

MOOREND FARM, THURSBY, Cumbria

Evaluation Report



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SUMMARY

A desktop assessment and archaeological evaluation was undertaken in July 2002 of the proposed development site on the premises of Holly Lodge, Moorend Farm, Thursby, Cumbria (centred at NY 3284 5031 - Fig 1), by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) on behalf of Senator Homes.

The assessment comprised a desk-based survey of available documentary and cartographic sources; it highlighted the archaeological resource within and around the study area at Moorend Farm. In general, the identified archaeological material is of local importance, comprising typical examples of medieval to post-medieval agricultural and settlement features. In addition, there are numerous possible prehistoric sites in the vicinity indicating activity in the area at this time.

Following on from the assessment, an evaluation, consisting of two trenches, was carried out on the site to determine the state of preservation of any archaeological remains. The evaluation demonstrated that the level of truncation from modern features was high and that the surviving features were all of post-medieval date.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OA North would like to thank the staff of the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record, especially Bette Hopkins for her prompt and professional response to enquiries, and the friendly and ever obliging staff of the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle. In addition, thanks should go to James Beattie of Ken Hope for his excellent and meticulous work during the machining. Thanks should also go to Mrs Hughes for B & B booking and to the staff at the Cartref B & B for being understanding of our needs.

The desk-based study and report was undertaken by Vix Hughes, who also supervised the fieldwork, assisted by Chris Healy. The illustration was undertaken by Catherine Hopwood and Emma Carter and the finds examined by Ian Miller. The project was managed by Alan Lupton, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was contracted by Senator Homes to undertake a desk-based assessment and evaluation in July 2002 on part of the premises at Holly Lodge, Moorend Farm, Thursby, Cumbria (centred at NY 33284 55031 Fig 1) following submission of a project design (*Appendix 1*).
- 1.1.2 The desk-based study consisted of a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in Kendal; the Cumbria County Record Office in Carlisle (CRO(C)); the library and archives at OA North's offices in Lancaster; and the Local Studies Library in Carlisle. Following on from the assessment, an evaluation, consisting of two trenches, was carried out on the site to determine the state of preservation of any archaeological remains.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document which outlines the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and recommendations for further work.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.1.1 Sites and Monuments Record (SMR): the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record, a database of archaeological sites within the county and maintained by Cumbria County Council in Kendal, was accessed. A brief record including grid reference and description was obtained for the various sites within the defined area and each record was studied and information extrapolated concerning what may be located within the study area.
- 2.1.2 *Aerial Photographs:* the area is currently a greenfield site and therefore it was appropriate to consult the available aerial photographs also held at the SMR offices, many of them part of the SMR reference collection.
- 2.1.3 County Record Office (Carlisle): the County Record Office in Carlisle was visited primarily to consult documents specific to the premises within the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including any tithe maps and Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, were also examined. Particular emphasis was placed upon the early cartographic evidence which has the potential to inform medieval and post-medieval occupation and landuse of the area. A search was made for any relevant historical documentation, particularly regarding the use of the area, drawing on the knowledge of the archivists. Most sources were primary and provided information concerning landuse and ownership, population, and the general local history of the study area. Several secondary sources and archaeological or historical journals were also consulted.
- 2.1.4 *Local Studies Library (Carlisle):* numerous pertinent secondary sources and copies of primary published documents were available at this location, as well as in the library and archives of OA North in Lancaster. All such sources were consulted.
- 2.1.5 **World Wide Web:** some information about the development area, particularly concerning parish records and census data for the area, was gained from sites relating to archives and local histories on the web.

2.2 GAZETTEER OF SITES

2.2.1 All of the information concerning archaeological sites within the assessed area has been collated into a gazetteer (*Appendix 3*), which provides details of their location, period, and character. Locations are given as eight-figure National Grid References where possible, and the position of each site is indicated on Figure 7.

2.3 EVALUATION

- 2.3.1 The Assistant Archaeologist of Cumbria County Archaeology Service suggested that an area approximately 5% of the total development should be excavated to confirm the presence or absence of buried deposits of archaeological significance. In total, two trenches were excavated (Fig 8).
- 2.3.2 The trenches were positioned in the open areas of the site rather than within any of the extant structures. Trench positioning was also dictated by the presence of services along the western side, towards the street, and overhead telegraph wires in the same area. Further complications included a large amount of the external area being covered by concrete.
- 2.3.3 Once the concrete had been broken the trenches were excavated through relatively soft ground and encountered no obstacles or impediments. The trenches were excavated using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket, working under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation progressed down to the level of potentially significant archaeological deposits in Trench 1 and to the level of the natural geology in Trench 2. Subsequently, all trenches were hand cleaned and all excavation of features was manual. Cut features, including pits and post holes, were half sectioned, linear features were sectioned with 10% being examined, and extensive layers were dealt with by partial excavation, either by hand or by machine. Vertical stratigraphy was observed in the exposed sections of the trenches, which provided valuable sequential information. All excavation was carried out with the aim of avoiding damage to archaeological features which appeared worthy of *in situ* preservation.
- 2.3.4 Recording was by means of OA North's standard objective context recording system (compatible with that used by English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology), with trench records and supporting registers and indices. A full photographic record in colour slide and monochrome formats was made and section drawings compiled of relevant areas of the trenches and features at appropriate scales. Full hand-drawn plans were made of every trench, levels were recorded and tied in using the known Bench Mark, located on the milestone in the village. The trenches were located manually by triangulation to known and established points on OS maps.

2.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

2.4.1 Full regard was given to all health and safety constraints and regulations. A risk assessment was carried out in advance of work commencing and all work complied with OA North's Health and Safety Statement and Unit Safety Policy. All site procedures were in accordance with the guidance set out in the *Health and Safety Manual* compiled by the Standing Conference of Unit Managers (rev. 1999).

2.5 ARCHIVE

2.5.1 A full archive has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The paper archive will be deposited in the CRO (Carlisle) with additional copies of the report being lodged with the CSMR at Kendal. A synthesis of the archive has also been made available for deposition in the National Monuments Record. Following agreement with the client the finds will be discarded.

3. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Thursby village is set around a triangular village green, and extends outwards, approximately 1km from the centre. It is located to the south of the A595 (Carlisle to Cockermouth route) just east of where it splits into the A595 and A596 at NY 33284 55031. It is approximately 8km from the centre of Carlisle, which lies to the north-east. The village lies within the upper reaches of the River Wampool which flows north-west to the Solway Firth and is part of the area known as the Solway Basin, as defined by the then Countryside Commission in 1998. The surrounding area is relatively low lying, gently undulates and is ideally suitable for pastoral agricultural activities. Most of the area lies at 40m-50m OD.
- 3.1.2 The solid geology of the region is complex, lying near an area of several small faults, mostly aligned east-west, which have produced convoluted deposits. The area around Thursby lies on the border of two main types of sedimentary formations: to the south the area comprises red and green sandstones; and to the north are red and green mud- and siltstones with intercalations of salt (BGS 1982). Both of these deposits date to the Triassic period and were deposited under marine conditions between 195 and 225 million years ago. The red sandstones have been a frequently used resource for buildings of the region. The overlying drift geology is largely a product of glacial activity common in the Northern Counties, being mostly boulder clays deposited in the post-glacial period (Countryside Commission 1998). The overlying soils are mostly of the Salwick Association, which are stagnogleyic, argillic brown earths (Lawes Agricultural Trust 1983).

4. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 PREHISTORIC

- 4.1.1 There is clear evidence of man's activity in the area during the early prehistoric period. The fertile lands of the Solway Basin have been thought to have attracted settlement since the Neolithic period. The location of monuments of this period within Cumbria appears to suggest a shift in the emphasis of Neolithic activity from the coastal plain to the edge of the Lake District hills and the Eden Valley (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 37). There are numerous sites of possible Prehistoric date in the surrounding region, mostly identified from aerial photographs and seen as soil or cropmarks, but others are known from earthwork remains or spot finds.
- A complex of cropmarks identified in aerial photographs from 1975 clearly 4.1.2 shows two deep-ditched, settlement enclosures at Sandy Brow, only 3.5km to the south-west of Thursby. The two enclosures are only 50m apart and vary in size, with the western of the two being both slightly larger, and more regularly rectangular. Both have their entrances on the north-east side (Higham 1977). Associated with these settlements are elements of extensive field systems. Similar field systems are also known from Heads (NY 3297 5469, 4km away) and Greenrigg (NY 3275 5465, 6km away). Closer to Thursby, two sites are known, Thursby West and Thursby East (near Evening Hill). The Thursby West site includes a field system and a 1.1ha rectilinear enclosure complex composed of internal divisions and an enclosed entrance way (Higham 1977, 202) and the site at Thursby east is similar in nature. These three sites are all located on pockets of better quality, free draining soils more suitable for arable agriculture. In association with these settlements, there is evidence of ditched trackways, used to confine animal and human traffic from straying into the valuable arable areas. The overall picture is of an organised agricultural landscape, extensive in nature.
- 4.1.3 In the Iron Age, the North seems to have been under the aegis of the Brigantes tribe, of which the Carvetii, which appears in documentary sources in the midlater Roman period in the area of Carlisle, may have been a sub-set (Cunliffe 1991). Although there are no known remains of the Iron Age from the immediate vicinity of the study area, this may relate to the lack of definable and distinct 'Iron Age' material culture in the North West. However, there appears to have been a major expansion in forest clearance and increase in agricultural activity in the area during this period (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). Studies of aerial photographic evidence suggest the development of field systems and trackways and several of the undated enclosures identified on the Solway Plain may relate to Iron Age settlement (Bewley 1994).

