wall of coursed rubble stone (Plate 10), which is now in a severe state of collapse. In addition, the stonework is overgrown with mosses and lichens, and the bank itself is concealed with dense foliage. It would appear to have been of a comparable size and construction to its counterpart on the north bank (*see 3.2.2-3.2.3*, above).

3.3 ROMNEY AVENUE

3.3.1 The retaining wall (Fig 3) is constructed using coursed random rubble with cement mortar (Plate 11). There is a sandstone coping, which exhibits diagonal furrow tool marks, above which a concrete wall has been constructed. It has a small out-fall aperture measuring 0.6m wide by 1.03m high, which is bounded by sandstone quoins and a lintel (Plate 12). An iron grill measuring 1.9m long and 0.8m wide was employed to prevent debris entering the intake, but this is now redundant, as the aperture has been subsequently blocked with hardboard.

4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

RCHME, 1996 Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification, 3rd Edition, London

5. ILLUSTRATIONS

5.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Location map

Figure 2: Site plan of Reedyford Weir showing the photograph locations

Figure 3: Site plan of the Romney Avenue site showing the photograph locations

5.2 PLATES

Plate 1: North-west facing view of Reedyford Weir

Plate 2: Timber baulks on the eastern face of Reedyford Weir

Plate 3: The iron rods used to secure the timber baulks on Reedyford Weir

Plate 4: Remains of the vertical boards on the eastern face of Reedyford Weir

Plate 5: The concrete platform on the western side of Reedyford Weir

Plate 6: North-facing view of the retaining wall on the north bank of the Reedyford Weir site

Plate 7: Detail of the blocked out-fall on the north bank of the Reedyford Weir site

