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SUMMARY

The watching brief action revealed that any putative archaeological deposits had been either removed following earlier development or most probably did not encroach into the study area.

No finds were present that could dispute this assessment.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Origins

Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) was consulted by Carlisle City Council regarding a planning application for an extension beside 3 Beech Grove, Carlisle as requested under Planning Application 1/09/0952

As potential and significant archaeological remains may be encountered, an archaeological watching brief has been requested from Cumbria County Council.

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd has been commissioned by Mrs Bridget O'Hara, the client, to undertake an Archaeological watching brief relating to the ground works for this development.

The development of the site involved the machine removal of superfluous concrete and clay within the proposed building footprint as well as the insertion of various service trenches attending to the development.

A desk-based assessment was also required prior to the watching brief taking place.

This document describes the results of that archaeological watching brief and its archaeological context within the desk-based assessment.

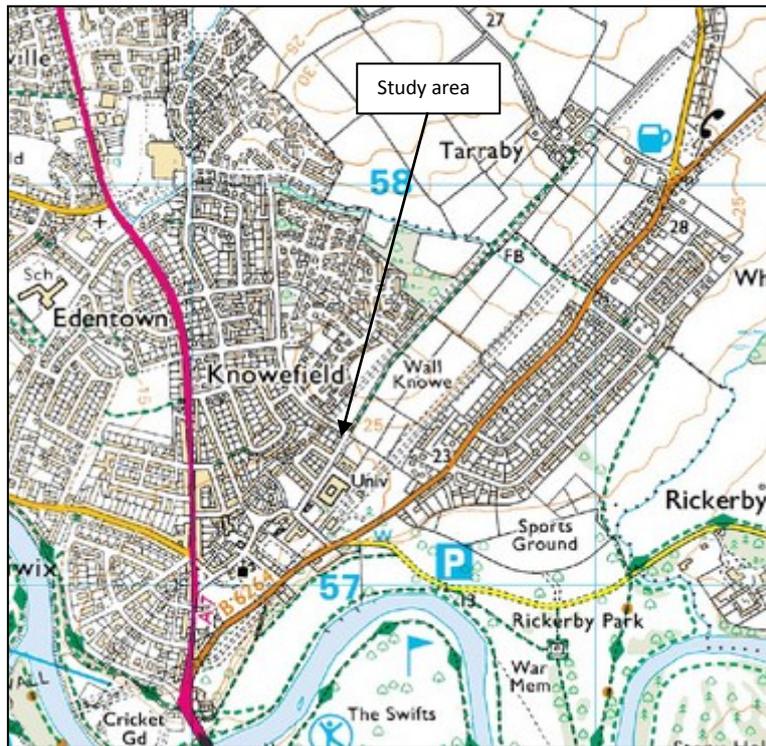


Figure 1. Site location (OS Copyright, Licence no. 100044205)

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

In response to a request by Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), Gerry Martin Associates Ltd submitted a project design. This document outlined the contractors'

professional competence as well as general objectives required of the project, the methodology and the resources needed for the successful expedition of this work.

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd were commissioned to undertake the archaeological fieldwork following approval of the project design by the curatorial body.

The following report has been assembled to the relevant standards and protocols of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation, 2008), combined with accepted best practice and in accordance with the brief prepared by the curatorial authority.

Fieldwork took place on May 12th 2010.

2.2 Archive

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2008).

The archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository, Tullie House, Carlisle and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, topography and geology

The drift geology comprises of alluvial sand and clay resting above Boulder Clay that overlies red sandstone solid geology.

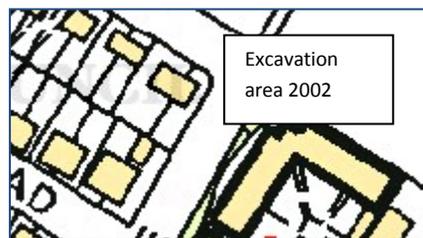


Figure 2. Location study area (red outline) (OS Copyright, Licence no. 100044205)

4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

4.1 Desk-based assessment

The study area (NY 4036 5737) lies north of Hadrian's Wall in an area traditionally believed to have yielded few archaeological deposits.

Excavation during 2009 approximately 150 metres north of the Wall revealed a cobbled spread bearing eight Roman coins varying in date between circa 117 and 337 AD. Although interpretation remains provisional, there appears to be a strong case for a market or a centre for exchange involving client people north of the Wall throughout the Roman period.



The presence of a linear ditch, well and a possible timber sill foundation suggested formal settlement that may have equated to a *vicus*, a parallel with the results of a geophysical survey at Birdoswald (Wilmott pers comm).

An evaluation in 1993 (HER no. 40442) approximately 500 metres northeast of the study area found evidence for a cobbled surface, foundation trenches and post-holes for putative timber buildings. A V-shaped ditch was also discovered at least 25 metres in length overlain by a series of cobbled surfaces. This multi-phased activity was originally interpreted as a Late Iron Age or early Romano-British farmstead.

Roman pottery (HER no. 40425) was also found 400 metres northeast of the study area at Knowefield, whilst a Roman coin (HER no. 18937) was found at Beech Grove.

Approximately 1km northwards, Windsor Way, Carlisle (unpublished) produced in 1999 occasional undated ditches and *ard* marks but no trace of substantive occupation despite a study area of several hectares (Reeve *pers comm*).



Figure 3. First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866 showing Location of 3 Beech Grove

5. RESULTS

5.1 Development proposals

The development involves the construction of a two storey extension to 3 Beech Grove.

Figure 4. Ground plan regarding the proposed development

5.2 Methodology

The objective of the watching brief investigation is to carry out a formal programme of archaeological observations and investigations during any operations on site that may disturb or destroy archaeological or architecturally informative deposits or remains. The specific aims of the work are to:

- Provide a record of those works associated with the removal of the topsoil
- Provide a record of any significant archaeological or architectural features encountered by intrusive activities

In order to achieve these objectives, a record of all archaeological informative deposits encountered during the ground operations were made consisting of detailed context records on individual pro-forma sheets and field drawings, according to the protocols set out in the GMA manual.

The ground-works were undertaken by machine under archaeological supervision. This action consisted of observation of the spoil removal and monitoring the displaced soil. Revealed sections were checked for any past cultural activity and if necessary recorded according to the protocols of the GMA manual.

The work was undertaken on May 12th 2010.

Figure 5. View of the study area prior to excavation

5.3 Results

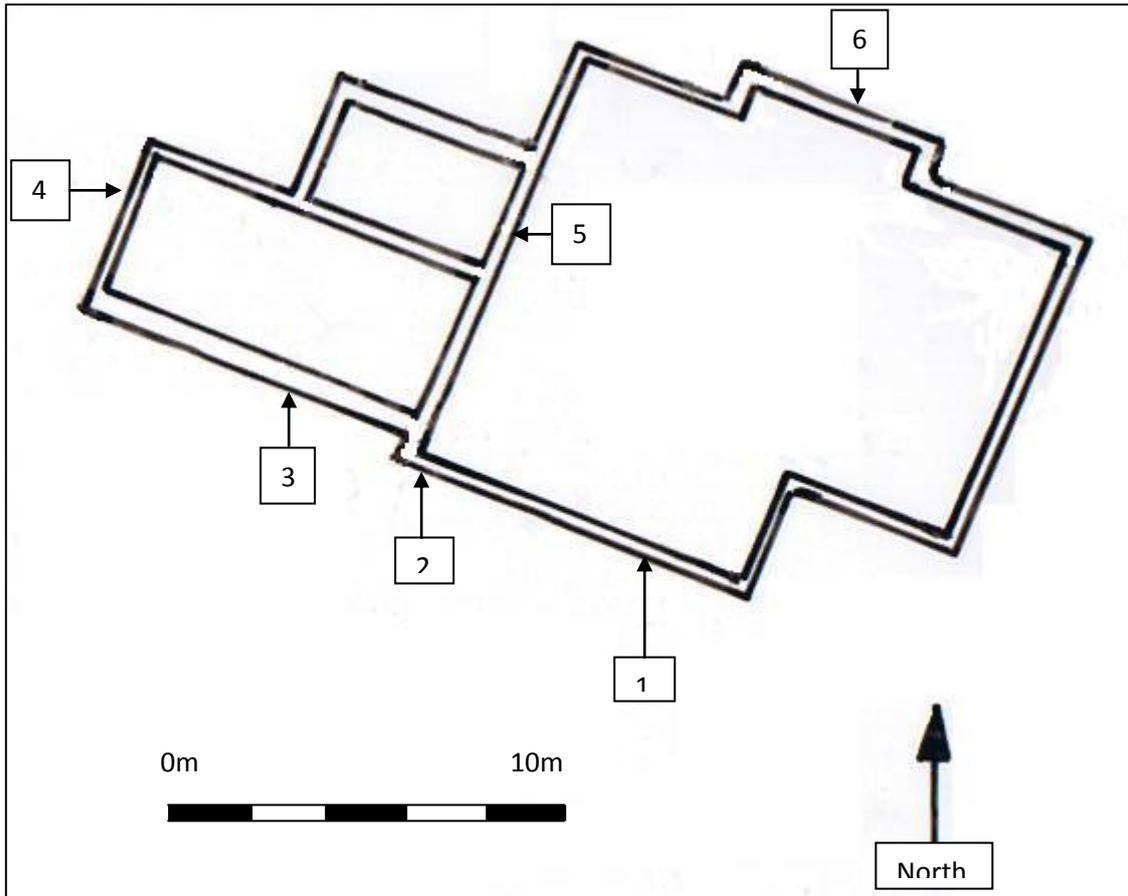


Figure 6. Footprint for the watching brief

Within the study area, concrete surfaces and dwarf brick walls were present that may be synonymous with sheds or temporary outbuildings.

Figure 7. Plan of the excavated footprint

Figure 8. Section in southern trench

Figure 9. Section in the central area

Figure 10. Section in the northern trench

5.4 Discussion

All the sections within the foundation footprint revealed considerable overburden lain during the building programme of 2002 (figures 8-10). In places, this buried dark grey topsoil that overlay a subsoil of sand and clay before sealing glacial Boulder Clay.

Large cutting features were present on the south side of the building footprint necessitating extra concrete being poured but these were of definite 20th century date probably associated with Eden School suggesting this was a marginal area beside the southern limit of the property, land where waste was dumped or stored.

Sheds and other ancillary structures probably existed, all of recent date.

Based on the observations undertaken it appears highly likely that previous truncation had removed any putative archaeological deposits.

No sections revealed cutting features of any antiquity and no unstratified or stratified finds of antiquity were recovered.

6. ARCHIVE

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, 2001 and 2007).

The archive will be deposited with Kendal Museum and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Mrs Bridget O'Hara, the client for her collaboration on this project.

I would also like to thank Jeremy Parsons (CCCHES) for their guidance with the archaeological brief, the staff of Carlisle Library with my research into the local history of the area and the staff of Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle with the map regression and other documentary research.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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