4.2 ROMAN

4.2.1 There is considerable evidence for military activity around the study area during the subsequent Roman period, particularly from *c* AD 70 onwards,

when the Governor, Cerialis was active in the North between AD 71 and 74 (Shotter 1997). Not only is there evidence for numerous marching camps and forts but also the remains of an extensive and well-organised road and communications network. The nearest Roman fort is 7km to the north-east at Cummersdale and, in addition, there were numerous phases of two forts within the Carlisle area, at Annetwell Street and in Stanwix, 9-10km away (*ibid*). These forts were established in the Flavian period and later forts include Old Carlisle, only 7.5km to the south-west, which was probably established in the early second century (OA North 2002).

4.2.2 Connecting the forts at Carlisle, Cummersdale and Old Carlisle, and continuing south-westwards to Papcastle was a Roman road, identified by Margary as 75 (Margary 1973). The route of the road corresponds to the current A595 apart from where the modern road deviates around Thursby. The main street through Thursby, aligned south-west/north-east, would appear to be a continuation of the original road and, therefore, traces may yet survive. An antiquarian account maintains that the road was visible in the area of Thursby and was large and wide (Ferguson 1878, 70; Horsley 1732). There was probably a significant traffic in goods and people through the region, travelling throughout the hinterland of Hadrian's Wall, which was established in the second century AD, and the area around Thursby would have almost certainly been occupied by either indigenous Celts or settled by Roman followers.

4.3 EARLY MEDIEVAL

- 4.3.1 As is the case throughout Cumbria, evidence for early medieval activity is extremely limited. Once the administration of the Roman occupation was finally rescinded in *c* AD 410 (although there had been a gradual diminishing of government organisation for some time prior to this), the situation was essentially one where the 'native' Britons reverted to autonomy, however fractious that was. The region is thought to have been part of the kingdom of Rheged, which was under the control of the British king Urien at the end of the sixth century AD (Higham 1986, 266). By the seventh century onwards the area came under the sway of the expanding kingdom of Northumbria (Kirkby 1962).
- 4.3.2 Some tentative evidence for continued occupation of the region through the early medieval period comes from documentary sources, such as the *Notitia Dignitatum*, an official document containing a list of army units, which has been dated to *c* AD 410; this mentions Old Carlisle, which suggests that a Roman garrison was maintained there during the closing years of the fourth century. Significantly, there is some evidence, albeit slight, for continued occupation during the post-Roman period (Higham and Jones 1985, 127). The early ninth century work attributed to Nennius refers to the 'castle' which Vortigern built for himself at Guasmoric near Carlisle, 'a city which in English is called Palmcastre'. An inquest of 1305 includes Palmcastre among a group of enclosures in the King's forest (Inglewood Forest), all of which are identified as places in the western part of the parish of Westward, whilst a survey of the same area, dated 1578, mentions 'Old Carliell at Palmcastle' (*op cit*, 17). Using this evidence, Collingwood (1928, 111) raised the possibility

that the settlement at Old Carlisle may thus have been the capital of a British chief or king in the time of Vortigern, or else the same settlement was still inhabited and became the local centre of British survival when the Northumbrians arrived in the seventh century. Birley concluded that the settlement at Old Carlisle 'is by far the most promising one in the whole of our territory for the investigation of the transition from Roman Britain through sub-Roman Cumbria to Anglo-Norman times' (1951, 34).

- 4.3.3 In Carlisle, activity at Blackfriars Street extended beyond the traditional end of Roman government into the fourth and fifth centuries (McCarthy 1990) and excavations on Scotch Street, of a large Roman building, also show continuation into the fifth century (Keevill *forthcoming*); otherwise, much of the town would seem to have decayed. At Blackfriars Street the later 'Roman' layers were succeeded by features which have been identified as 'Anglian', although close dating is impossible (McCarthy 1990). Documentary evidence suggests that some elements of urban life were still in existence in the seventh century when, according to Bede (Colgrave and Mynors 1969), St Cuthbert saw water systems in use. In addition, Bede records a nunnery and possibly a monastery within the town (*ibid*), earlier than the cathedral precinct of the twelfth century (McCarthy 1990). Artefactual evidence from these sites includes coins which date between the eighth and eleventh centuries.
- 4.3.4 Further potential evidence may yet come to light in Stanwix where a complex of post-Roman postholes, forming what appeared to be a large rectilinear structure, was discovered (F Giecco *pers comm*) but these remain unexcavated and buried beneath newly erected buildings.
- 4.3.4 By the tenth century Hiberno-Norse cultural and political influences began to affect the area. The placename evidence indicates the presence of people of Hiberno-Norse extraction in the landscape throughout Cumbria (Fellows-Jensen 1985). More tangible evidence comes from the few known sites and finds, including stone sculpture and grave slabs from locations such as Dalston, Aikton, Great Orton (Ryder 2000), and hoards such as that found in the nineteenth century at Flusco, west of Penrith (Richardson 1996).

4.4 MEDIEVAL

- 4.4.1 In the early eleventh century most of present-day Cumbria was an area of dispute between the expanding kingdoms of England and Scotland (Kirkby 1962). Malcolm III of Scotland invaded Cumbria in 1070 and was still in possession of much of the area at the time of the Domesday survey of 1086. The area saw the arrival of the Normans when William Rufus went north in 1092 to fortify land against the Scots and planted a castle and colony at Carlisle (Rowley 1983, 50). In fact, there are suggestions that some of accompanying Normans were encouraged to settle throughout Cumbria (Bingham 1995, 46) and placename evidence indicates either adoption of Norman names or the establishment of new settlements (Armstrong *et al* 1971).
- 4.4.2 Documentary sources first mention Thursby (in Thursby parish) in about AD 1165, when it is referred to as *Thoresby*, and again in 1414 (Armstrong *et al*

- 1971, 154). It is also referred to as *Toresbi* in 1175, 1183 and 1319; *Thuresby* in 1300, 1366, 1576, 1675, *Thorsby* in 1337 and as Thursby in 1277, 1613 and 1618. The name Thursby is composed of two elements, *by*, which is late Old English, derived from Old Norse for village or hamlet, and the other element is *Pori / Puri*, (the **P** is pronounced as Th) an individual's name; thus the name essentially means Thuri's village, rather than early antiquarian suggestions that the village name is derived from Thor, the Nordic god (Nicholson and Burn 1777, 201).
- 4.4.3 The late thirteenth to early fifteenth centuries was a period of economic depression in the area, caused by three major factors, both natural and manmade (Winchester 1987). The first was the Wars of Independence with Scotland which from 1296 onwards caused devastation to much of the North. The second was the outbreak of plagues and murrains among the human and animal population, and the third factor was the deteriorating climate which affected those marginal agricultural areas that had been colonised in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The coincidence of some of these factors caused the effects of each to be more severe than may ordinarily have been the case and economic recovery is not in evidence until the mid fifteenth century.
- 4.4.4 In the late thirteenth to early fourteenth centuries the manor and parish of Thursby was held by the de Boyvill family and was passed on to the de Ogle family during the mid fourteenth century (Nicholson and Burn 1777, 201). The village church was, according to antiquarian sources, in existence by 1175 and known to be dedicated to St Andrew in 1369 (Nicholson and Burn 1777, 205–6). It was apparently given over to Carlisle Priory by a Sir Robert Ogle in 1469 (Parson and White 1829, 382). By the Tudor period the manor was held by the Dacre family, who had large holdings throughout Cumberland and beyond (*op cit*, 202).
- 4.4.5 References in documents relating to forestry, including a walked survey, indicate that in 1300 (the twenty-eighth year of Edward I) the northern edge of Inglewood Forest ran along the main road through Thursby from Carlisle up to the point where it crossed the River Wampool (Parker 1905, 39). The road to Thursby from Carlisle is in fact described as 'the great metalled way' (*ibid*) which could be consistent with a Roman road, as medieval roads were notoriously poor in condition (Hindle 1989).

4.5 Post-medieval

- 4.5.1 Thursby parish and village were within Cumberland Ward and by the post-medieval period had been organised so that the parish comprised three townships; Crofton, Parton and Micklethwaite, and Thursby. Within the township of Thursby were three hamlets, Evening Hill, Moorend and Nealhouse.
- 4.5.2 The Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530s had a limited effect on the immediate area since very little of the village land was held by ecclesiastical bodies, although the abbey at Holm Cultram and the Diocese of Carlisle did have extensive land holdings in the region. The inventory of Richard Wallas, who died in 1570, shows that he was the incumbent of the church of Thursby

- and as such was due to tithes there (Davey 1972, 76). There are also scant references to the area during the Civil Wars in the seventeenth century. However, the resurgence of Border troubles with the Jacobite Risings of 1715 and 1745 did leave some traces. Muster Rolls and the Lists of Papists (Roman Catholics) mention several people in the nearby parishes (Jarvis 1954).
- 4.5.3 There is some information to indicate the demographic trends in the village in the post-medieval period. For instance, lists in local directories show a gradual increase in the number of inhabitants, reflecting general population levels for the time, but there is no evidence of large-scale emigration from the village to nearby Carlisle. According to sources such as directories from 1829 through to 1894 (Parsons and White 1829; Mannex and Whellan 1894) most of the population was engaged in agriculture, with the majority being described as yeomen, meaning that they were men owning and cultivating small estates, freeholders under the rank of gentleman, or more generally a farmer of respectable standing.

Year	Population
1801	242
1811	272
1821	355
1831	373
1841	390
1851	411

(source: Whellan 1860).

