

East View, Newton Reigny

Cumbria

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Oxford Archaeology North

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Myles Morley

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National Grid Reference: NY 48020 31550

Prepared by: Paul Gajos
Position: Project Officer
Date: April 2004

Checked by: Jamie Quartermaine Signed.....
Position: Project Manager
Date: April 2004

Approved by: Alan Lupton Signed.....
Position: Operations Manager
Date: April 2004

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Oxford Archaeology North

Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF
t: (0044) 01524 848666
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

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Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in June 2003 at East View, Newton Reigny, Cumbria centred on NY48020 31550. The work was undertaken on behalf of Myles Morley, in advance of a residential development. An archaeological evaluation was required due to the archaeological potential of the area. Newton Reigny is a medieval village, with a medieval pele tower and manor house, Catterlen Hall (SM 23776), to the north of the village. A medieval moated enclosure (SMR 2924 and SM 23778) is located less than 100m to the east of the site. The development area is within the area of a former toft, belonging to a roadside croft, and the eastern edge of the development site is defined by an historic back lane.

One evaluation trench, 5.7m x 2m, (orientated north/south) was excavated within the footprint of a proposed building. No archaeological remains of any significance were encountered. Given the absence of any confirmed archaeological remains within the evaluation trench it was recommended by O A North that the development may proceed without any further archaeological works.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Myles Morley for commissioning the work and for help in the initial stages and Bette Hopkins of the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record for her assistance.

Paul Gajos directed the evaluation with the assistance of Martin Sowerby. Emma Carter produced the drawings, and the report was written by Paul Gajos. The report was edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Emily Mercer. Jamie Quartermaine managed the project.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at East View, Newton Reigny, Cumbria (NY 48020 31550) (Fig 1) in advance of a proposed residential development of the site. The work was carried out in June 2003.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The site is situated in the garden to the north of East View Cottage on the eastern edge of the village of Newton Reigny. The site lies at approximately 4.5m OD in the west, and slopes down to approximately 4m OD in the east. The underlying drift geology of the area comprises typical stagnogley soils of the Clifton series (Ordnance Survey 1983), and was observed as coarse sand with rounded sandstone pebbles.

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The earliest evidence of activity in the vicinity of the site dates to the Bronze Age; a Bronze Age beaker is recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR 918) and was found within Newton Reigny but without exact provenance (Spence 1940, 108).
- 1.3.2 A rectangular moated enclosure (SMR 2924 and SM 23778) associated with a hall of probable medieval date is located less than 100m to the east of East View (Fig 2); the site comprised a platform surrounded by a shallow moat. Excavations in the 1960's on the platform located a flagged floor and a cobble-lined post-hole, and were probably the remains of a hall (Carlisle Archaeology 2001).
- 1.3.3 The village of Newton Reigny is strung out along either side of the main street, forming the ribbon development typical of many villages of medieval origin (Hoskins 1977, 68). The village layout has the conventional layout of crofts on the road frontage with tofts behind. Beyond the tofts were former open fields, which have, subsequently been enclosed into narrow aratral-shaped strips, fossilising the form of the medieval ridge and furrow. The present development site is within the extent of a former toft. Commonly between the tofts and the open fields was a back lane intended to allow access for villagers to the open fields; a back lane can be seen immediately to the east of the development plot. There are no fossilised strip fields immediately to the east of the lane, but a short distance away to the east is the moated enclosure, within the area where strip fields would be expected. This would suggest either that the establishment of open fields in this area was restricted by the presence of the former moated enclosure, or that it was imposed on an existing open field restricting the subsequent fossilisation of ridge and furrow into strip fields.
- 1.3.4 The village church (SM 23844) a grade II listed building, although considerably restored in 1876, contains fabric from the twelfth to thirteenth centuries including a twelfth century font.