Plate 8: North-west-facing view of the north bank of the Reedyford Weir site

Plate 9: Out-falls on the north bank of the Reedyford Weir site

Plate 10: South-facing view of the south bank of the Reedyford Weir site

Plate 11: Retaining wall at the Romney Avenue site

Plate 12: Detail of the blocked out-fall at the Romney Avenue site

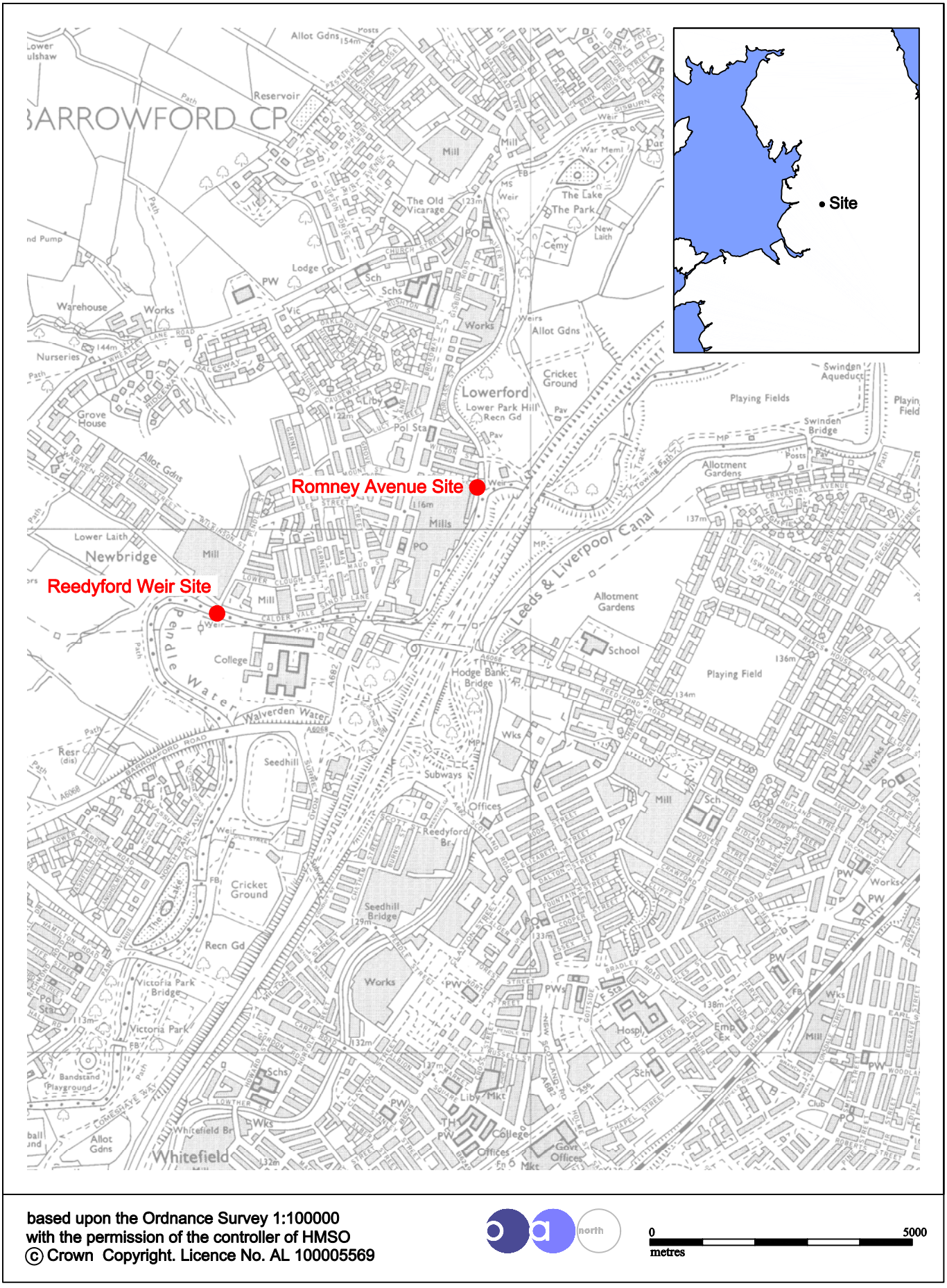

Figure 1: Location map

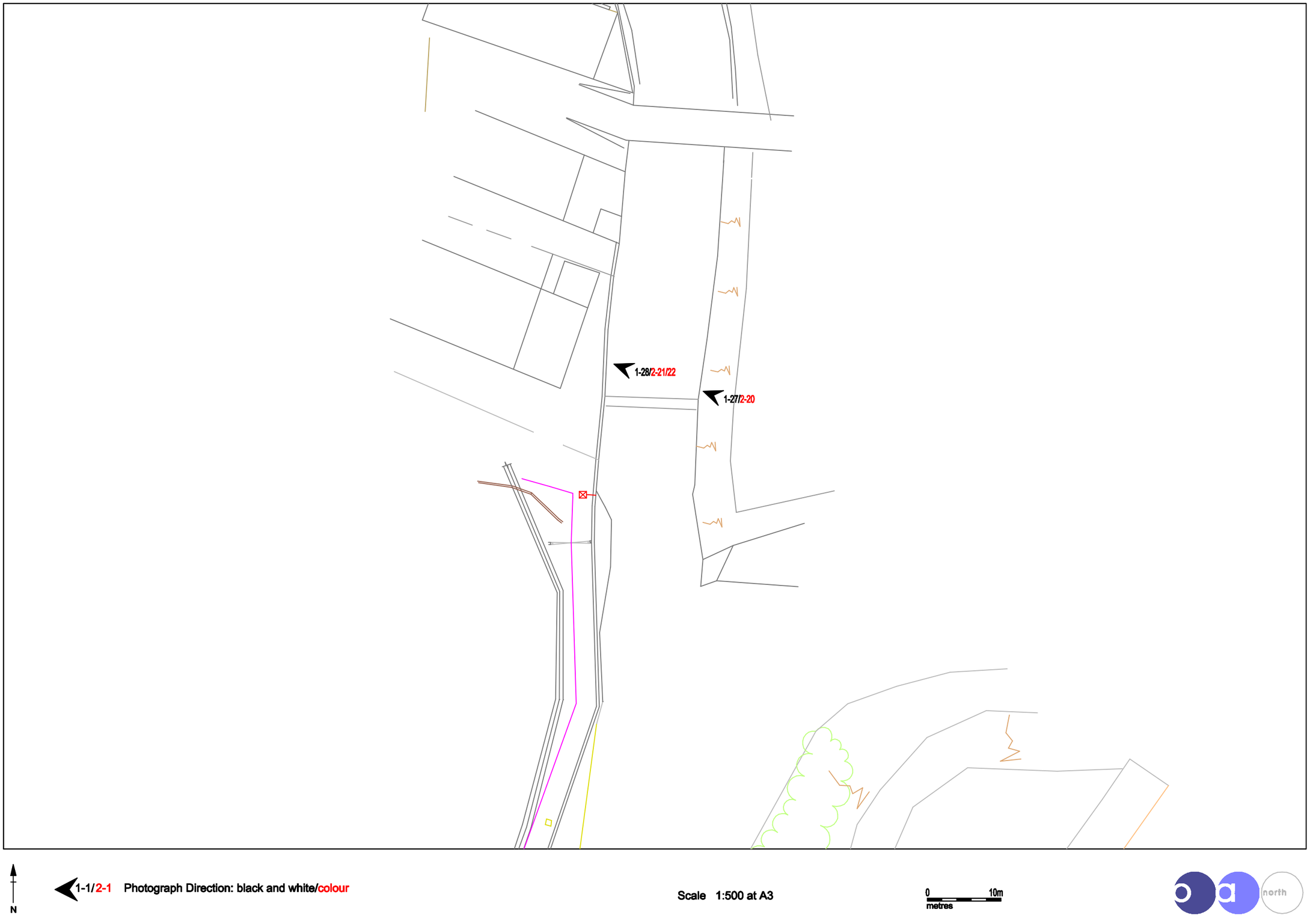

Figure 3: Site Plan of Romney Avenue showing location of photographs