- 4.5.3 There was no enclosure of land in Thursby, almost certainly because all the land within the area of the village was already organised and owned and any outlying areas had been dealt with, informally, earlier than the major nineteenth century phase of widespread Parliamentary enclosure. The area was subject to Tithes, which were dues calculated from accurate surveys, and paid to the church until they were commuted into yearly rents, apparently in 1838 (Whellan 1860, 252).
- 4.5.4 The present parish church in Thursby is dedicated to St Andrew and dates to 1846, with evidence of later embellishments such as the window tracery, which dates to 1878 (Salter 1998, 91). However, some of the tablets, relating to the Brisco family of Crofton Hall, appear to date back to the mid eighteenth century, suggesting they were either moved to the church or relate to an earlier structure referred to by Bishop Nicholson in 1703 (Whellan 1860, 251). The present graveyard is the burial place for the grandmother of the legendary Mrs Beeton, who compiled the household management tome, essential for the running of households in recent times (M and M Publishing 1996).
- 4.5.5 More recent changes have seen the widening and upgrading of the main road to the north of Thursby, the A595. Partly because of this and the village's

location, it has become a commuter village, with new housing expanding into the rural areas around the village and the inhabitants travelling to Carlisle daily for work purposes. The population in 1991 was recorded as 1177 and by 1995 as 1210 (www.cumbria.gov.uk).

5. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

5.1 COUNTY SMR

- 5.1.1 There are no SMR sites within the 1800m² of the development area but within a wider 1km radius around the site there is a total of five SMR sites recorded, and within the 1.5km radius are a further five sites, as shown on Figure 7.
- 5.1.2 There is only one partial record of prehistoric date (Site 01), which consisted of three worked flints found while fieldwalking in 1985, in a field adjacent to the A595 by the turning into Thursby village. Site 14, two Bronze Age vessels (*see below 5.1.6*), is not held on record by the SMR.
- 5.1.2 There are two entries for the Roman period. Site 02 is a findspot of a gold ring found in 1856 while cutting a drain, which is now held at the British Museum. The second record is Site 03, which is the entry for the Roman road underlying the A595 and aligned south-west/north-east.
- 5.1.3 The database includes four sites from the medieval period: the first, Site 04, is a record of the remains of a probable medieval croft and toft found during excavations in 1999 by Carlisle Archaeology Ltd. The large area examined revealed a number of linear slots and other features, which contained 460 sherds of medieval pottery from the twelfth to the fourteenth centuries and provided secure dating for the site. Site 05 is the location of the current village church, which was entirely rebuilt in 1846 on the site of an earlier medieval church, clearly indicated by documentary evidence. Site 06 is in the same area as Site 01 and was part of the same fieldwalking done in 1985. The results not only produced prehistoric remains but more plentiful evidence of medieval finds, with eleven sherds of medieval pottery to the three prehistoric flints. Of the eleven sherds, one was found to be pre-AD 1250 and the rest thirteenth to fourteenth centuries. Site 07 lies to the east of Site 06 and was part of the 1985 fieldwalking; from this field three sherds of thirteenth to fourteenth century pottery were recovered. The overall impression for the medieval period is one of an extensive area of land around the village used primarily for agriculture.
- 5.1.4 There is only one SMR entry for the post-medieval period in the vicinity. Site 08 is a findspot of a silver sixpence, dated to Charles I (1625-1649), found in 1998.
- 5.1.5 Five sites are of unknown date and all have been identified from cropmarks seen in aerial photographs. Site 09 comprises two parallel curvilinear features which may be a double ditched trackway or part of an enclosure. Site 10 appears to be a small single ditched rectangular enclosure which may be associated with other features and field boundaries. Site 11 is a sub-rectangular enclosure related to nearby linear features. Site 12 is again a possible rectangular enclosure. Many of these sites may have originated in the prehistoric period.
- 5.1.6 Sites 13 and 14 were not on records held by the SMR. Site 13, also of unknown date, has several components: a small rectilinear settlement enclosure; a rectilinear field system; and a ditched entranceway. This was seen in aerial

photographs (Higham and Jones 1985, 102). Site 14 is the location of two Early to Middle Bronze Age food vessels, dating from 1450-1200 BC. One vessel was complete and the other damaged during gravel extraction, both being recovered in 1964; the complete example was found to contain cremated human remains (Fell 1967).

5.2 COUNTY RECORD OFFICE – CARLISLE: CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 5.2.1 The early county maps, such as those by Saxton or Speed (sixteenth to seventeenth century), are not of an appropriate scale to show any detail of the area.
- 5.2.2 **Donald's Map of Cumberland 1771** (Fig 2): this printed map shows settlements, roads and topographical features and is reasonably reliable. The map shows Thursby clearly and the extent of the village, with individual buildings being shown diagrammatically as black squares. Most appear to be along the street fronts to the east of the village. There is also a large building shown, but it is difficult to tell whether it is portraying a hall or a church. The location of identical symbols in other parts of the map correspond to churches, but the exact location of the parish church would therefore be incorrect, leading to some ambiguity.
- 5.2.3 Tithe Map for Thursby – 1840, DRC/8/187 (Fig 3): this is a hand-drawn copy of the map, at scale, and with north arrows clearly marked, fields individually numbered, and the associated Tithe Schedule survives in good condition. The map and schedule are of value from the point of view of land ownership, use of the land, and field names. The village is clearly shown as individual buildings, located both on the street fronts and further away, positioned around a central triangular green. The site is not given a specific number but the adjacent plots of 166 and the large, regular field to the north, 167, are owned by a John Bowman and occupied by Robert Faulder. Plot 166, to the west, is described as an orchard and garden, while 167 is described as a croft. Several of the fields, to the immediate south of the village, show clear arateral (a reverse 'S' curvature) field boundaries, which is characteristic of medieval fields. However, there are no obvious elements such 'Back Lanes', allowing access to the strips, or other access lanes at right angles to the road which usually connect to the 'Back Lane' and are termed toft and field 'vennels' (Roberts 1987). The strips may have been regularly laid out in blocks which could relate to 'furlongs'. The triangular village green is outlined and probably served as an open space for events, meetings, markets, and so on.
- 5.2.4 *First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1: 10,560 1868* (surveyed 1862): this is the first published widespread cartographic source available for the area and was published 28 years after the Tithe Map, and as such shows relatively little change. In addition, the larger scale 1:2500 of the area was surveyed and published in 1865 and shows greater detail. It shows the village clearly, including individual buildings and wooded/planted areas. The area around the village includes various anthropogenic features, including the Maryport to Carlisle Railway line to the south of the village. The land divisions and field boundaries are often illustrated with tree alignments. This may imply that the

- boundaries were partially or wholly vegetated and if indeed trees were present then they could potentially be stable and of some age (Rackham 1996).
- 5.2.5 *First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 1865* (Fig 4): this is essentially the same as the smaller scale map of roughly the same date by the same organisation. It shows the buildings in existence on the site over 135 years ago. The number of buildings in the village is small with a relatively low density spread along the street fronts but most are either end on to the street or set back. This gives a clearer picture than was seen in the 1840 Tithe map. The slight S curvature can still be seen for most field boundaries although some had straighter sections by this date. The village green is shown as triangular but the Endowed School is located and depicted with clarity on the green. It is almost certain that the Tithe Map should have had the school shown on it, as the school was apparently established in 1740 and rebuilt in 1848 (Whellan 1860, 252). The map also locates St Andrew's Church, the Ship Inn and another unnamed public house, the Post Office, a milestone and benchmark and several wells, and even garden layouts within various properties in the village.
- 5.2.6 Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 1900 (Fig 5): this edition was printed 35 years after the first and shows essentially the same picture as the earlier OS map. It has several distinctions, most notably that no field boundaries are shown as having trees along them, but it is likely that this is more stylistic and vegetated boundaries may have still been in existence. A new addition to the OS map at this time are the calculated areas of land which are noted. Also, the second public house is identified as the Horse and Farrier and a smithy is located towards the south end of the village, although the exact premises are ambiguous. The layout of the village and the fields remains constant in the intervening period between the two editions.
- 5.2.7 *Third Edition Ordnance Survey*, 1:2500 1925 (Fig 6): this edition was printed 60 years after the first edition and shows almost no changes to the village; the only significant change is that the Recreational Hall to the southwest of the church had been built.
- 5.2.8 *Modern Ordnance Survey*, 1:2500: the present day map shows that substantial changes have taken place in the recent period. The changes are large in scale and are entirely residential in nature. Considerable numbers of both smaller and larger fields on the outskirts of the village, and also within it, have been built on in the second half of the last century and further expansion is ongoing. In addition to the new housing areas, the A595 and a roundabout have been built to the north of the village. The overall result is that the layout of fields has been obscured or obliterated in these areas.

5.3 DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

5.3.1 There were relatively few papers relating to Thursby in the Record Office and most were listed under the Miscellaneous Collections (CRO(C)/DX), although there were some forming part of the Earl of Lonsdale Collection. Further information was available from published transcriptions of documents and are included in this section.