- 1.3.5 Catterlen Hall, a fortified tower with later hall wings, is a Grade I listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 23776). It is situated 200m north of the village on the far side of the River Petteril (Fig 2) (Curwen 1913; Perriam and Robinson 1998). The present Pele tower was built around 1460 with ranges added on in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries (Robinson 1991, 96). This tower replaced the twelfth century Catterlen Old Hall Tower, the remains of which (SM 23777) lie to the north of the extant building.
- 1.3.6 The majority of the houses now existing within the village date to between the eighteenth to twentieth centuries and include five listed buildings. One of the houses in the village is called Kiln Tops (Fig 2) indicating that some form of industrial activity associated with kilns was taking place within the village. However, further information about the exact nature of the kilns or associated industrial process is not known. The whole village is listed as a Hazard Area by the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (SMR 6767).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design for an evaluation of the study area (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in accordance with a verbal brief from the Assistant Archaeologist of Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (CCCAS). Following approval of the project design by CCCAS, OA North was commissioned by Myles Morley to undertake the work. 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 is generally accepted best practice.

2.2 TRIAL TRENCHING

- 2.2.1 A single trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator, with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. No archaeological deposits were identified and the mechanical excavation was taken down to the level of the underlying natural subsoils. The trench was 5.7m x 2m in size and equated to 5% of the area. The floor and sides of the trench were manually cleaned and the deposits revealed within the trench were recorded from the sections. On completion of the site works, the trenches was backfilled with spoil but was not otherwise reinstated.
- 2.2.2 Recording was by means of OA North's standard context recording system, with trench records and supporting registers and indices. A full photographic record in colour print and monochrome formats was made. Section drawings and plans were made of relevant areas of the trench at appropriate scales. The trench was located by off set measurements from existing walls. A temporary benchmark was brought in from a known point on the adjacent road.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Tullie House Museum.

3. EVALUATION RESULTS

3.1 TRENCH 1

- 3.1.1 Trench 1 (Fig 3) was machine-excavated under constant archaeological supervision. The trench measured 5.7m in length by 2m in width; the maximum depth of excavation was 1.02m.
- 3.1.2 The sequence of deposits was revealed to be modern garden soil, **1**, a mid to dark-brown sandy silt, to a depth of 0.4m and overlying buried plough soil, **2**, a mid-grey sandy silt to a depth of 0.9m. This overlay a deposit of mixed ploughsoil and natural subsoils, **3**, 0.1m thick. Natural subsoils of rounded sandstone in an orange sand matrix, **4**, was encountered at a depth of 1m. No archaeological features or significant deposits were encountered. No finds were recovered in the course of the evaluation.

4. DISCUSSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The development plot lies within the extent of a former toft in the medieval village of Newton Reigny and is edged to the east by an historic back lane. Tofts were an area of agricultural land belonging to a medieval croft, which would have been on the road frontage. The finding of plough soil within this context is not unusual, but there is also the potential for latrine pits, which are evidence of small-scale croft activity, although these would more often be found in the vicinity of the croft. Although no archaeological remains were identified, the site is adjacent to the putative medieval moated site (SMR 2924), and, consequently, there is the potential for associated remains.

4.2 IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.2.1 **Impact:** although the site has considerable potential by virtue of its location within a former toft and its proximity to a putative moated site, no archaeological remains were identified by the evaluation. Consequently, the proposed development will not impact upon any confirmed archaeological resource.
- 4.2.2 **Recommendations:** given the absence of any confirmed archaeological remains within the evaluation trench it is recommended that the proposed residential development should proceed without any further archaeological works.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1
PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford
Archaeology
North

June 2003

**EAST VIEW
NEWTON REIGNY
CUMBRIA**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Proposals

The following design is offered in response to a request from Myles Morley for an archaeological evaluation in advance of a residential development at East View, Newton Reigny, Cumbria.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Myles Morley has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an evaluation at East View, Newton Reigny, Cumbria in advance of a proposed residential development at the site.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of the archaeological survey and evaluation of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 20 years. Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. OA North has considerable experience of the recording of historic buildings together with the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 20 years. Fieldwork has taken place within the planning process and construction programmes, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed, in accordance with a verbal brief by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (CCCAS) to provide an evaluation. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 2.2.1 To implement a programme of trial trenching examining 5% of the study area.

