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SWARTHMOOR HALL, ULVERSTON
CUMBRIA

Archaeological Evaluation

Commissioned by:

The Religious Society of Friends in Britain

Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston
Cumbria

Archaeological Evaluation

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Circumstances of Project.....	5
2. METHODOLOGY.....	6
2.1 Project Design	6
2.2 Health and Safety	6
2.3 Desk-Top Survey.....	6
2.4 Trial Trenching Methodology	7
2.5 Monitoring.....	7
2.6 Archive	7
3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	8
3.1 Origins	8
3.2 Seventeenth to Nineteenth Century Modifications	8
3.3 Nineteenth Century Modifications	9
4. EVALUATION RESULTS	10
4.1 Desk-Top Survey	10
4.2 Trial Trenching.....	10
4.3 Finds Summary	10
5. DISCUSSION.....	13
5.1 Historical Background.....	13
5.2 Archaeological Assessment.....	13
6. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	15
6.1 Impact.....	15
6.2 Recommendations.	15
7. BIBLIOGRAPHY	16
7.1 Pictorial Representations of Swarthmoor Hall.....	16
7.2 Primary Sources	16
7.3 Published Cartographic Sources.....	17
7.4 Secondary Sources	17
APPENDIX 1.....	19
Project Brief	

APPENDIX 2	20
Project Design	
ILLUSTRATIONS	26
Fig 1 Swarthmoor Hall Location Plan	
Fig 2 Trench Location Plan	
Fig 3 Trench 2 Plan	
Fig 4 Trench 3 Plan	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) was commissioned by The Religious Society of Friends in Britain to undertake an archaeological evaluation on a piece of land within the grounds, and to the immediate west of, Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston, Cumbria (SD 282 773). This was carried out in response to a planning requirement stipulated by the Cumbria County Council Development Control Officer.

The archaeological work was to involve a study of the available documentary, cartographic and pictorial sources relating to Swarthmoor Hall and the excavation of a series of trial trenches. The documentary research revealed that the development site was previously occupied by a large post-medieval barn which had been demolished in 1963. Furthermore, a lithograph, dated to 1829, indicated that the hall itself had once extended further to the west than presently. Photographic evidence suggests that the barn contained architectural detail of possibly seventeenth century date.

Three evaluation trenches were placed to identify the presence of the extension of the hall to the west, into the area which would be affected by the development proposal, to establish the extent and nature of the barn structure, and to investigate the precise nature of the raised ground to the west of the hall. Trench 1 was excavated on the projected line of the western extension, the remaining two trenches were excavated to establish the extent of the barn and to identify any potentially undisturbed archaeological deposits within the proposed development area.

The archaeological evaluation identified the extent of the eastern and southern walls of the barn and, whilst no absolute dating evidence was recovered, there is evidence to suggest the barn was extended in the mid-nineteenth century. There was no evidence for the western extension of the hall extending into the study area. The complete absence of demolition material indicates that the site was comprehensively cleared when the barn was demolished and therefore the presence of undisturbed archaeological deposits is unlikely.

As a result of the archaeological evaluation it is recommended that no further archaeological work is necessary and that any proposed groundwork within the study area would not affect important archaeological deposits. This evaluation does not, however, obviate the need for archaeological investigation in the area immediately adjacent to the hall extension, should groundwork (such as drainage) be deemed necessary here.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly thanks are due to both Mr Richard Taylor, who represented The Religious Society of Friends in Britain, and Mr S Deeming, whose help and provision of coffee enabled the field work to be undertaken without problems. Also thanks are due to Mr K Humphreys of Carr Humphreys' Architecture who provided plans and information promptly. Mr R Proctor, the machine operator, proved to have a deftness of touch which greatly enhanced both the archaeological excavation and the reinstatement of the turf.

The documentary study was undertaken by Dr Angus Winchester of Lancaster University and the field work was undertaken by David Hodgkinson, who was ably assisted by Richard Short. The report was edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Rachel Newman. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) on behalf of The Religious Society of Friends in Britain as a planning condition applied by Cumbria County Council, in advance of the construction of a visitor centre and wardens' residence at Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston, Cumbria (SD 282 773). The proposed development area measures approximately 2000m², and lies to the immediate west of Swarthmoor Hall, on land currently used as a garden.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation comprised a documentary study and a programme of targeted trial trenching. The purpose of the desk-top study was to collate existing historical data from various sources, to investigate the chronological framework for the site and to inform the strategic siting of trial trenches. The trenching was undertaken to establish the sub-surface survival of archaeological deposits within the affected area targeting areas of potential highlighted by the documentary evidence. The documentary survey was undertaken prior to the field programme, which was completed between 28th-29th August 1997.

METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 2*) was compiled by LUAU for The Religious Society of Friends in Britain in response to a brief (*Appendix 1*) provided by Cumbria County Council, Economy and Environment, Planning Division, for an archaeological evaluation of the western portion of the grounds of Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston, Cumbria prior to the development of the site. The work was carried in accordance with the project design. Any variations to the fieldwork strategy were discussed and agreed with the Council monitor, Mr P Holdsworth, and the client prior to implementation.

2.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY

2.2.1 Both Lancaster University and LUAU maintain Safety Policies, the latter based on the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) Health and Safety manual (1991). In keeping with current Health and Safety at Work Regulations a risk assessment was compiled prior to work commencing on-site.

2.2.2 Fencing was maintained around the site during the excavation to keep the visiting public away from the site.

2.2.3 **Underground Services:** underground services, identified by the Warden, were located adjacent to the western wall of the Hall. A sweep of the proposed development area, with a U-scan cable detector did not reveal the presence of any other services.

2.2.4 **Reinstatement:** during excavation the turf and topsoil was separated from the subsoil and stored separately. Upon completion of the excavation the site was made safe by the reinstatement of the subsoil and turf to the best standard that conditions would allow.

2.3 DESK-TOP SURVEY

2.3.1 A survey of documentary and pictorial sources was undertaken in order to establish an outline of the history of the hall and its immediate surroundings, including the area of the proposed development.