- 5.3.2 Earl of Lonsdale CCRO(C)/D/Lons/L/Burgh: accounts in the seventeenth century indicate that at least part of the land around the village was being used for pastoral produce. The account, dated to 1638 and part of the Percy Survey (undertaken by John Banks), mentions a shieling two miles west of Thursby, being used by the farming population of Thursby to graze their milking cows on good pastureland. It appears to be part of a pattern of shielings which were close to villages but too far to bring the cows into the village for daily milking (Winchester 1987, 95). The survey also gives an account of a dispute with the tenants, showing their wish to improve their land by adding lime.
- 5.3.3 *Cal Pat Rolls:* a document dated to 1335 reaffirmed that Sir Richard de Denton was granted land in Ainstable and Thursby which had reverted (the term used was escheated) to the king when William le Blount remained on the side of the Scots' cause in the Wars of Independence (Graham 1920, 50). The document apparently outlines the value of the land involved and describes it as four tofts, eight bovates and 46 acres of land in Thoresby / Thursby (Graham 1915, 45).
- 5.3.4 *Feet of Fines:* this type of document is essentially the outcome or judgement of a land conveyance, the name being derived from *finis*, meaning end, and the feet being a reference to the layout of the document, with the outcome being written three time on a single sheet, twice in one direction and then the third at right angles, basically at the foot of the page. An entry is known for Thursby, dated to the sixth year of Edward II, 1313. It is between John de Boyvill, his wife Agnes and Richard de Abyndon and mentions 26 messuages (a land measure with property attached), a mill and the advowson (essentially patronage) of the church (Parker 1907, 232).
- 5.3.5 Parish Register: 'The Register Booke of Thursby for Marriages, Birthes, Burialls from Anno Dom 1649': the earliest register known is a small leather-bound parchment that deals with the list of incumbents and churchwardens in the years between 1673 and 1725, followed by two pages of register information dating between 1649 and 1659 (Wilson 1897). Indications are that this document was at Dalston parish church when the article was written.

5.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

5.4.1 There is only one known archaeological intervention within the village, gazetteer Site 04. An evaluation, consisting of 14 trenches, was carried out and followed up by an open area excavation measuring 30m by 20m. The site in question lies several fields away to the north-east and was conducted in 1999 prior to a residential development. The work recovered 460 sherds of medieval pottery and 200 of post-medieval, as well as clay pipe fragments, ceramic building material, animal bone, daub, iron, glass, slag and fuel residues. The findings indicated that there had been agricultural use of extensive areas of the land throughout the medieval period. Domestic use was highlighted at the southern edge of the site, close to the rear of the existing farm buildings. The function of many of the features remained uncertain but it would appear that the site followed a pattern of a toft and croft farmstead (Carlisle Archaeology Ltd 1999).

6. EVALUATION RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two trenches were opened, covering an approximate area of 82m² (Fig 8). They were located with respect to existing standing structures, walls, services and surface coverage; enough space was left to ensure that no disturbance to the aforementioned was caused.

6.2 TRENCH 1

- 6.2.1 The first trench was machine-excavated in level spits until significant archaeological deposits were encountered (Plate 3, Fig 9). The trench was orientated approximately north/south and measured a total of 9.7m in length, 3.6m in width and the maximum depth reached in the sondages was 1.2m.
- 6.2.2 The earliest deposit in the trench was a mid pinky orange silty clay with infrequent small sub-rounded stone inclusions, *111*. It was seen at a depth of 0.3m from the ground surface, at a height of 39.56m OD. The deposit was sterile of finds and consistent with natural deposits seen by the excavator elsewhere in Cumbria. Further excavation, in the form of two sondages placed at the north and south ends of the trench on the western side, revealed that it was over 0.8m deep. The deposit was interpreted as a naturally accumulated sediment, almost certainly the upper part of the boulder clay, drift geology.
- Overlying natural deposit 111 were several features, including a cut feature, 109, a cobble surface, 107, and possibly a cobble wall, 112. Cut feature 109 was located on the eastern side of the trench, roughly 2m from the northern end. It was only partially seen within the confines of the trench because it continued to the east outside the limits of excavation (l.o.e). The feature, which may have been a pit, was very regular in plan and was probably square or rectangular but only a corner of it was seen. The cut had steep sides and a slightly concave base, with sharp breaks of slope. It was filled with a fairly homogeneous, mid orangey brown silty sand (108), with less than 2% small sub-rounded stones; a sherd of modern glass found within the fill indicates the feature was of recent date. The edges of 109 showed evidence of disturbance: a thin band of dark brown loamy material could be seen around its upper edges and a narrow, 0.25m wide, linear feature, 110, protruded from its north-west corner, continuing in the same direction. This feature, 110, was irregular in plan, only 0.08m deep at its maximum, extended over 2.5m in length, and was filled with the same material as 108; it was identified as an animal burrow.
- 6.2.4 Also overlying natural deposit *111* was a 0.06-0.1m thick layer of cobbles, *107*, which were densely packed, rounded, of small to medium size and covered an extensive area across the southern part of Trench 1. The cobbles appeared moderately well sorted and laid in an horizontal manner. They represented a

- cohesive surface, probably external, which may relate to the possible wall, 112, to the south-east.
- 6.2.5 In the south-eastern corner of Trench 1 was a roughly linear alignment of large (maximum 0.6m by 0.55m by 0.45m) rounded boulders, 112, five in all, although one was offset. They did not appear to be within a foundation cut of any description, rather the related deposits all seemed to have been built up against them. It is possible that they were the remains of a very rough boundary wall, especially since they were approximately parallel to the current property boundary and road.
- 6.2.6 Above cobble surface 107 and possible wall 112 was a thicker deposit of mid brownish pink silty clay, 105. It was located in the southern half of the trench and had a maximum thickness of 0.15m. No finds were forthcoming from this layer and there were very few stone inclusions. The deposit seemed very similar in texture to the surrounding natural subsoil but the darker coloration suggests that it had been mixed with topsoil. The layer may represent a deliberate deposit over the cobble surface to allow for later activity.
- 6.2.7 The later activity can be seen from the deposit overlying clay **105**. A thin layer of almost pure, soft, mid orange sand, **104**, 0.05m thick, was observed. This layer was sterile of finds and extended across the trench, between 4m and 8m from the northern end. It was interpreted as a bedding layer for surface **103**.
- 6.2.8 The subsequent layer, 103, was an area of surfacing, comprising sandstone flags, half bricks, medium squared stone blocks and cement. The surface was located 4m to 6m from the north end of Trench 1 and extended both west and east beyond the limits of excavation. The north part of the surface consisted of bricks which appear to have been chopped in half and were unfrogged. The southern part of the surface was of squared stone blocks, somewhat irregular. In between, the surface flags were roughly rectangular with their long axes orientated east-west. Most showed signs of wear and were cracked. The focus of the surface was an iron drain grill, set in a rectangle of what appeared to be cement. It was located towards the western side of the trench and the cement around the grill sloped down and inwards from the edge to the grill, the difference in height being 0.05m. The cement surround measured 0.8m by 0.6m and the grill, which was offset towards the south side, was approximately 0.25m by 0.15m.
- 6.2.9 On top of surface 103 were two layers of recently accumulated material. Most of the surface was below deposit 102, which was a loose, blackish gravelly silt. The deposit was highly variable, having some compact patches and a variety of inclusions, such as mortar flecks, degraded fragments of orangey sandstone, slate and brick fragments. Its location coincided with that of the underlying surface and since many of the inclusions are related to building material it was interpreted as a demolition layer.
- 6.2.10 At the north-west corner of the trench and covering surface *103*, mostly in the area of the bricks, was a pale brown, loose, gravelly deposit, *101*, which contained brick fragments, stones and mortar. The relationship with *102* was

- unclear but since both deposits derived from building debris it is likely that they were roughly contemporary.
- 6.2.11 At the extreme southern end of Trench 1 was a small area of disturbance, 106 consisting of a dark grey silty clay, which was almost certainly related to modern activity in that area, particularly as the finds from it were modern in date.
- 6.2.12 Above, and sealing, layers 101, 102, disturbance 106 and animal burrow 110, was a thick layer of dark grey silty clay, 100. It was similar to 102 in that it had a variable consistency, in some areas loose and in others firm. It also had a variety of inclusions, such as sub-angular stones, brick fragments, mortar chunks and tarmac. The deposit extended across the entire trench but it should be noted that towards the north-east corner the deposit blended into the turf and root mat in that part of the site. It would appear that layer 100 was a modern debris layer, which may have been partially levelled to maintain access to the site.

6.3 TRENCH 2

- 6.3.1 The second trench, which was oriented east/west, was placed along the northern boundary of the site and parallel to the wall of the standing barn (Fig 8). It measured a total of 20m in length, 2.4m in width and the maximum depth reached in the sondage was 1.2m.
- 6.3.2 The earliest deposit in this second trench was identical to that in Trench 1, a mid pinky orange silty clay with infrequent small sub-rounded stone inclusions, 202. It was seen at a depth of 0.3m from the ground surface, at an average height of 39.50m OD. The deposit was sterile of finds, consistent with 111 in Trench 1, and interpreted as naturally accumulated drift geology. Further excavation in the form of a sondage at the east end of the trench revealed that it was over 0.8m deep.
- 6.3.3 A small feature, **206**, was located approximately 8m from the western end of the trench. It was slightly curvilinear in plan, 0.5m wide at the top and orientated north/south. The sides were steeply sloping at a 45-60° angle and the base came to a sharp point. The fill, **205**, was a slightly greyish orange, silty clay and there appeared to be gritty sediment along the edges. The feature was somewhat ambiguous in origin and function but as it was apparently sealed by a subsoil, **201**, it appeared to be consistent with a periglacial ice-wedge.
- 6.3.4 The sealing subsoil, **201**, was a mid grey silty clay, with a fine homogeneous texture. It was 0.08m thick and extended across the entire trench and was sterile of finds; there was no compatible deposit in Trench 1, where it may have been disturbed. Truncating this layer were three features, **204**, **208** and **210**.
- 6.3.5 A small, oval pit, **204**, was located 5m from the western end of Trench 2. It was quite shallow, being only 0.12m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a soft, dark blackish grey clayey silt, **203**, and

- contained animal bones, the disposal of which was possibly the original function of the pit.
- 6.3.6 Located 4m from the west end of the trench, on the north side, was another small feature, 208, which was semicircular in plan but continued beyond the northern edge of the trench so the overall shape remained unclear. It was 0.3m in width and length and 0.12m deep and was filled by 207, which was a grey silty clay. No finds were recovered from the feature and the fine texture of the fill suggested that it was infilled gradually and by natural means. The edges were slightly irregular and the boundary with the surrounding natural subsoil was somewhat diffuse. The likely origin of this feature may have been as a stone hollow, where a stone had been removed or shifted, possibly through ploughing or deliberate clearance and the resulting hole subsequently infilled.
- 6.3.7 The third feature, **210**, was just west of **208** and extended across the width of the trench, aligned north/south. The cut was symmetrical in profile, with regular, straight edges and a flat base. It was filled with **209**, horizontal slates at the base in a dark greyish brown clayey silt matrix, which contained a ceramic pipe.
- 6.3.8 Above the fills of these three features was a layer of dark greyish black material, **200**, containing stones and other items of building and domestic rubble. This was compatible with **100**, seen in Trench 1, and was also of modern date.