2.3 REPORT

- 2.3.1 A written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the evaluation and would make an assessment of the archaeological potential of the area, and would make recommendations for further work.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 3.4.1 The programme of greenfield trenching will establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits and, if established, will then test their date, nature, depth and quality of preservation.
- 3.4.2 **Methods:** the evaluation is required to evaluate 5% of the undeveloped study area. The overall area is c160m², and this requires the excavation of 10m² and would entail the excavation of one 5m x 2m trench. The trench will be located within the centre of the proposed development area.
- 3.4.3 The trench will be excavated by a combination of mechanised and manual techniques; the topsoil will be removed by mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.7m wide toothless bucket, and archaeological deposits beneath will be first manually cleaned and then any features identified will be manually excavated. The machine excavation will not intrude into any potential archaeological stratigraphy and all machine excavation will be undertaken under careful archaeological supervision. Following mechanical excavation the floor of the trench will be cleaned by hoe and Manual excavation techniques will be used to evaluate any sensitive deposits, and will enable an assessment of the nature, date, survival and depth of deposits and features. The trenches will not be

excavated deeper than 1.25m to accommodate health and safety constraints; any requirements to excavate below this depth will involve recosting.

- 3.4.4 The trench will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. The trench will be located by use of GPS equipment which is accurate to +/- 0.25m, altitude information will be established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. Archaeological features within the trenches will be planned by manual techniques.
- 3.4.5 **Environmental Sampling:** environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). Subject to the results of the excavation an assessment of any environmental samples will be undertaken by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The assessment would examine the potential for macrofossil, arthropod, palynological and general biological analysis. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if good waterlogged deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of CCCAS and the client.
- 3.4.6 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 palaeozoological specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.
- 3.4.7 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, 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.
- 3.4.8 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). 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.

3.5 REPORT

- 3.5.1 **Archive:** the results of the fieldwork 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). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context. This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be included in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record. A copy of the archive can also be made available for deposition with the National Archaeological Record. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum.
- 3.5.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further two copies will be submitted to the Cumbria County Council SMR. The 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 and present an assessment of the sites history; the report will include photographs of any significant features. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail. The report will include a description of the methodology and the results. A list of the

finds, and a description of the collective assemblage. Details of any environmental work undertaken.

- 3.5.3 The report will include a frontispiece showing the planning number and the grid reference. It will have a summary and a methodological statement, and it will define any variations to the defined programme. It will include recommendations for further work.
- 3.5.3 Illustrative material will include a location map, site map, a trench location map, trench plans, and also pertinent photographs. It can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion.
- 3.5.4 **Publication:** a summary report of the results will be submitted to a regional journal, and information from the project will be fed into the OASIS project (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigation).

3.6 OTHER MATTERS

- 3.6.1 **Health and Safety:** OA North conforms to all health and safety guidelines as contained in the Lancaster University Manual of Health and Safety and the safety manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. The work will be in accordance with Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the Council for British Archaeology Handbook No. 6, *Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork* (1989).
- 3.6.2 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the watching brief and fabric survey, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. A risk assessment will be completed in advance of the project's commencement. If there is a requirement to excavate trenches deeper than 1.25m the trenches will be stepped out to minimise section collapse. As a matter of course the Unit uses a U-Scan device prior to any excavation to test for services. It is assumed that the client will provide any available information regarding services within the study area, if available.
- 3.6.4 **Insurance:** the insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the unit and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of OA North, in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of OA North or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £2m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.
- 3.6.5 **Confidentiality:** the report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project design, 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.
- 3.6.6 **Project Monitoring:** OA North will consult with the client regarding access to the site. Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the County Archaeologist will be kept fully informed of the work and its results. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with CCCAS in consultation with the Client.
- 3.6.7 **Contingency:** costs are defined for the provision of a palaeoenvironmental assessment, and faunal remains analysis. The palaeoenvironmental analysis would be subject to an assessment by the OA North palaeoenvironmental specialist (E Huckerby), the faunal remains would be subject to an assessment by the OA North animal bone specialist (A Bates).