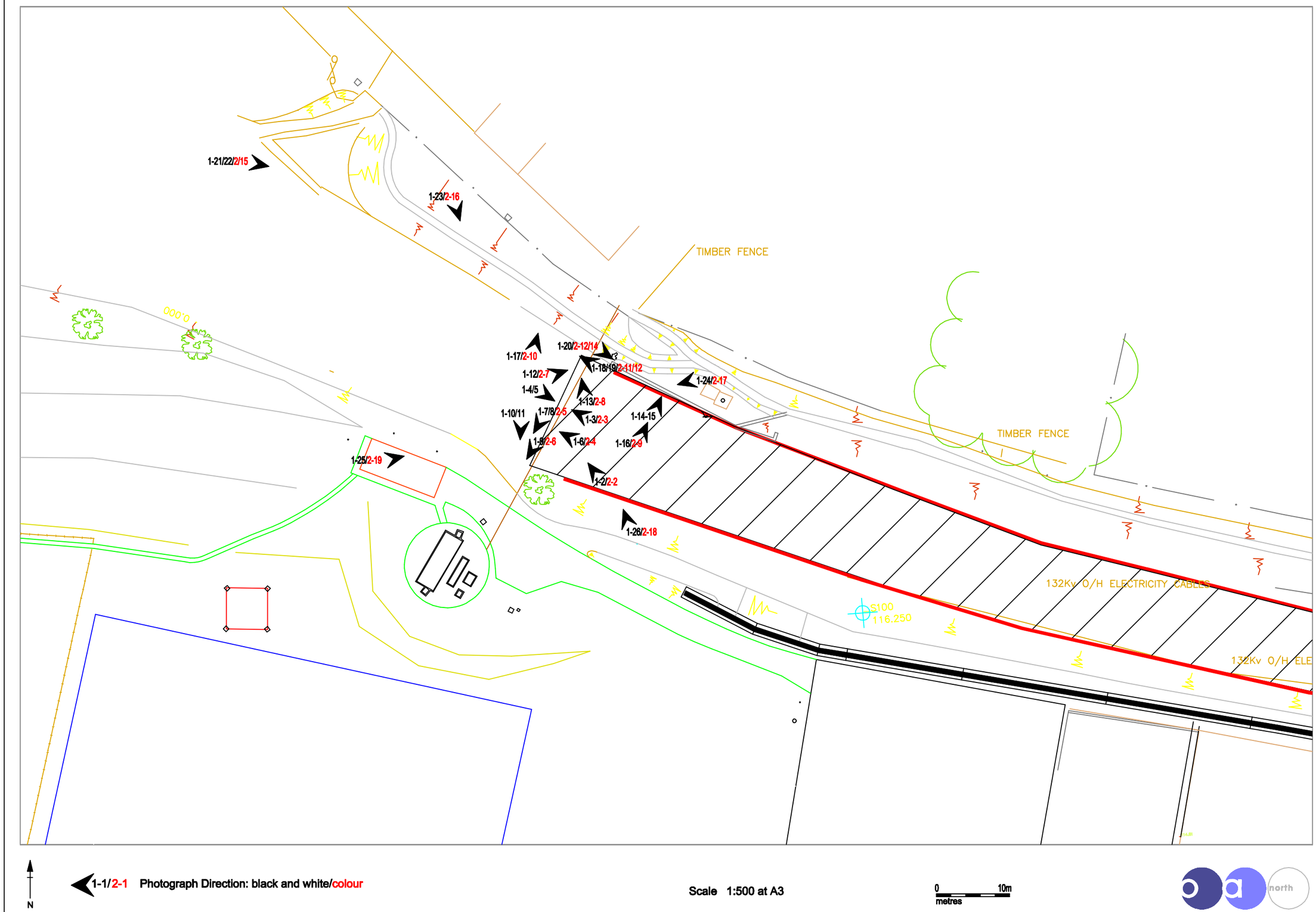

Figure 2: Site plan of Reedyford Weir showing photograph locations

Plate 1: North-west facing view of Reedyford Weir

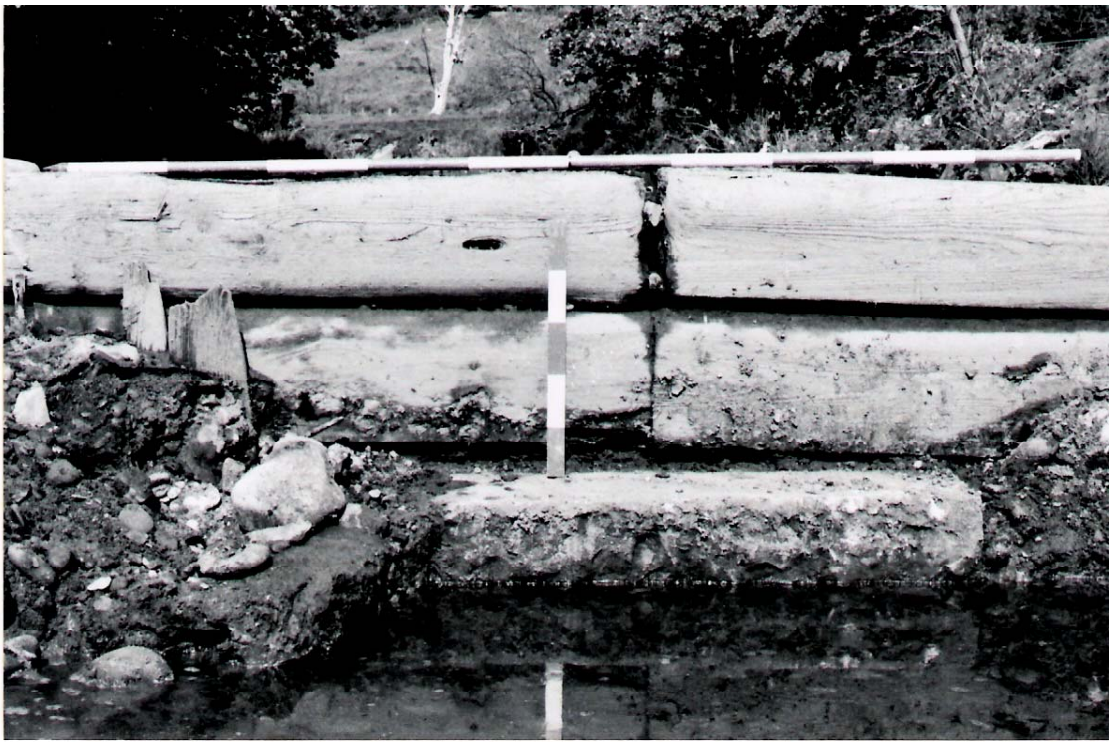

Plate 2: Timber baulks on the eastern face of Reedyford Weir

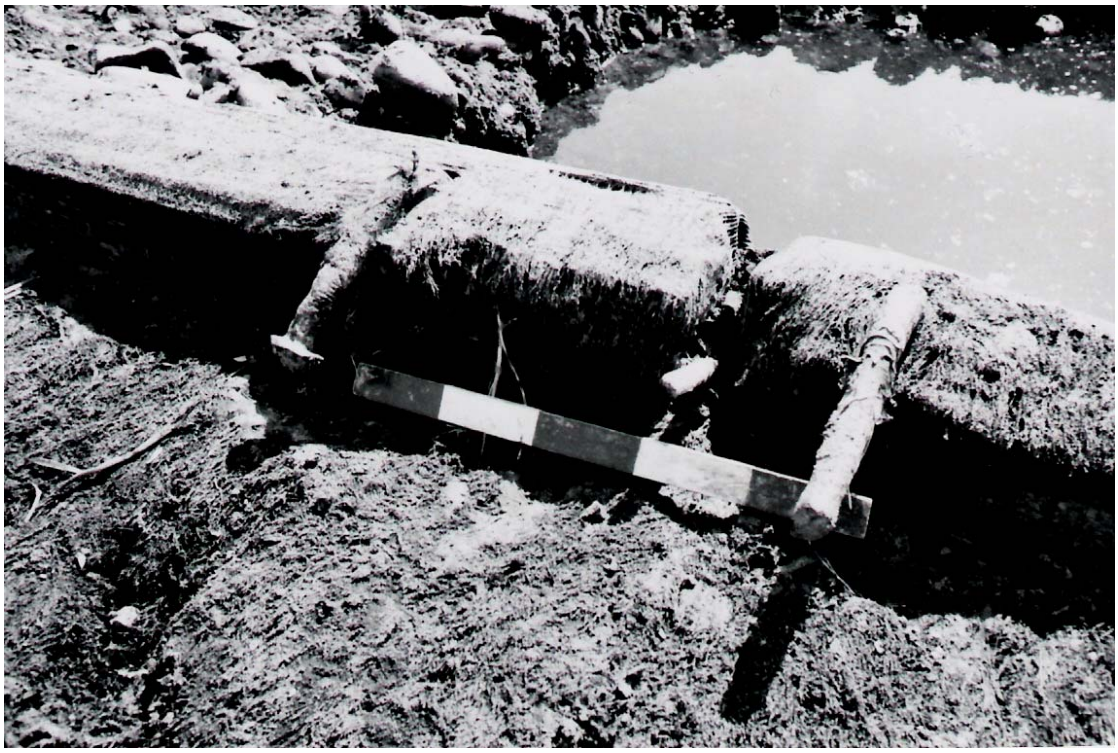

Plate 3: The iron rods used to secure the timber baulks on Reedyford Weir

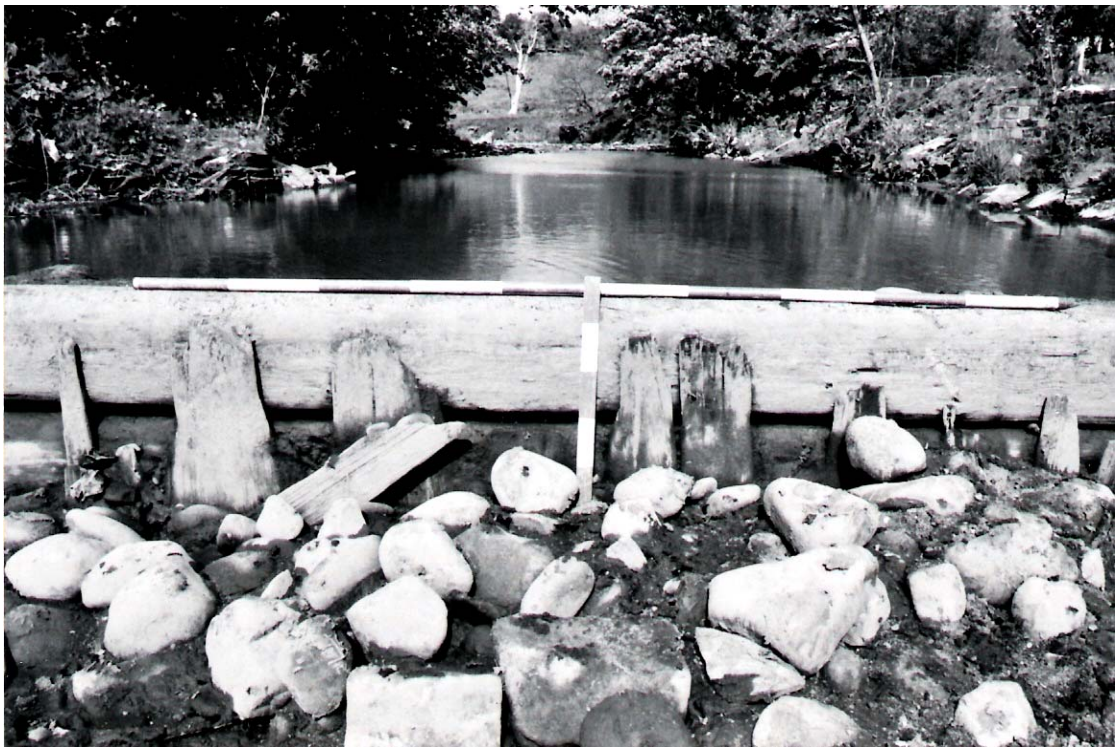

Plate 4: Remains of the vertical boards on the eastern face of Reedyford Weir

Plate 5: The concrete platform on the western side of Reedyford Weir

Plate 6: North-facing view of the retaining wall on the north bank of the Reedyford Weir site

Plate 7: Detail of the blocked out-fall on the north bank of the Reedyford Weir site

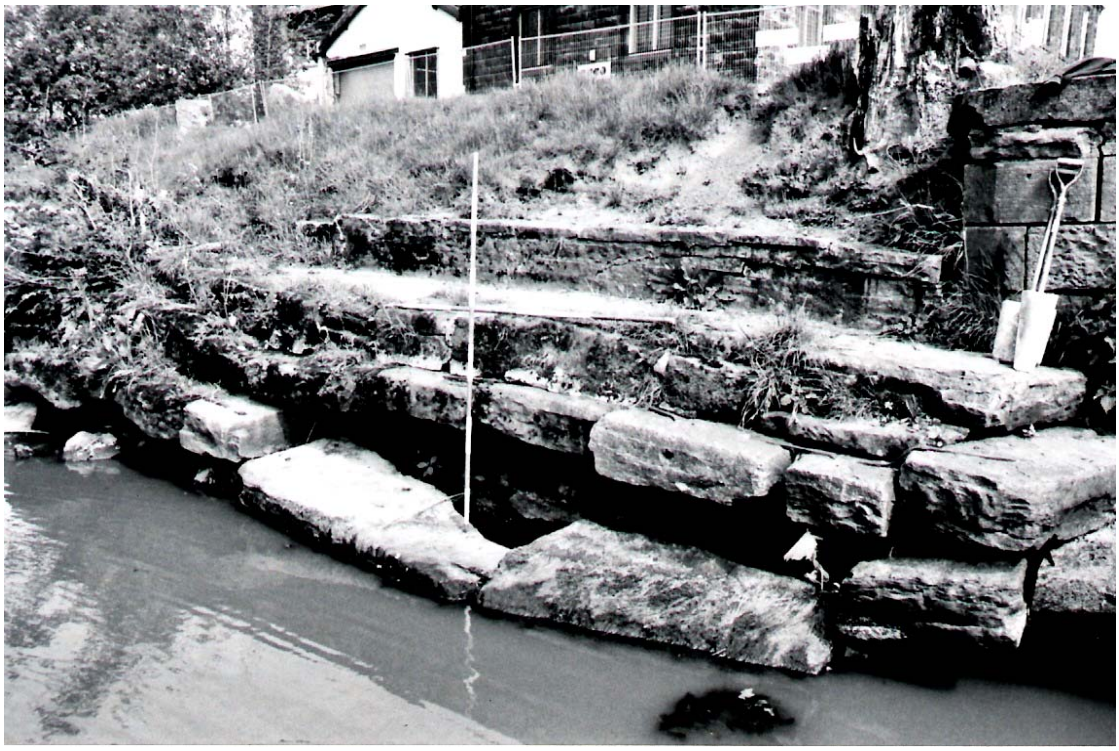

Plate 8: North-west-facing view of the north bank of the Reedyford Weir site

Plate 9: Out-falls on the north bank of the Reedyford Weir site

Plate 10: South-facing view of the south bank of the Reedyford Weir site

Plate 11: Retaining wall at the Romney Avenue site

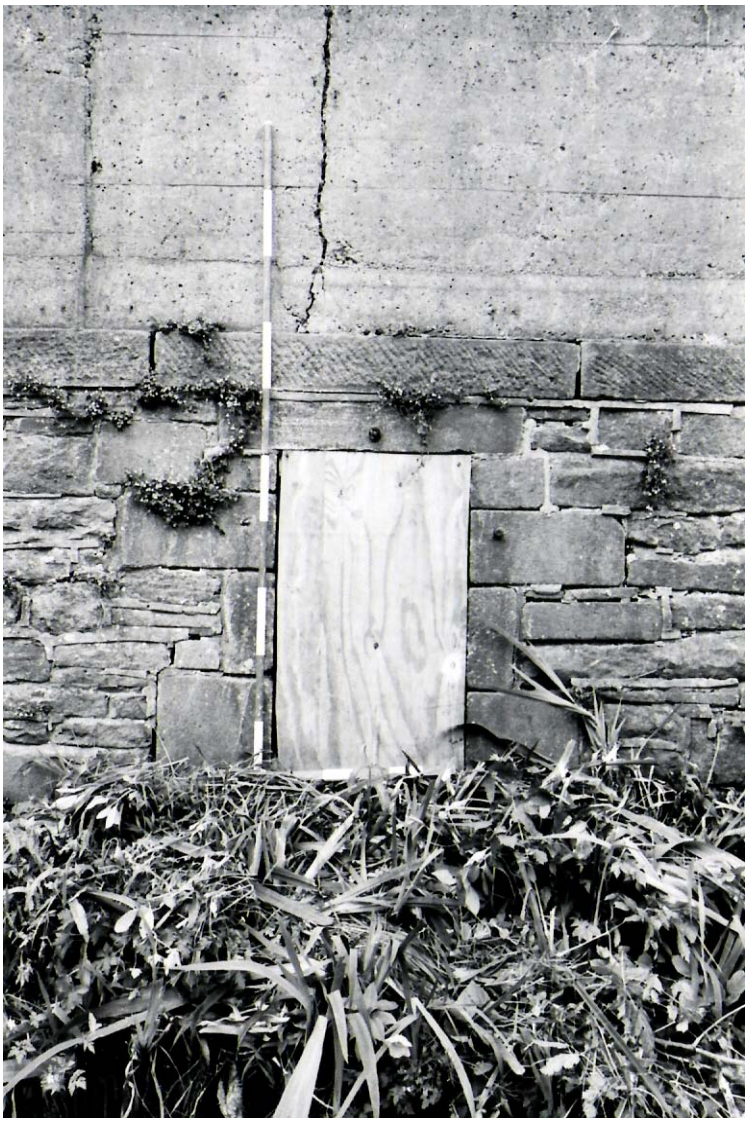

Plate 12: Detail of the blocked out-fall at the Romney Avenue site

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Volker Stevin Ltd (hereafter the client) has requested Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals to undertake an archaeological photographic record of the Reedyford Weir prior to its demolition as part of the Pendle Water Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS). Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) have requested that a photographic record, accompanied by a brief written description and outline plan be carried out due to its moderate historical significance.

1.1.2 The weir was constructed during the early part of the twentieth century, seemingly as part of a channel management scheme than any associations with industrial premises or purposes.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North has considerable experience of assessment and building assessment, as well as the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 24 years. These have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of Clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.

1.2.2 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 to provide an accurate assessment of the weir. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 ***Assessment:*** to provide visual record of the weir to RCHME Level I type standard prior to its demolition.

2.3 ***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 (MAP 2).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 FIELDWORK

3.1.1 A visual inspection of the weir will be undertaken to RCHME Level I-type survey standards. This level of survey is a visual record, which will serve to identify the location and age. The emphasis of the assessment will be to generally record and note any significant features.

3.1.2 It is important that this survey will take place when the weir has been drained and fully exposed immediately prior to its demolition

3.1.3 ***Written Description:*** the written record will include:

(i) the precise location of the weir;

(ii) date of the record and the surveyor;

(iii) description of the type of structure, purpose, materials and possible date of origin from a superficial inspection.

3.1.4 ***Photographic Archive:*** a photographic archive will be produced utilising a 35mm camera to produce both colour slides and monochrome contact prints. A high-resolution digital camera (4 megapixels) will also be employed for general coverage and for use for illustration purposes within the final report. A full photographic index will be produced. The photographic archive will comprise the following:

(i) The general view of the weir;

(ii) Any detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the design, development and use,

(iii) Any detailed views of features of especial historical interest, fixtures and fittings, or fabric detail relevant to phasing the buildings.

3.1.5 ***Site Drawings:*** an outline site plan will be produced to show the location of the weir subject to the assessment.

3.1.6 Notably, the plan will illustrate the location and orientation of the photographs taken.

3.1.7 It is assumed that a suitable (engineer's) plan **will be provided by the client** prior to the commencement of the site work. Any variation from this will require recosting.

3.1.8 ***Access:*** it is presumed that access to the site has been arranged by the client. Should there be any requirements or constraints regarding access, these must be made aware to the project manager (OA North) prior to commencement of the fieldwork.

3.2 **REPORT**

3.2.1 One bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, and a further bound copy and digital copy supplied as pdf files will be submitted to the Lancashire HER within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork.

3.2.2 ***Confidentiality:*** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

3.3 **ARCHIVE**

3.3.1 The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The results of the 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 Lancashire HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). The paper archive will be deposited with the County Record Office, Preston.

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). OA North will liase with the client to ensure all health and safety regulations are met. A risk assessment will be completed in advance of any on-site works. It is assumed that any information regarding health and safety issues on site will be made available by the client to OA North prior to the work commencing on site.

5 PROJECT MONITORING

5.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the Lancashire County Council Archaeologist, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work.

6 WORK TIMETABLE

6.1 The fieldwork element of the assessment will take one day on site.

6.2 The client report will be completed within approximately eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

7 STAFFING

7.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc AIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

7.2 The assessment will be undertaken by an OA North project officer or supervisor experienced in RCHME recording work. Due to health and safety, a field assistant will also be present on site.

8 INSURANCE

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

RCHME, 1996, *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification*, 3rd edn, Swindon

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