2.3 Photographs and nineteenth century pictorial representations of the hall were studied in the Library of the Society of Friends in London, and a trawl was made there and in local libraries in Lancashire and Cumbria to identify written descriptions of the building. These fell under two principal headings: local antiquarian writings; and comments by travelling Quaker ministers who visited the Hall. A list of pictorial representations and written descriptions is included in the bibliography (*Section 7*) and reference is made to these by list number. [P.1-P.4; D.1-D.3] or by the author, if published.

2.4 TRIAL TRENCHING METHODOLOGY

- 2.4.1 **Excavation strategy:** a series of three trenches was excavated, each measuring approximately 6m by 2m (two of which were aligned east/west and the other north-west/south-east). The turf and topsoil was stripped by a JCB 3CX wheeled mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.5 metre wide toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The machine was also utilised to establish the sterility of the underlying subsoil once any archaeological remains or deposits had been investigated by hand and fully recorded.
- 2.4.2 All excavation, whether manual or mechanical, was carried out stratigraphically. Where features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and investigated accurate scale plans and sections were drawn at 1:20. Context records were completed in the usual manner along with a photographic record. The recording system is based on that used by English Heritage's Central Archaeology Service.
- 2.4.3 **Finds:** all artefacts recovered were recorded and have been processed and temporarily stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines).

2.5 MONITORING

- 2.5.1 The fieldwork was monitored by Mr P Holdsworth, the County Development Control Officer for Cumbria County Council.

2.6 ARCHIVE

- 2.6.1 The results of the project form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines (*The management of archaeological projects*, 2nd edition 1991). The project archive, consisting of all the data and material gathered during the project, has been checked and indexed.
- 2.6.2 The archive will be deposited with the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow and a synthesis will be included in the Sites and Monuments Record. A copy will also be available for deposition with the National Archaeological Record in London.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 ORIGINS

3.1.1 Swarthmoor Hall is said to have been built in the early seventeenth century by George Fell, a local lawyer who was the father of Judge Thomas Fell (Ross, 1949, 2). The hall's place in history is dominated by events which took place in the summer of 1652, when the young George Fox, the founder of Quakerism, arrived at the Hall after his encounter with the Seeker community in southern Cumbria, which generated the national mission out of which Quakerism was born. Margaret Fell, the wife of Judge Thomas Fell, was convinced by Fox's preaching and herself became a driving force in the early Quaker movement. The Hall became the effective headquarters of Fox and the inner circle of Quaker leaders in the early 1650s, and, after his marriage to the widowed Margaret Fell in 1669, Swarthmoor became Fox's home, although he spent a total of under four years there, mainly between 1675 and 1680 (Braithwaite 1955, 98-110; Nickalls 1975, 707, 714-5, 728). The Hall's connections with Fox and the Fell family led to it becoming a place of pilgrimage for members of the Society of Friends before the end of the eighteenth century (Forster 1772, Evans 1844, Evans and Evans, 1845).

3.1.2 The Swarthmoor estate descended from the Fells to the Abraham family through Thomas and Margaret Fell's youngest daughter, Rachel, whose husband Daniel Abraham bought the estate in 1691 from his wife's nephew, Charles Fell. Rachel and Daniel's son John Abraham fell into debt and mortgaged the Hall in 1743, finally selling the estate in 1759 (CRO (Barrow), Z.140-143; BD/HJ/2). The Hall then passed into the hands of William Lindow, a Lancaster merchant, in whose family it remained until William Lindow Fletcher of Workington sold it in 1912 (Ayre 1894-6). By the later nineteenth century Friends were expressing the desire that the Hall might return to Quaker ownership. In 1892 it was reported that attempts had been made to acquire the estate for Friends 'some years ago' with a view to establishing an agricultural training college, while a correspondent to *The Friend* in 1908 urged its purchase as a hostel for Friends in the summer, a museum of Quaker relics, and an educational centre for young Friends (*The Friend* 1892, 509; 1908, 567). However, the scheme for Quaker ownership of the hall took several decades to come to fruition. In 1912 the estate was bought from William Lindow Fletcher by Emma Clarke Abraham, a direct descendant of Rachel and Daniel Abraham, a group of Friends putting up half the purchase money in return for an agreement that the Hall would eventually come into Quaker ownership (*Anon.* 1912, 1913). That aim was finally achieved in 1954 when the Hall and 100 acres of farmland came into the possession of London (now Britain) Yearly Meeting.

3.2 SEVENTEENTH TO NINETEENTH CENTURY MODIFICATIONS

3.2.1 The present hall building has been substantially modified since the seventeenth century and has undergone at least three major alterations. By the 1770s it had fallen into decay and part of the building had been demolished by the middle of the nineteenth century. William Forster (1772), visiting in 1772, commented that the Hall was '*much come to decay*' while William Fell (1777), who recorded his impressions as

an eleven-year old schoolboy in 1777, wrote that '*a great deal*' of the building had been pulled down 'by that infamous man Captain Lindow.'. A visitor in 1797 commented that the room to the left of the entrance was '*quite dilapidated*' (Evans and Evans 1845). Whether these descriptions refer to a single phase of demolition or several is not clear. Certainly, the earliest known illustration of the hall, a lithograph dated to 1829 [P.2] (itself apparently a copy of a lost oil painting [P.1]), suggests that the building had formerly extended further to the west, as that side of the south elevation was ruinous at that date.

3.2.2 Two phases of renovation are recorded in the nineteenth century. An etching by C. Gilpin (undated but *c* 1842 - 1852) [P.3] suggests that the south-west corner had been remodelled by the middle of the century, the ruinous section removed and the roof raised to the same height as that of the main body of the hall, thus giving the building the shape it retains today. A further series of improvements is hinted at in two local histories published in 1880 (Richardson 1880; Murray 1880). Both record that the hall had been in a dilapidated state for many years, one saying it '*had the appearance of a third-rate farmhouse*;' Richardson (1888) went on to state that a recent change of tenant had resulted in '*some improvements, though of a questionable character*', while Murray (1880) described the work as '*a complete renovation*' converting the house into a comfortable residence. No details of these nineteenth-century renovations have been found.

3.2.3 The present building owes much to the major restoration carried out by Emma Clarke Abraham between 1913 and 1919. She reopened blocked windows, rebuilt the balcony on the south face and carried out a major programme of internal refurbishment (Ross 1949, 368). Much of the original panelling had gone, partly as a result of souvenir-hunting by visitors, of which there are instances recorded from the 1840s (LSF, MSS Vol. 364, no. 62; and Portfolio 34, no. 1). Emma Clarke Abraham re-panelled the main rooms, carving some of the details with her own hands. The Hall building today is essentially a seventeenth-century shell but only part of the house is that which the Fells and Fox would have known. Internally, some early features survive, notably the four-post newel staircase and the panelling in the first-floor room now known as 'Judge Fell's bedroom'.

3.3 TWENTIETH CENTURY MODIFICATIONS

3.3.1 As a working farm until the early twentieth century, the hall was set in a farmstead complex, of which two small outbuildings survive. However, the principal ancillary building was a long barn, which was demolished in 1963. This was orientated approximately north-north-east/south-south-west, and lay to the west of the hall on the site of the proposed development (*Section 4.1.1*).

4. EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 DESK- TOP SURVEY

- 4.1.1 **The Barn:** pictorial, photographic and cartographic evidence confirm that the development site was previously occupied by a large, post-medieval barn, which was demolished in 1963. On demolition, material from the barn was used to construct the wall forming the western edge of the Hall precinct, and all other material was removed from the site (Mr Hindle, pers comm). The barn is clearly shown on the lithograph of 1829 [P.2] and on later pictorial representations, but it is difficult to establish many details of its history. A mid twentieth-century photograph preserved in the Hall suggests that it contained seventeenth-century fabric (in the form of mullioned windows) and two stone lintels dated 1651 and 1716 (formerly on an outbuilding and rebuilt into an internal wall of the Hall in the twentieth century) may have come from the barn (Farrer 1914, 355; Ross 1956). It is not clear, however, whether these architectural details were *in situ* on the barn or had been reused from elsewhere in the Hall complex. Only one observation on the later development of the barn can be made, namely that a semi-circular extension, which contained a horse gin to judge from an illustration of 1874 [P.5], was added before 1846 (OS 1st edn. map (1846)) and removed in the early twentieth century (OS 1895, 1931; aerial photo, c1960).
- 4.1.2 **Western Wing of the Hall:** the documentary and pictorial evidence discussed above (*Section 3.3*) indicates that the Hall formerly extended further west than today; its present western wall and the southern part of the south wall dates from remodelling in the mid-nineteenth century. The sources consulted do not enable any conclusions to be drawn concerning the dimensions of the demolished section of the Hall, or its relationship with the barn.

4.2 TRIAL TRENCHING

- 4.2.1 Three trenches were excavated to investigate the sub-surface survival of archaeological deposits within the extent of the proposed development. The numbers within square brackets below refer to context descriptions within the project archive.
- 4.2.2 **Trench 1:** the trench measured 6.80m in length and was aligned east/west. It was located to investigate the possibility of a former extension of the western end of the hall and to inspect the extent and date of the barn. Naturally occurring orange clay sand and gravels were identified at a depth of 0.17m below the present ground surface. A sondage was excavated at the western end of the trench, where the sand and gravels were seen to continue to a depth of 0.75m.
- 4.2.3 At a distance of 1.25m from the eastern end of the trench was a possible cut feature [2], which was 0.28m deep. The western edge of the feature was formed by a gradual but even slope at an angle of approximately 45° and the base was slightly concave. The western edge of the feature lay beyond the edge of the trench. Feature [2] was filled by a deposit of loose, very dark greyish brown silty sand and gravel [4], which was below a linear 0.08m deep and 0.28m wide deposit of granular mortar [3]. All the features within the trench were overlain by a very even deposit of topsoil composed of

dark brown soft, silty clay, which contained no inclusions. No finds were retrieved from this trench.

- 4.2.4 **Trench 2:** the trench was excavated at the northern end of the study area and was aligned east/west, measuring 6.30m in length. It was excavated to establish the extent of the barn structure and to test for the presence of undisturbed archaeological deposits.
- 4.2.5 Naturally occurring deposits of clayey sand and gravels were encountered at a depth of 0.18m below the present ground surface.
- 4.2.6 At the eastern end of the trench was a ceramic drain [9], aligned north-east to south-west, which was set within a foundation cut [8], which measured 0.15m across and was approximately 0.35m in depth, cutting through natural subsoils. To the east of the drain, and 0.75m from the eastern end of the trench, was an alignment of large rounded boulders [18]. The boulders were set within a large flat-based foundation trench [19] and were orientated north/south. The stone alignment was composed of a double thickness of boulders and was approximately 0.75m wide. The basal boulders were rounded and measured on average 0.55m in diameter, the upper boulders were flatter and smaller and were approximately 0.30m in diameter. The alignment survived to a height of 0.60m but did not extend above the level of the foundation trench [19]. Within the centre of the alignment, and contemporary with the feature, was a glazed ceramic drain [16]. This drain was also contemporary with a large ceramic gutter [12], and another ceramic drain [10] which was aligned north-west to south-east. Both of these drainage features cut through ceramic drain [9]. These represent internal drainage arrangements for the barn.
- 4.2.7 To the immediate west of alignment [18] was a discontinuous deposit of mortar and small fragments of fragmented cobbles and rubble [26]. This deposit was only present at the northern end of the trench and measured approximately 4m in length, from the western edge of stone alignment [18]. The mortar deposit [26] was approximately 0.08m in depth and appeared to be contemporary with alignment [18]. This may represent an ephemeral internal feature, possibly a wall but more likely to be a floor.
- 4.2.8 These deposits were overlain by turf and topsoil deposits of dark brown silty clay [6], which were 0.21m in depth and contained no inclusions. No finds were retrieved from this trench.
- 4.2.9 **Trench 3:** the trench was excavated on a north/south alignment in the southern part of the study area and measured 8.40m in length. Naturally occurring sand and gravels were encountered at a depth of 0.18m below the surface at the northern end of the trench. At the southern end of the trench there was a discontinuous deposit of creamy white sandy mortar, approximately 0.06m in depth, overlying the natural. The deposit was directly overlain by an exceptionally well-laid surface constructed from moulded bricks, resembling pairs of stone sets. On the western side of the trench was a drainage gully incorporated into the surface, which was also formed from moulded bricks. This is possibly a 'robbed out' wall.
- 4.2.10 The surface was in poor condition at the very southern edge of the trench where the sets appeared to have been laid to accommodate a curving feature. Inspection of an aerial photograph, taken prior to the demolition of the barn, shows that the southern

wall was curved. The southern end of the brick surface was abutted by a deposit of boulder rubble within a loose clay matrix which contained occasional concrete fragments. This was present in the southernmost 0.80m of the trench and was a maximum of 0.25m in depth. The deposit was packed tightly against the brick surface and appeared to be contemporary with or slightly later than the brick sets.

- 4.2.11 To the north of the brick surface, located 1.25m from the northern end of the trench, was a linear feature [29], which was aligned east/west and measured 0.76m in width. The feature had an irregular profile, the northern edge was steeply sloping, whilst the western edge appeared stepped. Upon excavation the feature was seen to be filled by a dark brown silty clay which contained bricks from the adjacent brick surface [31].
- 4.2.12 The trench was overlain by the same dark brown silty clay topsoil noted within Trenches 1 and 2. No finds were retrieved from this trench.

4.3 FINDS SUMMARY

- 4.3.1 The lack of dateable artefacts recovered during the trial trenching programme is due almost entirely to the wholesale removal of debris and subsequent importation of topsoil immediately prior to the demolition of the barn. The sole artefactual evidence comprised the ceramic drainage features, the earliest of which was the field drain, dating from the mid nineteenth century. The brick floor feature at the southern end of the building can be dated to the twentieth century on account of the moulded bricks.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1.1 The documentary study has established that there was a possible seventeenth century barn on the site, although it was first documented on the 1829 lithograph. The barn was demolished in 1963, and excavation demonstrated that the demolition material was either removed from the site or built into the adjacent dry-stone perimeter wall. The same lithograph shows that the hall formerly extended towards the area of the proposed development area, although it is not known how far it extended.

5.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

- 5.2.1 The programme of archaeological trial trenching within the proposed development area at Swarthmoor Hall established that the former hall extension did not extend into the study area. The area had been comprehensively cleared of surface rubble associated with the demolition of the barn 1963 and the re-use of masonry from the barn in the adjacent boundary wall would account for some of this absence. The complete lack of demolition rubble or artefactual evidence within the topsoil would appear to confirm first hand reports (Mr Hindle, pers comm) that the debris had been comprehensively removed from the site and topsoil had been imported from elsewhere.
- 5.2.2 The rise in the ground surface to the west of the hall, formerly thought to have been the demolition material from the barn, was revealed to have been a natural rise in the surface topography as natural subsoil deposits were identified immediately below the present ground surface. The hall therefore appears to have been terraced into an east-facing slope, which would suggest that the original hall element was further to the east on the more level ground of the terrace, and could only have extended some m to the west..
- 5.2.3 Despite the comprehensive demolition and subsequent removal of overburden, the archaeological evaluation was able to identify the presence and extent of the barn, albeit in a much disturbed condition. The extent of the barn can be determined from the identification of the stone alignment [18] within Trench 2 and the potential robbed-out wall within Trench 3 [33]. This would approximate with the extent of the large barn depicted on the 1829 lithograph, where the barn was seen to extend beyond the hall to the south and to have been close to the hall in the west (approximately 7m).
- 5.2.4 Definite dating evidence for the barn was not forthcoming. The removal of the majority of interior elements, during demolition, effectively also removed all artefactual evidence. It was possible, however, to date the northern end of the barn by the presence of the ceramic field drain [16] within what would have been the interior of the structure. Ceramic drains of this type are almost exclusively used for agricultural field drainage from the mid nineteenth century onwards and the presence of the drain within the barn may suggest that the structure was extended to the north after the drain had been laid in open agricultural land. Similarly the surface within Trench 3, constructed from moulded bricks, was laid upon ground which displayed evidence for earlier activity in the area (the layer of creamy mortar). Therefore it is

possible to suggest that the northern and southern limits of the barn were in fact extensions from an original older central core. It is therefore possible that the photographic evidence for seventeenth century architectural details in the barn may have been original.

- 5.2.5 Whilst the programme of trial trenching has established that the hall did not extend west into the proposed development area, the land to the immediate east of Trench 1, currently used as a drive, was not subject to the archaeological investigation and is on an area of the site which could potentially contain evidence for the hall extension.

6. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 IMPACT

- 6.1.1 The proposal to develop the study area for a Visitor Centre and Warden's accommodation will involve extensive groundworks for the provision of services and for the excavation of foundations and would thus have a profound impact upon any archaeological remains within the extent of the study area.
- 6.1.2 Although there was a limited potential for the presence of a western extension to the hall within the study area, systematic trenching has not identified significant archaeological features within the extent of the study area and has highlighted a resource of only local importance. Therefore, on the present evidence, it is believed that the proposed development will not have an undue impact upon the archaeological resource at Swarthmoor Hall.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 The evaluation of the proposed Visitor Centre and Warden's accommodation at Swarthmoor Hall has not revealed any significant or dateable archaeological features which would be compromised by the proposed construction programme, and the identified resource was not of sufficient archaeological importance to justify recommending any further archaeological work.
- 6.2.2 The land to the immediate west of the hall complex, identified during the historical research programme as the site of a potential western hall extension, would however require further archaeological evaluation should services be routed through that area.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- P.2 LSF, Picture collection, 3/38: 'Swarthmore Hall near Ulverston; drawn from Nature & on Stone by A[lfred] B[urgess]'. Lithograph, nd. [1829]. Apparently based on P.1
- P.3 LSF, Picture collection, 84/AL 15: 'Swarthmoor Hall'. Engraving by C. Gilpin [fl. 1842 x 1852], nd. Another copy in Gibson MSS, Vol. 6, p. 131
- P.4 LSF, Gibson MSS, Vol. 6
 p. 129 pencil sketch of hall across fields from south east by A. Waterhouse, 1846
 p. 131 engraving by C. Gilpin [= P.3]
 p. 134 lithograph of east elevation of hall by J.F. Masser, Leeds [cf. lithograph by T. Mounsey, p. 135]
 pp. 135-145 lithographs by T.M[ounsey] 1845:
 p. 135 east elevation of hall
 p. 137 staircase from entrance lobby, entitled 'Entrance'
 p. 138-9 'Parlour'
 p. 140-1 'The Hall'
 p. 143 'Judge Fell's Study' signed 'T.M. 1845'
 p. 145 'Lodging Room'
 p. 142 lithographs of 'The Hall' and 'Parlour' by J.F. Masser, Leeds [cf. lithographs by T, Mounsey, pp.138-141]
- P.5 'Swarthmoor Hall - the residence of George Fox', engraving by F W Lockwood, 1874 (framed copy at Swarthmoor Hall)

7.2 PRIMARY SOURCES

7.2.1 *Cumbria Record Office [CRO] (Barrow)*

Z.140-3: title deeds to Swarthmoor Hall estate, 1752-9

BD/HJ/2: precedent book, 18th cent., containing (pp. 77-8, 164-5, 170-2) copies of mortgage deeds re Swarthmoor Hall, 1754

7.2.2 *Library of the Society of Friends, Friends House, London [LSF]*

D.1 1811 *Friends Library*, iv, 291, Brief description by Henry Hull of Stanford, New York

D.2 1841 LSF, MSS, Portfolio 34, no. 1. Copy [1912] of letter from E.H. Champion describing visit to Swarthmoor Hall in summer of 1841

D.3 1888 William King Baker, *John T. Dorland* (London, 1898), pp. 85-6. transcript of Dorland's account of his visit to north-west England, dated 9 August 1888

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7.2.3 *Swarthmoor Hall*

Aerial photograph of Hall and outbuildings, nd. [1960]

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OS 1846 Ordnance Survey Six-Inch Map of Lancashire, sheet 16, surveyed 1846-7

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APPENDIX 1
PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 2
PROJECT DESIGN

August 1997

**Lancaster
University
Archaeological
Unit**

**SWARTHMOOR HALL
ULVERSTON**

CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request from the Religious Society of Friends, for an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed residential accommodation development at Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston Cumbria.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Religious Society of Friends have invited Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) to submit proposals for an archaeological evaluation at Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston, to be undertaken in advance of a proposed residential accommodation development (centred on NGR SD 4960 7030). The study area is adjacent to the hall, in an area formerly occupied by a, now demolished, barn and it is possible that part of the hall formerly extended into the study area.
- 1.2 Swarthmoor Hall has been a pilgrimage for the Religious Society of Friends since George Fox preached from here in 1642, and inspired the birth of Quakerism. The hall possibly dates back to the late sixteenth century, when it was built by George Fell. It remained as a working farmhouse until 1912 when it was acquired by Emma Clarke Abraham in conjunction with a group of Friends; it finally came into Quaker ownership in 1954.
- 1.3 The building has been subject to at least three major modifications. It was largely ruinous by the 1770's and part of the structure was demolished by the mid nineteenth century. An etching by Gilpin (c 1842) shows that the south-west section had been rebuilt by that time. A further programme of restoration took place in 1880. Finally there was a major programme of restoration between 1913 and 1919, which involved the reopening of windows, rebuilding the balcony and also internal refurbishment (Winchester 1996).
- 1.4 Documentary information shows that the building formerly extended to the west of the present structure, but had been demolished by 1829 (the earliest available lithograph); such an extension may have extended into the study area. The same lithograph shows a long barn in the development area, which was demolished in the 1960's. As a consequence the County Archaeologist has required that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken to assess the sub-surface survival of these structures prior to the development.
- 1.5 The Lancaster University Archaeological Unit has considerable experience of the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 18 years. Evaluations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. LUAU has in the past worked closely with the architects (Carr Humphreys Architecture) in the course of conservation projects at Kendal Castle and Calder Abbey. LUAU has also worked closely with Dr Angus Winchester who has undertaken the historical research into the building. LUAU has the professional expertise and resource to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. LUAU and all its members of staff operate subject to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed, in accordance with a brief by Philip Holdsworth of Cumbria County Council, to provide an accurate archaeological evaluation of the designated area, within its broader context. The aim of the evaluation is to assess existing information about the history and archaeology of the site, to evaluate the sub-surface survival of the documented structures and other remains on site and to make recommendation for further work to mitigate the effects of the proposed development. The brief requires the implementation of a desk-based survey and a programme of trial trenching in the area of the proposed development structures.
- 2.2 ***Desk Top Survey***
To accrue an organised body of data to inform the field inspection.
- 2.3 ***Trial Trenching***
A limited programme of trial trenching to investigate the nature, extent, chronology, and preservation of any archaeological deposits encountered within the area of the proposed development.
- 2.4 ***Evaluation Report***

A written evaluation report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will advise on the mitigation measures necessary to protect and/or record (to appropriate levels) identified archaeological features and deposits, including any appropriate further evaluation, excavation, and recording strategies.

3. FIELD EVALUATION

3.1 DOCUMENTARY STUDY

3.1.1 The documentary study is intended to inform the present and proposed programme of development at Swarthmoor Hall and therefore the scope of the study will concentrate on specific questions of relevance to the evaluation

- i) The form of the south wing prior to its removal and the renovation of the hall in the nineteenth century.
- ii) The dates of the renovations and the changes which have occurred over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- iii) The form of the barn, its date and the history of the site following its demolition.

3.1.2 The documentary research will involve examination of written, cartographic and pictorial sources and will concentrate primarily on two principal sources of information: the County Record Office (Barrow) and the Friends House Library (London). It will include an appraisal of the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record, as well as appropriate sections of County histories, early maps, and such primary documentation (tithe and estate plans etc.) as may be reasonably available. A scan of published sources is also proposed, to provide a context and chronology for the development of the buildings. Much of this information has already been collated by Angus Winchester (Senior Lecturer History Department, University of Lancaster), who has kindly agreed to undertake the documentary study for LUAU.

3.2 FIELD EVALUATION

3.2.1 **Targeted trenching:** A limited programme of trial excavations, as recommended by the County Archaeologist, will be undertaken to establish the nature, extent, chronology, and preservation of any archaeological deposits encountered. This will involve the excavation of three trenches along the line of the proposed accommodation building. Excavation will normally be limited to the upper surface of significant archaeological deposits, unless further work is regarded by ourselves and the County Archaeologist as essential in order to complete the full evaluation. This element of the trial trenching is invaluable in order to assess those parts, within the area of the proposed development, where there is a potential for archaeological deposits to survive which are not visible on the surface. This also reduces the possibility of the discovery of any important archaeological features within those areas during groundwork, so as to minimise the possibility of any disruption at that late stage.

3.2.2 Three 5m x 2m trial trenches will be excavated within the area of the proposed accommodation development, one will be excavated in line with the south-eastern wing to test for the existence of a former extension of the hall, as implied by the 1829 lithograph. The precise locations of the trenches would be determined in discussions with the client and County Archaeologist at the outset of the project. The excavation will establish if the present surface is built up ground and at what depth in-situ archaeological deposits are identified. The trenches will not be excavated to a depth greater than 1.25m, the maximum safe depth for unshored excavations.

3.2.3 **Methodology:** To maximise the speed and efficiency of the operation the removal of overburden will be undertaken by machine (with a standard five or six foot toothless ditching bucket), although in areas where ephemeral remains are encountered elements may be hand dug.

- 3.2.4 All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Trenches will be accurately located with regard to surrounding features, by use of a total station survey instrument.
- 3.2.5 **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.
- 3.2.6 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a system, adapted from that used by Central Archaeology Service 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. Samples will be collected for technological, pedological, palaeoenvironmental and chronological analysis as appropriate, but it is only intended to process such material for assessment at this stage. LUAU 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 **EVALUATION REPORT**
- 3.3.1 **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. 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. LUAU conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. The expense of preparing such an archive is part of the project cost, but only represents a very small proportion of the total. This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Central Archaeology Service format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files, and a synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and the report) will be included in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record. LUAU practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office (Barrow).
- 3.4.2 **Evaluation Report:** One bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further copy submitted to the Cumbria County Archaeologist. 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 will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, with an assessment of the overall stratigraphy, together with appropriate illustrations, including detailed plans and sections indicating the locations of archaeological features. Any finds recovered from the excavations will be assessed with reference to other local material and any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted and the potential of the site for palaeoenvironmental analysis will be considered. 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.
- 3.3.3 This report will provide an assessment of the documentary evidence for earlier structures within the development area and will identify areas of defined archaeology, the location of trenches, and whether the results of the sampling were positive or negative. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the site within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map, section drawings, early pictorial representations of the hall and plans if appropriate; it can be tailored to the

specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion. The report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on 3.5" disk (IBM compatible format).

3.3.4 **Proposals:** The report will make a clear statement of the likely archaeological implications of the development. It will highlight whether, as a first option, the preservation *in situ* of significant archaeological features should take place and possible strategies for the mitigation of the impact of the development will be considered. When preservation is neither possible, nor practical, a further stage of archaeological work may be required. In this case, recommendations for such mitigation measures will be submitted. It should also be made clear that the results of this archaeological evaluation should only be considered as representative of the below ground archaeological potential of those areas presently accessible for trial trenching.

3.3.5 **Confidentiality:** The evaluation 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.

3.4 OTHER MATTERS

3.4.1 **Access:** Liaison for site access to Swarthmoor Hall will be undertaken with the client. The precise location of any services within the study area will also be established.

3.4.2 **Health and Safety:** Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the excavation of the trenches, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. LUAU 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 (1991) and risk assessments are implemented for all projects. 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.

3.4.3 **Reinstatement and Security:** Land disturbed as a result of this work will be reinstated by the replacement of the material in the reverse order that it was removed.

3.4.4 It is presumed that the Client will have responsibility for site security.

4. PROJECT MONITORING

4.1 THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

4.1.1 LUAU will consult with The Religious Society of Friends regarding access to land within the study area. This consultation will include, if required, the attendance of a representative of the client at any meetings convened with the Cumbria County Archaeologist or his representative to discuss progress or the report.

4.2 CUMBRIA SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

4.2.1 Any proposed changes to the project brief or the project design will be agreed with the Cumbria County Archaeologist in co-ordination with the client. LUAU will arrange a preliminary meeting, if required, and the Cumbria SMR will be informed of the commencement of the project in writing.

5. WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The phases of work would comprise:
- 5.2 **Documentary Study**
A three day period is required for this element of the programme
- 5.2 **Trial Trenching**
A two day period is required to undertake the trenching programme.
- 5.3 **Summary Report**
0.25 day will be required to prepare an interim summary report.
- 5.4 **Prepare Evaluation Report**
A three day period would be required to complete this element.
- 5.4 LUAU can execute projects at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client. LUAU would be able to submit the report to the client within four weeks from the commencement of the project.
- 5.5 Immediately following the completion of the trial trenching programme a summary of the results will be submitted in order to provide for the 2nd September planning committee. In order to meet this 2nd September deadline we would need to have authorisation to proceed at the earliest opportunity.
6. **OUTLINE RESOURCES**
- 6.1 The following resource base will be necessary to achieve the proposals detailed above.
- 6.2 **Documentary Study**
3 man-days external consultant
- 6.3 **Trial Trenching**
2 man-days Project Supervisor
2 man-days Project Assistant
- 6.4 **Evaluation Report**
2 man-days Project Supervisor
1 man-days Draughtsman
- 6.5 The project will be under the management of **Jamie Quartermaine, BA, Surv Dip, MIFA** (Unit Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.6 The documentary study will be undertaken by **Dr Angus Winchester** (Senior Lecturer (History) at Lancaster University).

ILLUSTRATIONS

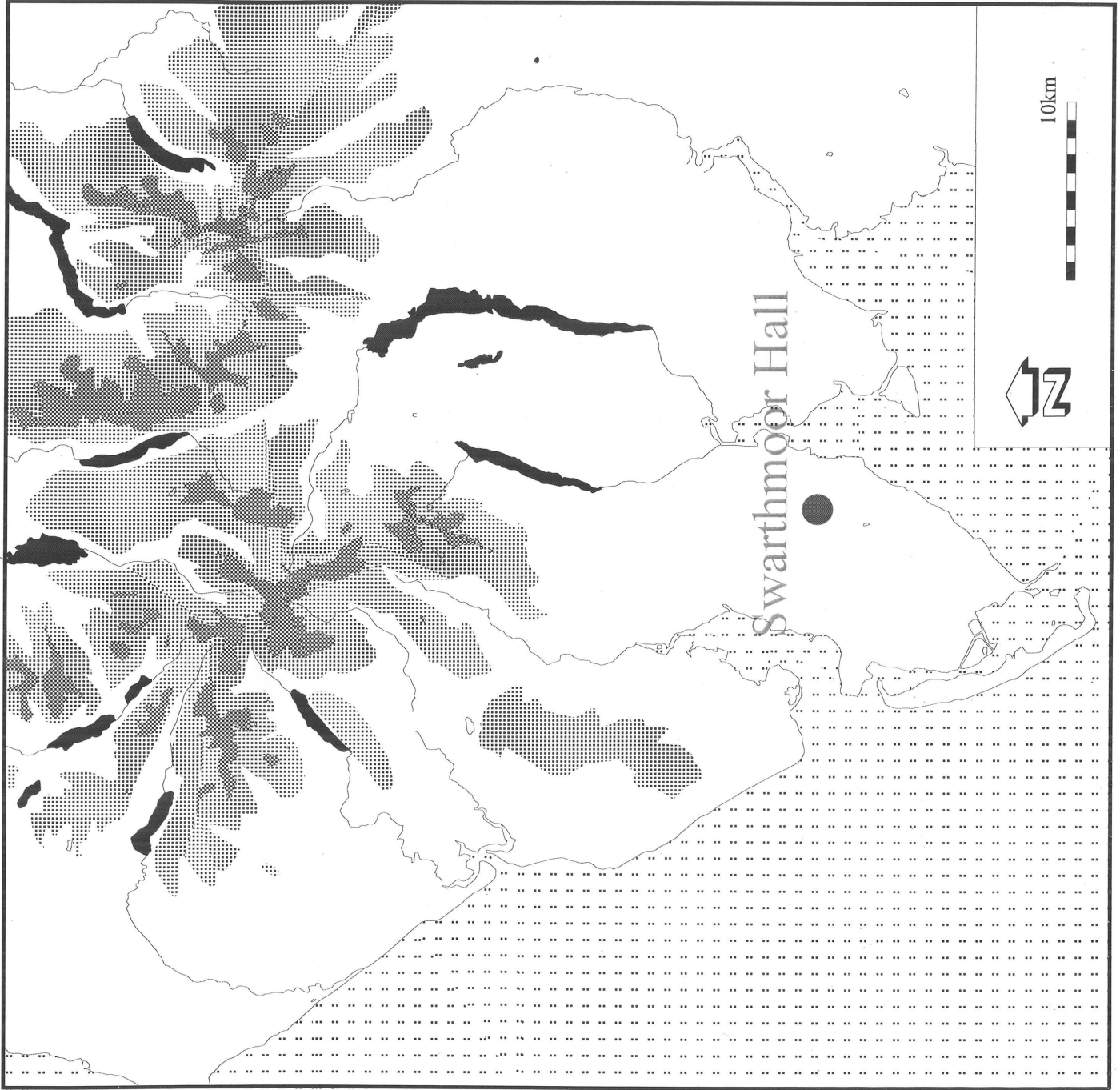


Fig 1 Swarthmoor Hall Location Plan

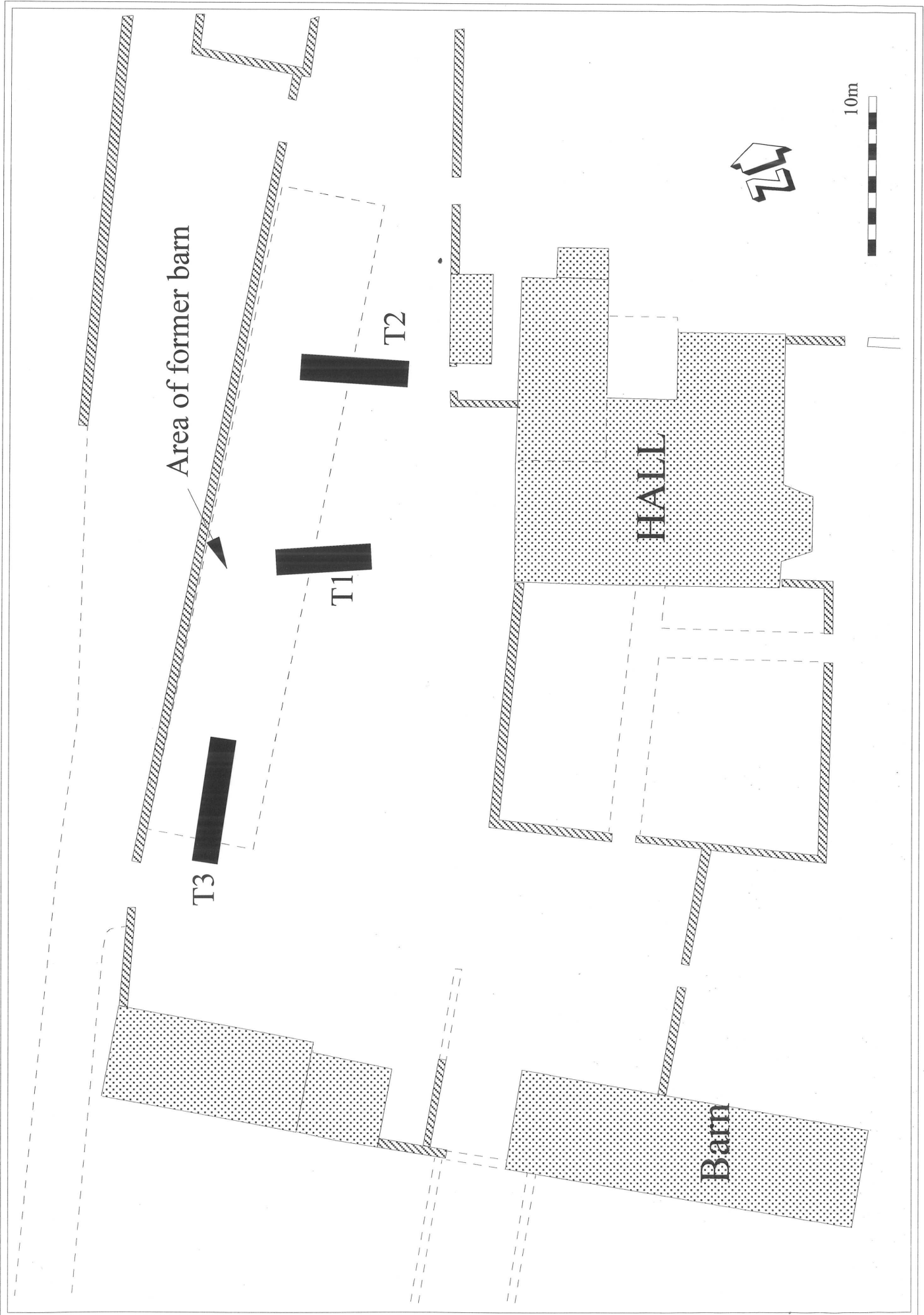


Fig 2 Trench Location Plan

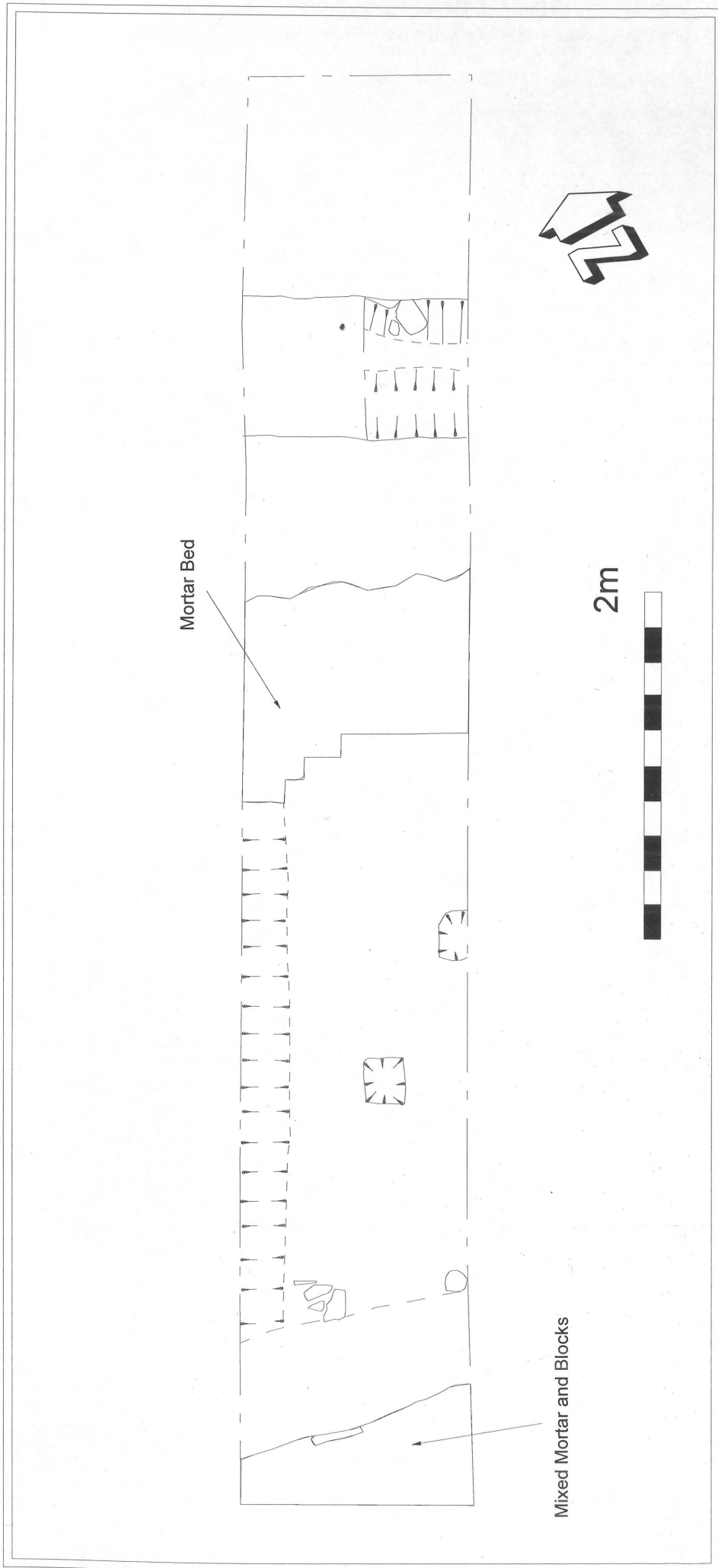


Fig 3 Trench 3 Plan