4. WORK PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The following programme is proposed:

Evaluation Trenching

One day will be required to complete this element

Report

A five day period would be to complete this element

- 4.2 OA North can execute projects at short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client.
- 4.3 The project will be managed by **Jamie Quartermaine BA Surv Dip MIFA** (Unit Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. OA North adheres by the IFA's Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Description	Depth
<i>01</i>	Topsoil	0-0.4m
<i>02</i>	Buried plough soil	0.4-0.9m
<i>03</i>	Subsoil, interface of ploughsoil and natural	0.9-1.0m
<i>04</i>	Natural, sand with rounded sandstone cobbles	1.0m+

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

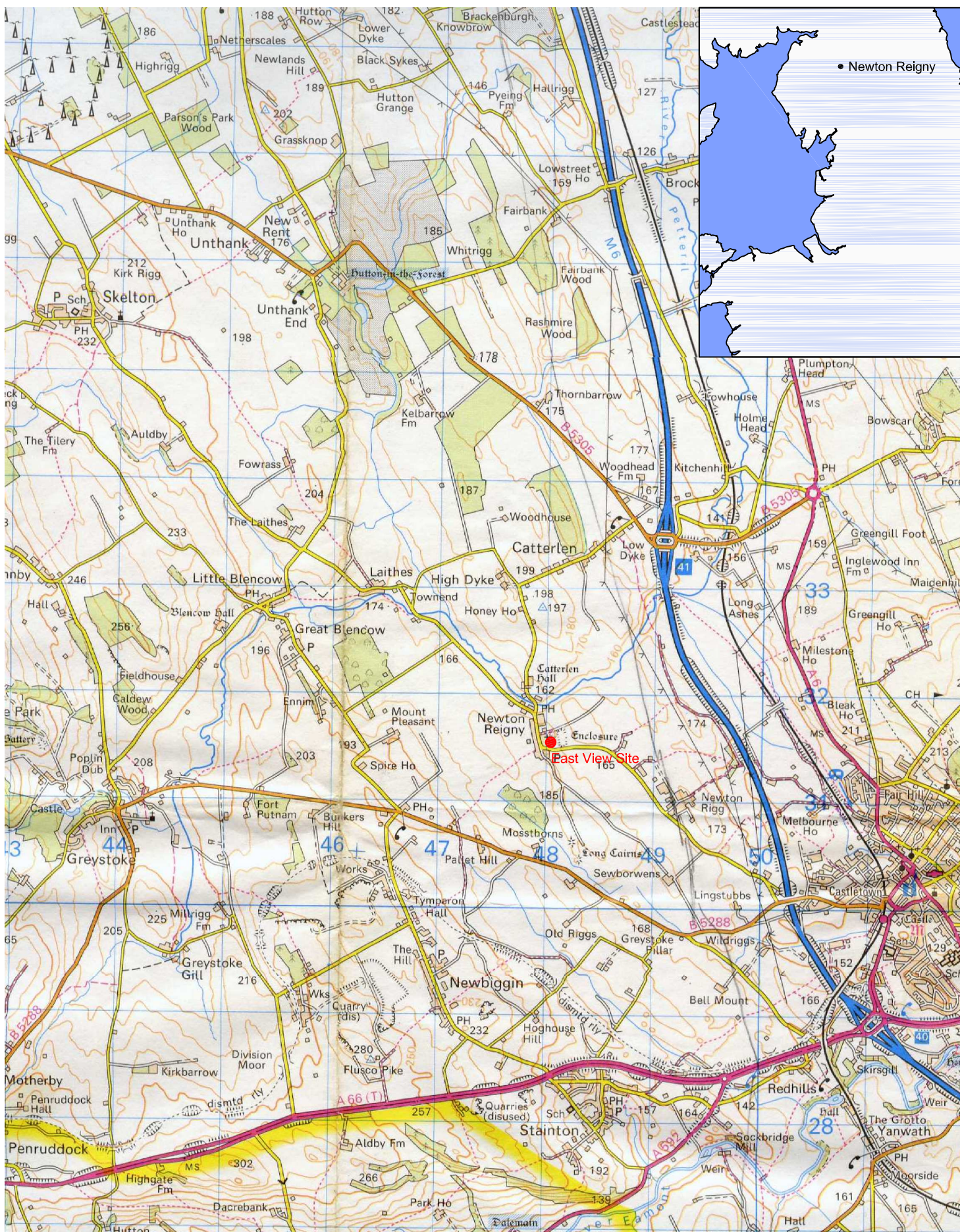
Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Development Area Location Plan

Figure 3: Location of Trench

PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10000
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Figure 1: Location Map