6.4 FINDS

- 6.4.1 In total, 64 fragments of artefacts were recovered from the evaluation. The bulk of the assemblage comprised ceramic vessel fragments (50 sherds), but it also included glass, animal bones, clay tobacco pipe, and ceramic building material. Catalogues of the artefacts have been included in *Appendix 4* in Context Number order. All finds were treated in accordance with standard OA North practice.
- 6.4.2 The finds assemblage was dominated by fragments of pottery (50 sherds), all of which may be dated to the later post-medieval period. Analysis of the pottery was based solely on visual inspection of individual sherds, and has been described using the terminology developed by Orton *et al* (1993). In general terms, the material was in poor condition, and many fragments were clearly abraded and rolled. The assemblage comprised a range of kitchen, table, and dairy wares, the majority of which may be dated to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The earliest material retrieved from the evaluation included fragments of lead-glazed stoneware vessels, which included a complete bottle (1003), retrieved from layer *102* (Trench 1). These fragments are likely to be late eighteenth/early nineteenth centuries in date.
- 6.4.3 Seven fragments of animal bone were retrieved from the evaluation trenches. These included fragments of a cow and a sheep/goat, which had clearly been butchered.

- 6.4.4 The finds assemblage also included five fragments of glass vessels, a single sherd of clay tobacco pipe (1011), and a fragment of ceramic tile (1012). All of the glass fragments may be dated to between the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the clay tobacco pipe is likely to be nineteenth century in date. The fragment of tile is crudely-made, and is probably of a twentieth century date.
- 6.4.5 In conclusion, the finds assemblage is of very limited archaeological significance and can add little to the interpretation of the site. In all probability, the finds represent the dumping of domestic refuse from Moorend Farm.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 PHYSICAL RESOURCE

- 7.1.1 The desk-based study demonstrates that the Thursby area had some degree of occupation from the prehistoric period onwards (see section 5.1). In the Roman period Thursby was on the route between the forts at Carlisle and Old Carlisle and would have been subject to both military influence and native settlement. Recent fieldwalking has retrieved numerous finds from the surrounding area and excavations in 1999 have shown the existence of identifiable medieval remains, both of structures and of landscape features. These may well have been more extensive throughout the village but have been degraded by later activity. There is some degree of regularity and organisation to the village and landscape which implies an attempt at planning in the layout of the village at some point in its history. However, in comparison to other villages, such as Hackthorpe, Newbiggin, Melkinthorpe, and Maulds Meaburn, there are no toft or field vennels, or back lane. It appears that Thursby may have grown from the agglomeration of several isolated farms rather than a planned village which may have been 'planted'.
- 7.1.2 The present village and site have remained relatively constant for at least the last 160 years and only recently have changes to the buildings on site occurred, with the demolition of barns and houses some time later than 1925 and new barns being erected afterwards. The most recent change has been the new housing adjacent at Faulders Folly, only six years ago, which involved the laying of services through the site.
- 7.1.3 Excavation of the two evaluation trenches indicated that the remains found were associated with the post-medieval occupation of this site and an adjacent property, within the village. Two phases of external surfacing were revealed in Trench 1, the earlier being a cobble surface, 107, laid over the natural geology, and the second, later, phase being a brick and flag surface, 103, associated with a drain. In addition, a possible cobble wall or foundation, 112, was identified in the south-eastern corner of the trench. The features seem to correspond to the north-west corner of a building shown on the 1865 OS map and it is suggested that cobble wall 112 may have been the corner foundation for the building, since the cobbles are notably large. The two phases of external surfaces presumably provided stable access to the rear of the building and over time were upgraded. When the building was demolished, some of the debris appears to have remained and been dumped over the redundant later surface. Trench 2 revealed no evidence of significant archaeological remains.

7.2 IMPACT

7.2.1 The evaluation has highlighted a high potential for archaeological resources around the village of Thursby but within the confines of the site the potential is minimal. The remaining standing structures are of recent date, although the few parts of the sandstone barns probably date to the mid nineteenth century,

confirmed by the cartographic sources. The proposed house construction will damage the remaining, identified below ground post-medieval archaeological deposits, revealed in Trench 1, but it is considered that the overall impact of the scheme will not be significant. It should be noted though that the entire area could not be evaluated, and there thus remains the possibility that significant archaeological features and material may exist in other parts of the development area.

7.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.3.1 The nature of the client's proposed working methods during construction are not presently known. If the site is to be stripped of topsoil as part of any construction programme, it might be appropriate for archaeological mitigation to be achieved by means of a watching brief. Similarly, if the client proposes to dig strip foundations without large-scale topsoil stripping, it is recommended that a watching brief is undertaken of the groundworks.

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

February 2002

Oxford Archaeology North

MOOREND FARM, HOLLY LODGE, THURSBY, CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request from Mr George Parker, of Alfred McAlpine Homes Cumbria Ltd, for an archaeological evaluation of a proposed housing development on land adjacent Meadowcroft, Thursby, Cumbria.

1. INTRODUCTION

- A planning application has been submitted to Allerdale Borough Council by Alfred McAlpine Homes (hereafter 'the Client') for a residential development on land at Moorend Farm, Holly Lodge, Thursby, Cumbria (NY 3284 5031). The proposed development affects an area thought to have good archaeological potential. Consequently, the Assistant Archaeologist of Cumbria County Archaeology Service has recommended that an evaluation of the site is necessary to inform further the planning process. A brief for the evaluation was prepared by the Assistant Archaeologist. The following document represents a project design to carry out the evaluation of the site as defined in the project brief.
- 1.2 The c 0.18ha site of the proposed housing development is currently occupied by farm buildings. The line of a Roman road extends out of Carlisle and passes through Thursby. In addition, the site lies within the medieval settlement of Thursby.
- Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in its former guise as the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) has considerable experience of excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 20 years, including work in Carlisle, Appleby, Kendal, Penrith, and other towns in Cumbria. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. OA North 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.
- 1.4 OA North has particular experience of the archaeology of this part of Cumbria having undertaken work at *inter alia* Caldbeck, Burgh-by-Sands, Wigton and Carlisle. In addition, OA North has undertaken survey work in the area as part of the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed to evaluate the archaeological deposits affected by the proposed development of the site. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 Desk-Based Survey

To undertake a desk-based survey of the existing resource including primary and secondary maps and documents.

2.3 Archaeological Evaluation

To undertake evaluation trenching of c 5% of the proposal area (an area of c 90m²) to determine the quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains on the site.

2.4 Post-Excavation and Report Production

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

3. METHODS STATEMENT

3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work summarised above.

3.2 **DESK-BASED SURVEY**

- 3.2.1 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.
- 3.2.2 **Documentary and Cartographic Material:** This work will assess the full range of potential sources of information relating to the area affected by the proposed development. Material in the Cumbria Sites and Monument Record, appropriate sections of County histories, early maps (printed and manuscript), and such primary documentation (tithe and estate plans etc.) as may be reasonably available will be assessed. Particular attention will be paid to field and place names recorded on early cartographic sources relating to estate and parish boundaries, field boundaries, woodlands and routes, as these often provide important evidence of archaeological activity and transformation of the historic landscape. Available published and unpublished documentary sources will also be examined and assessed. Organisations/Institutions to be consulted will include the Cumbria Record Office (Carlisle Office).
- 3.2.3 *Aerial Photography:* Any relevant photographic material held by Cumbria County Council will also be studied. This may indicate the range and survival of archaeological and structural features in the designated area no longer visible at ground level.
- 3.2.4 **Physical Environment:** A rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical and palaeoenvironmental information will be undertaken in order to set the archaeological features in context. Any engineering and/or borehole data relating to the site will also be examined.

3.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

- 3.3.1 Following discussion with the Cumbria Archaeology Service regarding positioning of the trenches a *c* 5% sample of the proposal area (an area of *c* 90m²) will be subject to evaluation trenching (equivalent to approximately three 1.6m x 18m trenches). The uppermost modern surface will be removed by machine (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and to be provided by the client) under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions.
- 3.3.2 Any investigation of intact archaeological deposits will be exclusively manual. Selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal. It is hoped that in terms of the vertical stratigraphy, maximum information retrieval will be achieved through the examination of sections of cut features. All excavation, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features which appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.
- 3.3.3 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.3.4 Results of all field investigations will be recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10). All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.
- 3.3.5 The deposition and disposal of any artefacts recovered in the evaluation will be agreed with the legal owner prior to the work taking place. Except for items subject to the Treasure Act, all artefacts found during the course of the project will be donated to an appropriate receiving museum.
- 3.3.6 Environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from suitable deposits (i.e. the deposits are reasonably well dated and are from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence). Where such deposits are encountered, an appropriate sampling strategy will be agreed with the Cumbria County Archaeology Service.

- 3.3.7 Samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeoecology specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.
- 3.3.8 *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). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.
- 3.3.9 The client is requested to provide information relating to services in the vicinity of the trenches, though OA North will undertake a Cat scan in advance of site commencement.
- 3.3.10 If necessary the trenches will be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. Following completion of the evaluation, the trenches will be backfilled with the material removed in their excavation. Any other form of land reinstatement will be the responsibility of the client.
- 3.3.11 OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £10,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.
- 3.3.12 Normal OA North working hours are between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday, though adjustments to hours may be made to maximise daylight working time in winter and to meet travel requirements. It is not normal practice for OA North staff to be asked to work weekends or bank holidays and should the client require such time to be worked during the course of a project a contract variation to cover additional costs will be necessary.

3.4 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT PRODUCTION

3.4.1 *Archive:* The results of Stage 3.2-3 will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*) and the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.

- 3.4.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCii files (as appropriate). The paper archive will be deposited with the Cumbria Record Office within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. The material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) will be deposited with an appropriate museum following agreement with the client.
- 3.4.3 **Report:** One copy of a bound and collated final report will be submitted to the Client and two copies to the County SMR within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. The final report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above in order to come to as full an understanding as possible of the archaeology of the development area. In addition, recommendations for any further mitigation works and details of the final deposition of the project archive will also be made.
- 3.4.4 *Confidentiality:* The final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

4.1 **Desk-Based Survey**

A four day period will be required to complete this element, including preparation of notes to be included in the final evaluation report.

4.2 Archaeological Excavation

A three day period is required to excavate evaluation trenching equivalent to a c 5% sample (90m²) of the proposal area.

4.3 Post-Excavation and Report Production

An evaluation report will be submitted within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

4.4 OA North can execute projects at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client. Two weeks notice would be sufficient to allow the necessary arrangements to be made to commence the task.

5. STAFFING PROPOSALS

5.1 The desk-based survey will be undertaken by a desktop specialist experienced in assessing information in the Sites and Monuments Records in the majority of the counties of northern England, including Cumbria.

- 5.2 Excavation of the evaluation trenching is likely to be supervised by either an OA North project officer or a project supervisor. All OA North project officers and supervisors are highly experienced field archaeologists who have undertaken evaluation and excavation work throughout Cumbria and other parts of the North West.
- Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken by OA North's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis BA MIFA** (OA North project officer). Christine has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England. However, she has specialist knowledge regarding Roman glass, metalwork, and leather, the recording and management of waterlogged wood, and most aspects of wetland and environmental archaeology.
- Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples which may be taken will be undertaken by **Elizabeth Huckerby MSc** (OA North project officer). Elizabeth has extensive knowledge of the palaeoecology of the North West through her work on the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey.
- 5.5 The project will be managed by **Alan Lupton, PhD** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

6. MONITORING

- 6.1 Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by the Cumbria Archaeology Service.
- Access to the site for monitoring purposes will be afforded to the Cumbria Archaeology Service at all times.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- English Heritage, 1991 The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edn, London
- Museums' and Galleries' Commission, 1992 Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1990 Guidelines for the preparation of archives for long-term storage

APPENDIX 2: GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number 01

Site name Thursby near Fairfield **NGR** NY 33310 55060

Site type Findspot
Period Prehistoric
SMR No 13989
Source Fieldwalking

Description A finely retouched tool in brown flint; a tuff flake, possibly of Group VI style,

possibly with retouch; a flint flake and a lump of chert which may not have been

worked. All were found as part of a fieldwalking exercise in 1985.

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 02 Site name Thursby

NGR NY 333000 551000

Site type Findspot Period Roman SMR No 479 Source SMR

Description The find of what is described as 'a very fine, massive gold ring, Roman

workmanship, found by a labourer in cutting a drain near Thursby in 1856. Set with an oynx engraved with two quails'. Now held by the British Museum,

accession number 185,12 14 1.

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 03

Site name Roman Road

NGR NY Site type Site

Period Roman, first century AD

SMR No -

Source Documentary; Margary 1973; Ferguson 1878, 70; Horsley 1732

Description Identified by Margary as road 75 (Margary 1973). The route of the road is that of

the current A595 apart from where the modern road deviates around Thursby. The main street through Thursby, aligned south-west/north-east would appear to be a continuation of the original road and therefore traces may yet survive. An antiquarian account maintains that the road was visible in the area of Thursby and

was large and wide.

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but should not be

directly affected by the proposals.

Site number 04

Site nameMeadowcroftNGRNY 332600 550420Site typeSite of Farmstead

Period Medieval SMR No 18696

Source Excavation; Carlisle Archaeology Ltd 1999

Description The findings of the open area excavation, which followed a 14 trench evaluation,

indicated that there had been agricultural use of an extensive area of the land

throughout the medieval period. Domestic use was highlighted at the southern edge of the site, close to the rear of the existing farm buildings. The function of many of the features remained uncertain but it would appear that the site followed a pattern

of a toft and croft farmstead.

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 05

Site name
NGR
NY 332400 550280
Site type
Site of Church
Period
SMR No
Source
Documentary

Description There are clear references to an earlier structure than the current church of St

Andrew, which was completely rebuilt in 1846/8 on the site. The earlier church is

said to have been built by David I of Scotland (1124-53).

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 06

Site name Thursby near Fairfield NGR NY 333100 550600

Site type Findspot
Period Medieval
SMR No 13989
Source Fieldwalking

Description During the 1985 fieldwalking ten sherds of pottery dating to the thirteenth and

fourteenth centuries and one dating to pre-1250 were recovered from around NY 331 506. From around NY 332 507 two further sherds of thirteenth to fourteenth

century pottery were found.

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 07

Site name Thursby near Fairfield NGR NY 333500 550800

Site type Findspot
Period Medieval
SMR No 13990
Source Fieldwalking

Description Again, during the 1985 fieldwalking three sherds of pottery dating to the thirteenth

and fourteenth centuries were found, at this location.

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 08
Site name Thursby

NGR NY 333000 550000

Site type Findspot Period Post-Medieval

SMR No 19331 Source Local Finder

Description A silver sixpence, from the reign of Charles I (1625-1649), was found by Ms Carol

Judge, at Thursby, on 25th August 1998. The mint name is uncertain but the

obverse shows a bust facing left and the reverse a shield. The find is logged on the

Portable Antiquities Database as LVPL283.

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 09
Site name Thursby

NGR NY 333200 550700
Site type Linear Cropmark
Period Unknown
SMR No 13803

Source Aerial Photograph - MU CS 137,21: 142, 9

Description The site is described as two linear features which run parallel for a distance before

the one to the east curves northwards and southwards at either end. It may be the remains of the west edge of a curvilinear enclosure or possibly a double ditched-

trackway.

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 10

Site name Nealhouse Beck NGR NY 332990 551080

Site type Enclosure and Fieldsystem - Cropmark

Period Unknown SMR No 9724

Source Aerial Photograph - MU CS 137, 22: 142, 10A

Description A small roughly rectangular single-ditched enclosure, with a possible small

rectangular enclosure attached on the northern edge. It appears to be associated with a field boundary to the west, which runs north/south past the site, turning to the west at its northern end. Two further cropmarks to the north-east of the site at

NY 3320 5120 may also represent field boundaries.

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 11

Site name West Curthwaite NGR NY 332040 549840

Site type Rectangular Enclosure - Cropmark

Period Unknown SMR No 685

Source Aerial Photograph – STJ DS 054, DM 065 and RB 88, 36: 89 1-2: 111, 35-43

Description A sub-rectangular enclosure and associated linear features. A site visit in 1999

indicated that part of the site was under pasture and part under arable use and no

obvious features were determined at ground level.

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 12

Site nameWampool BridgeNGRNY 332900 549400Site typeEnclosure Cropmark

Period Unknown SMR No 6913

Source Aerial Photograph – RB 116, 2, 4, 86, 88: RX 3394, 2,4, 86, 88

Description A possible rectangular enclosure.

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 13

Site name Thursby East

NGR NY

Site type Enclosure Cropmark

Period Unknown

SMR No -

Source Aerial Photograph; Higham and Jones 1985, fig 43

Description A small rectilinear settlement enclosure, a rectilinear field system and a ditched

entranceway (Higham 1977, 202 Site S169, Plate 64).

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

Site number 14

Site name How Hill
NGR NY 3315 5499
Site type Findspot
Period Prehistoric

SMR No -

Source Local Finder; Fell 1967

Description Location of two Early to Middle Bronze Age food vessels, 1450-1200 BC. One

vessel was complete and the other damaged during gravel extraction. Both were recovered in 1964 and the complete one was found to contain cremated human

remains (Fell 1967, 17-25).

Assessment The area lies within a 1.5km radius of the current study area but will not be directly

affected by the proposals.

APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY CONTEXT LIST

Context	Site sub- division	Category	Form	
100	Trench 1	Deposit	Modern Debris	
101	Trench 1	Deposit	Gravelly Rubble Layer	
102	Trench 1	Deposit	Building Debris Layer	
103	Trench 1	Deposit	External Surface	
104	Trench 1	Deposit	Sand Bedding Layer	
105	Trench 1	Deposit	Clay Subsoil	
106	Trench 1	Deposit	Modern Dark Grey Disturbance	
107	Trench 1	Deposit	External Cobble Surface	
108	Trench 1	Fill	Sandy Fill of 109	
109	Trench 1	Cut	Possible Pit	
110	Trench 1	Intrusion	Animal Burrow	
111	Trench 1	Deposit	Natural Drift Geology	
112	Trench 1	Structure?	Cobble Wall?	
200	Trench 2	Deposit	Dark Grey Rubble Layer	
201	Trench 2	Deposit	Grey Silty Clay Layer	
202	Trench 2	Deposit	Natural Drift Geology	
203	Trench 2	Fill	Fill of Pit 204	
204	Trench 2	Cut	Rubbish Pit	
205	Trench 2	Fill	Fill of 206	
206	Trench 2	Cut	Linear Probable Peri-glacial Feature	
207	Trench 2	Fill	Fill of 208	
208	Trench 2	'Cut'	Natural Stone Hollow	
209	Trench 2	Fill	Fill of Drain	
210	Trench 2	Cut	Linear Drain	

APPENDIX 4: FINDS LIST

OR	Context	Material	No	Description	Date
1000	100	Ceramic	26	Various table and kitchen wares	Late eighteenth- twentieth century
1007	100	Glass	1	Fluted tableware vessel	Late nineteenth century
1011	100	Clay Pipe	1	Stem	Nineteenth century
1012	100	Tile	1	Floor tile	Twentieth century
1013	100	Bone	3	Tooth of a cow, a butchered cow bone and a butchered sheep/goat bone	-
1001	101	Ceramic	1	Kitchenware	Nineteenth century
1002	102	Ceramic	3	Stoneware and dairy ware	Nineteenth century
1003	102	Ceramic	1	Complete stoneware bottle	Late eighteenth/ early nineteenth centuries
1004	103	Ceramic	12	Various kitchen and table wares	Eighteenth-nineteenth century
1008	103	Glass	1	Sauce bottle	1940s
1005	106	Ceramic	6	Various kitchen and table wares	Nineteenth century
1009	106	Glass	2	Kitchenware vessels	Late nineteenth century
1006	108	Ceramic	1	Under glaze transfer-printed ware plate	Nineteenth century
1010	108	Glass	1	Kitchenware vessel	Late nineteenth century
1014	203	Bone	4	Young Sheep	-

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Donald's Map of 1771

Figure 3: 1840 Tithe Map

Figure 4: First Edition OS Map 1:2500, 1865

Figure 5: Second Edition OS Map 1:2500, 1900

Figure 6: Third Edition OS Map 1:2500, 1925

Figure 7: Gazetteer Sites

Figure 8: Trench Location Plan

Figure 9: Plans of Trenches 1 and 2

PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 1, Flagged Surface and Drain 103, looking east

Plate 2: Trench 1, Cobble Surface 107, looking east

Plate 3: Trench 1, General View, looking south

Plate 4: Trench 1, Sondage, looking south

Plate 5: Trench 2, looking east

Plate 6: Complete Jar, Object 1003

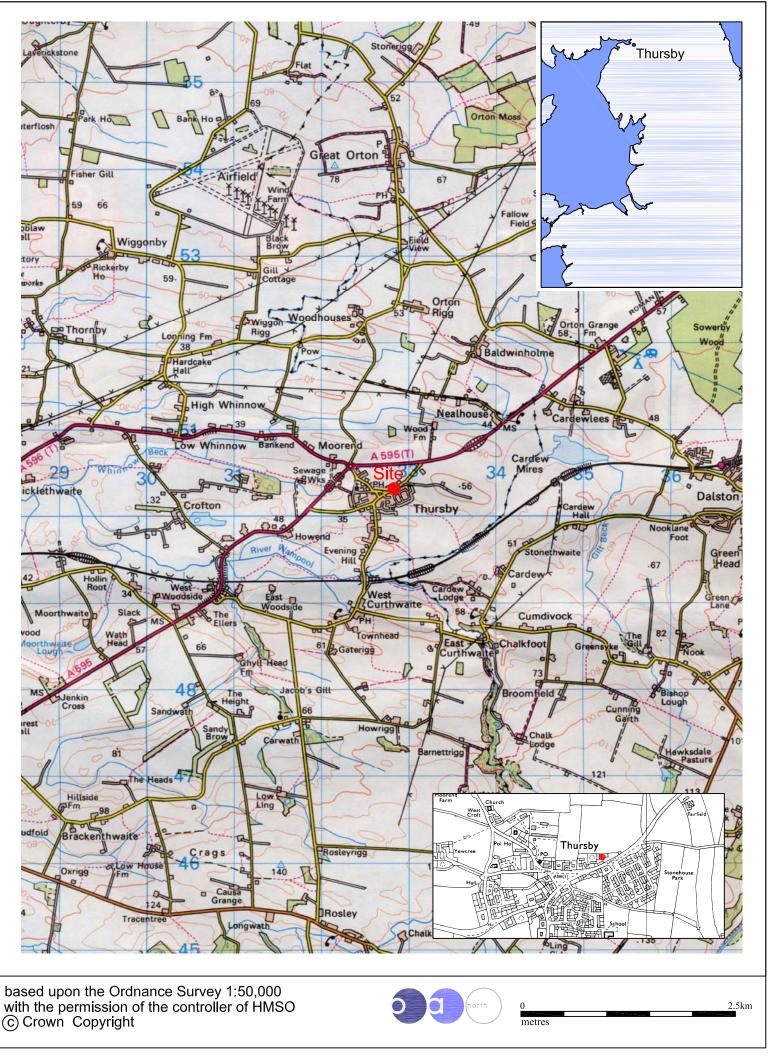


Figure 1: Location Map

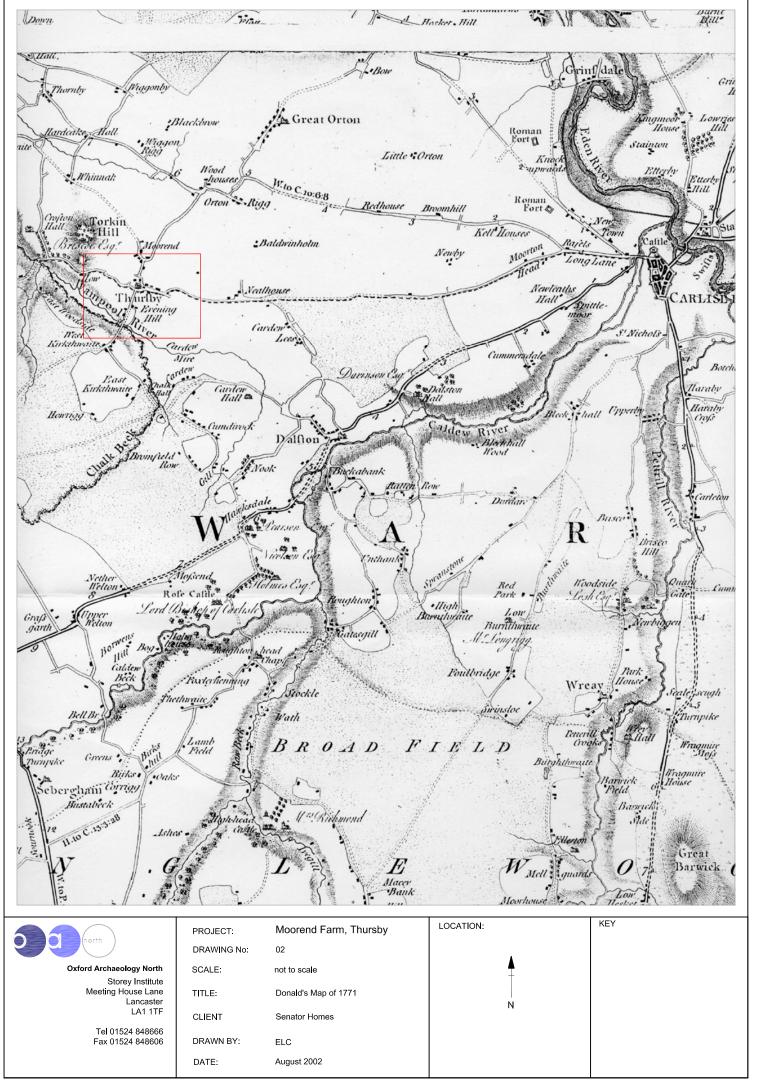


Figure 2: Donald's Map of 1771

Figure 4: First Edition OS Map at 1:2500, 1865.

Figure 5: Second Edition OS Map at 1:2500, 1900.

Figure 6: Third Edition OS Map at 1:2500, 1925.

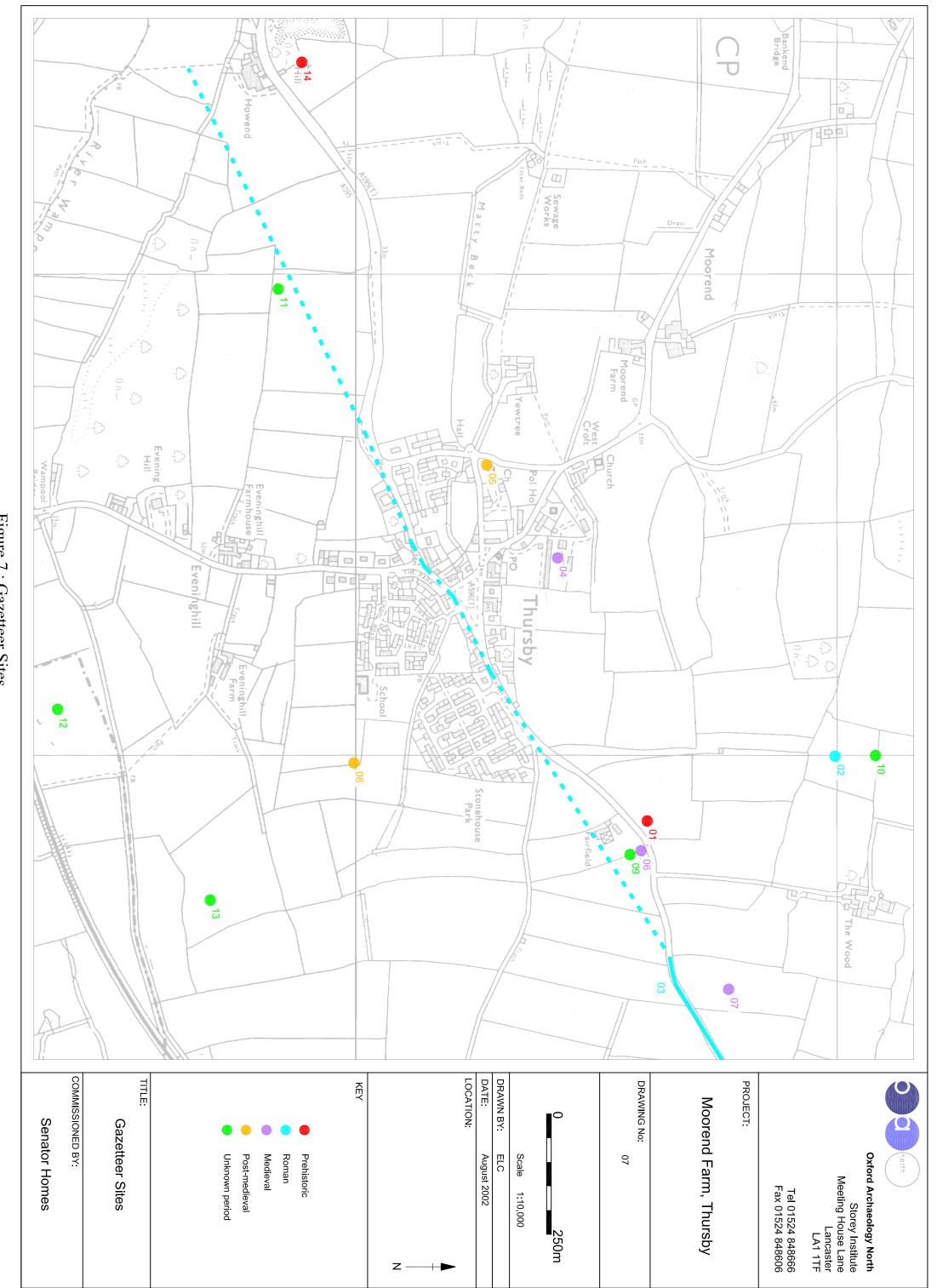


Figure 7 : Gazetteer Sites

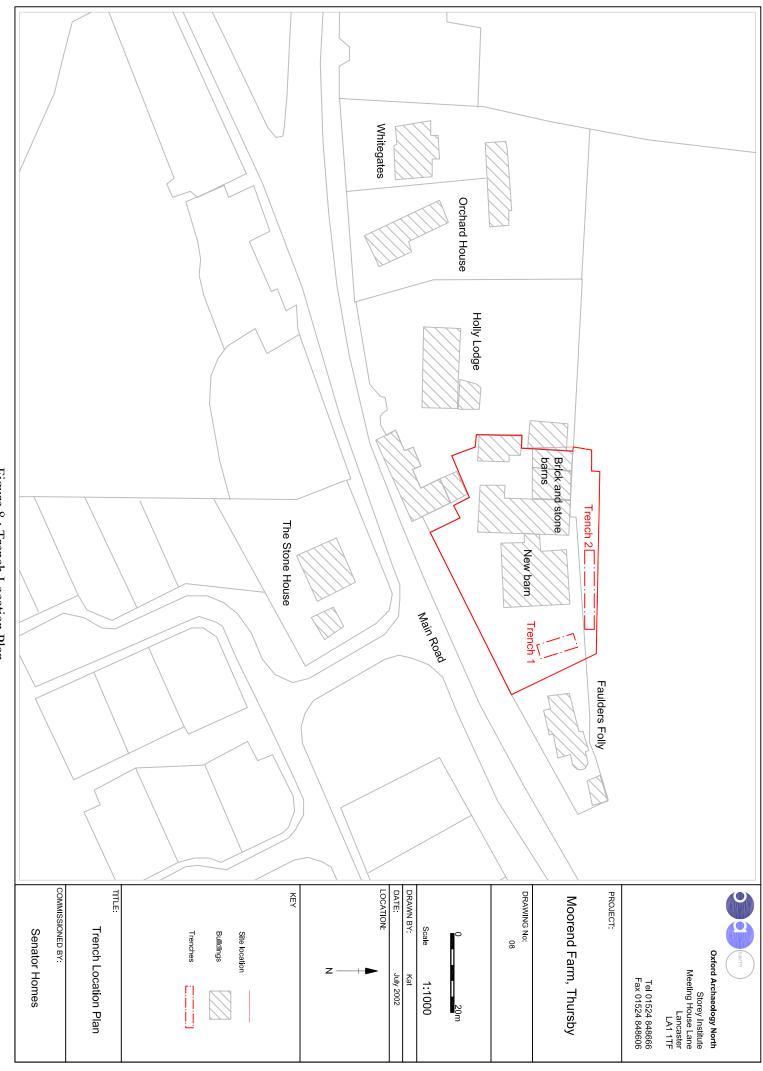


Figure 8: Trench Location Plan

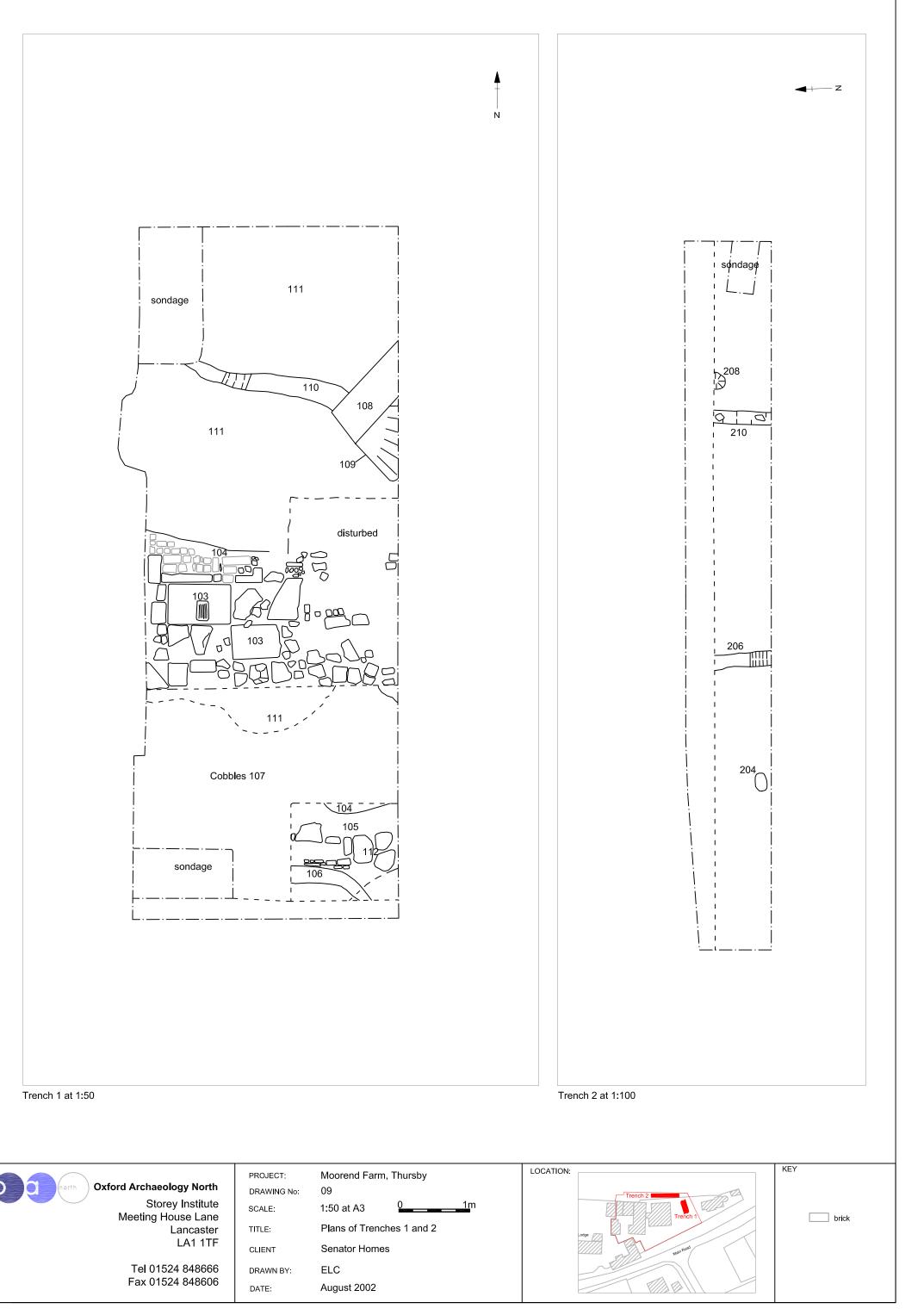


Figure 9: Plans of Trenches 1 and 2



Plate 1: Trench 1, Flagged Surface and Drain 103, looking east



Plate 2: Trench 1, Cobble Surface 107, looking east



Plate 3: Trench 1, General View, looking south



Plate 4: Trench 1, Sondage, looking south



Plate 5: Trench 2, looking east



Plate 6: Complete Jar, Object 1003 (full height 115mm)