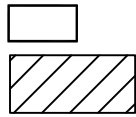
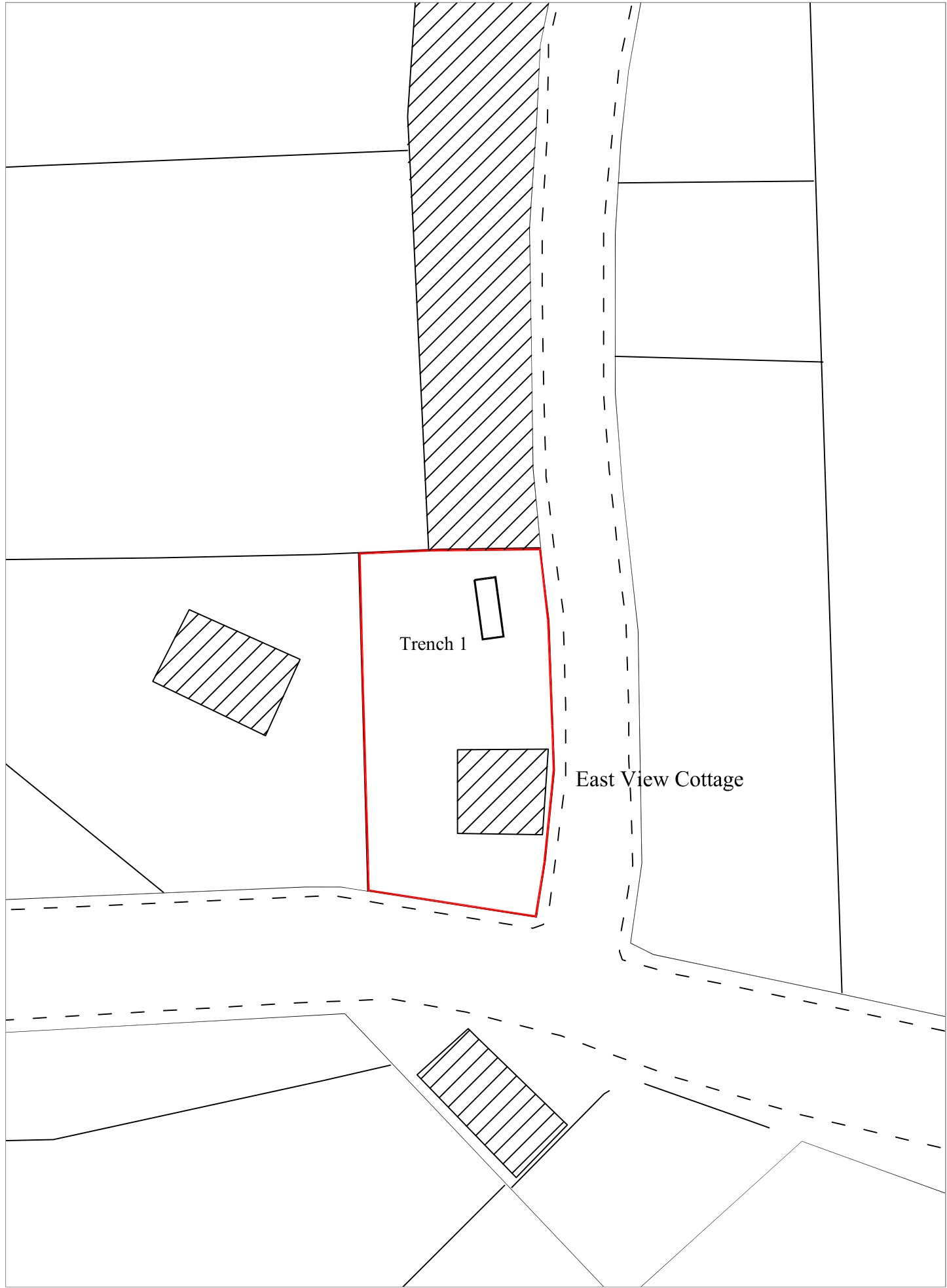


Development Area

0 200m



Figure 2: Development Area Location Plan



Trench 1
 Buildings
 Development Site Boundary

0 10m



Figure 3: Location of Trench



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking north