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Penrith Proposed Filling Station

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

406-01490-00011

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Wm MORRISON SUPERMARKETS PLC
PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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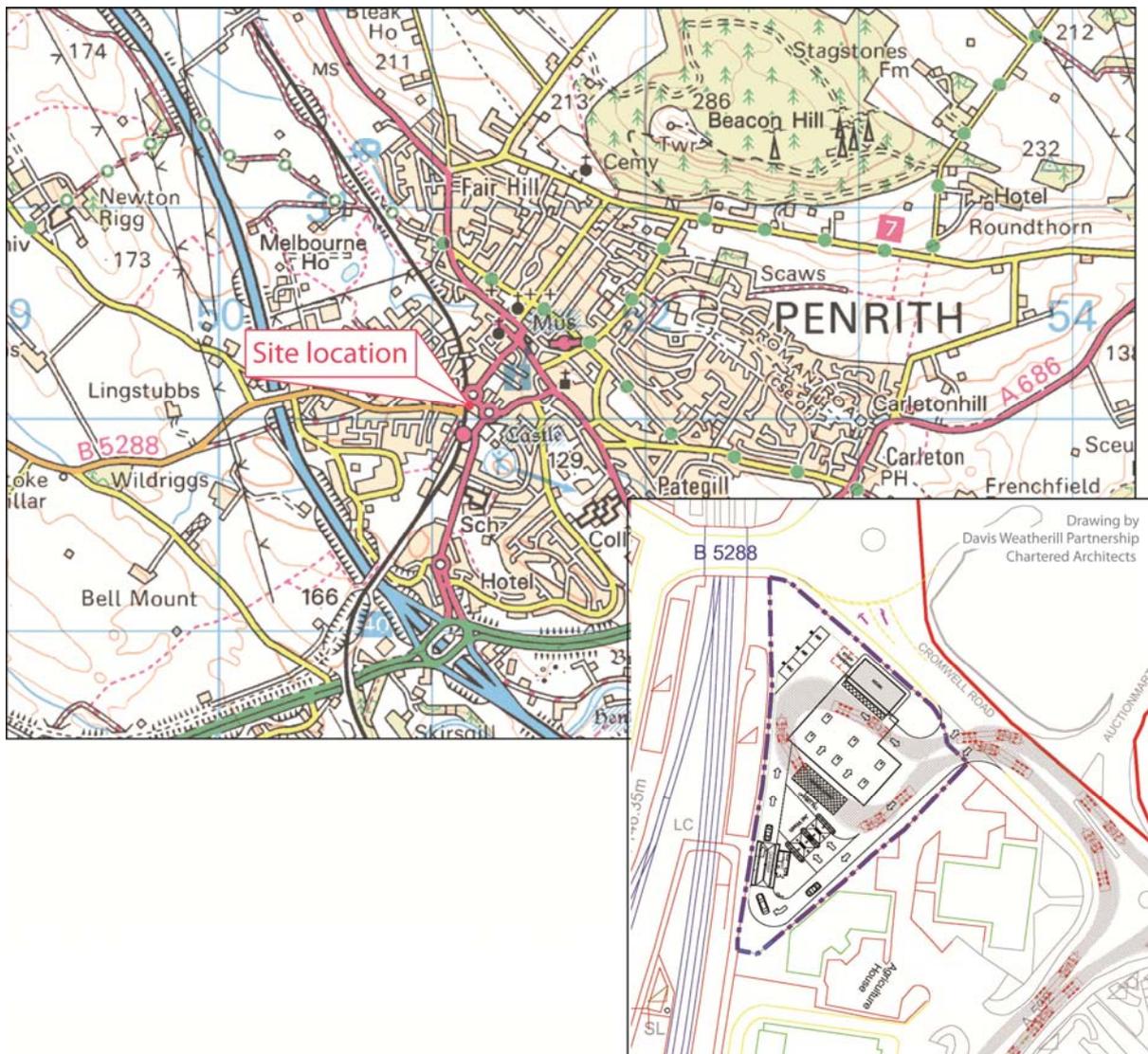
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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PLANNING BACKGROUND

This desk-based assessment is a supplementary planning document in support of a planning application for a proposed filling station centred on National Grid Reference NY5119430046. This study has been prepared by SLR Consulting on behalf of Wm Morrison Supermarkets PLC (hereafter the Client).

A planning has been submitted for construction of a petrol filling station with associated kiosk, jet wash and car wash between Cromwell road and the railway line, opposite the Morrison Superstore (Figure 1).

Figure 1
Site Location



2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location, land-use and administrative background

The application site comprises a triangular area of land covering approximately 2,288 sq meters. It is located immediately west of the town centre and 68m NW of the boundary of the scheduled monument for Penrith Castle. The site is bordered to the east by a stone wall along Cromwell Road, to the west by a wire fence along the railway line and to the south by a wooden fence which forms a boundary to adjacent land comprising business properties and a small Morrisons retail outlet.

The land currently comprises a brick built vehicle repair garage and associated brick structures, the land being predominantly covered by tarmac and forming a vehicular parking area. Two fuel pumps are situated on the property adjacent to the southern wooden fence close to the entrance of the property on Cromwell Road.

2.2 Geology and topography

Penrith lies at the edge of the Eden Valley between the River Eamont and River Petteril and is approximately 13m AOD. The Eden Valley geology comprises New Red Sandstone mostly of Lower Permian basalt, breccias, sandstones and mudstones, with a narrow band of Upper Permian and Triassic sandstones. The town is situated close to the western edge of the New Red Sandstones with Carboniferous Limestone of the Dinantian series to the west. The drift geology of the town is predominantly glacial deposits in the form of drumlins formed by ice moving down what is now the Eden Valley.

The site is situated on the top of a low ridge, the end of which is utilised by the castle less than a kilometre away to the SE. To the north east the ridge slopes down to a shallow valley before rising again at Beacons Hill. Between the ridge and Beacons Hill is a slight raised outcrop of land on which the parish Church of St Andrews is situated. A medieval culverted watercourse known as Thacka Beck flows NW/SE along the valley and around the western edge of the raised outcrop, then flows southwards to join the River Eamont.

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

There are no designated heritage assets recorded within the application site boundary and it is not within a Conservation Area, World Heritage Site, Registered Battlefield or Registered Park and Garden.

Within a 500m radius of the centre of the application site there are 3 scheduled monuments, 102 Listed Buildings and 17 SMR records.

No previous archaeological investigation has taken place within the application site although the HER lists an evaluation (2000) and watching brief (2000) carried out by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, and a second watching brief in 2011 and building survey in 2010 carried out by On-Site Archaeology Ltd at Penrith Station adjacent.

Figure 2
SMR Points, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas



3.0 RESULTS OF THE DESK STUDY

- 3.1 Data-gathering included a search area of 500m radius from the site (Figure 2), and a wider study was conducted as necessary to understand the context of the site. The Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted as well as web-based sites such as Heritage Gateway, British History on-line and other sources. A map regression exercise using historic mapping was completed and the DBA was guided by the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (2008)*.
- 3.2 There are 20 known sites listed on the HER within a 500km radius of the centre of the application site (Table 1). These include below ground archaeological remains and historic structures. In addition to this the HER has 22 "events" (investigations or observations).

Table 1
List of Cumbria HER entries

HER no	Name/Type	Period	Description
1172	Perforated Stone	Prehistoric	5in long by 1 1/2in thick with biconical perforation. Found on an allotment in 1936
13877	Battle Axe finds	Prehistoric/Bronze Age?	2 battleaxe heads found near the Roman Way upon the fell 1818 age unknown
5492	Cup and Ring Marked stone	Prehistoric Bronze Age	Unprovenanced, sandstone block
13877	Roman Coin	Roman	Coin of Faustina, wife of Marcus Aurelius. Also
6845	Roman Coin	Roman	Gold coin of Caius Censorinus 90BC found in Penrith exact location unknown
16838 (SM 23661)	Giant's Grave	Anglo Saxon	Two 10 th century Anglian cross shafts and four hogback stones. Unparalleled in Cumbria. Not original location
950 (SM 23662)	Giant's Thumb	Anglo Saxon	Anglian High Cross, cAD 920. St Andrew's churchyard – not original location

957	Brooch	Early medieval, Scandinavian	Early c10 silver thistle brooch
3841	Thacka Beck	Medieval Plantagenet	Watercourse from River Peteril to Penrith – paid for by Wm Strickland, Bishop of Carlisle from 1400-19
2878 (SM 23649)	Strickland's pele Tower and Penrith Castle	Medieval, Plantagenet	Repaired from the ruins of Mayburgh henge during reign of Henry VI and in c16
19308	Corney House Medieval Impost	Medieval	2 rusticated segmental arches belonging to a medieval building – now in a boundary wall
4911 Incorrectly located – should be at castle	Coin Find	Tudor	Elizabethan silver groat found at Penrith Castle
4910	Coin Find	Tudor	Elizabethan coin
42970	Token	Georgian	Copper alloy trade token from Hull dating to 1791
5408	Dockray Hall	Georgian	Gate Piers belonging to a building which dates originally to 1470. Traditional home of Richard III
43632	Northern Carriage Works	Victorian	Carriage works, later bus depot, retail park DBA
41152	Crown Square Timber Yard	Victorian	Timber Yard DBA
40828	Brunswick road Saw Mill	Post medieval	Saw Mill
5052 Incorrectly located, should be at Brougham Hall	Penrith Well	Unknown	Square well now under a housing development (probably located at Brougham Hall)
5056 Incorrectly located, should be at Angel Lane	Angel Lane Wells	Unknown	7 wells found when redeveloping Angel Lane shopping precinct
19607	Sculptured Head Find	Unknown	Female stone head of good standard. Flat back indicates its function on a standing building

- 3.3 Two of the HER entries are prehistoric and constitute stone artefacts the original find locations of which are unknown, two are Roman coins and three are 10th century. Two of the 10th century entries are stone monuments now located in St Andrew's churchyard and the 'Giant's Grave' is so fine it is unparalleled in Cumbria. The third entry is a Scandinavian brooch. Three entries are from the medieval period and the remaining entries are post medieval, including several industrial buildings and there are three entries of unknown date which could be medieval or earlier.
- 3.4 The nearest events such as those in the adjacent property at Penrith Station included an evaluation, building surveys and a watching brief. The Watching brief took place in 2011 during ground works for a new car park, to a maximum depth of 0.9m. Only ash and cinders were seen to overlie natural sand, suggesting that any earlier archaeological remains at these observation points had been removed when a goods yard was built in the mid 19th century (On-Site Archaeology 2011). Opposite the proposed development site at Brunswick Road a desk based assessment by Archaeology Services, University of Durham 2011 and building survey by Greenlane Archaeology Ltd was carried out.
- 3.5 According to cartographic references the area within the site boundary has been used by the railway since at least the 1860s. Due to this, no information would have been gained from landscape interpretation using aerial photographs pertaining to the site.

4.0 HISTORIC MAP REGRESSION

- 4.1 The Cassini series map of 1866-69 (Figure 3) based on early Ordnance Survey 1" mapping shows the site situated adjacent to the railway with a possible road or boundary on the southern edge of the site which might form a crossroads with another road on the other side of Cromwell Road. No buildings are shown within the site area although the other side of Cromwell Road is built-up. Cromwell Road appears to have been an extension of Gillwilly Lane before construction of the railway and appears to have been an early routeway into Penrith. Construction of the railway line appears to have displaced another crossroads to the north of the site and it appears that Brunswick Road was once a continuation of the old routeway to Nine Chimneys and Bottom. The area within the site therefore once sat between two early crossroads.
- 4.2 The 1867 map (Figure 4) shows the site in more detail. The road to the south of the site, mentioned above, is not there but a boundary at this location is clearly visible. No buildings or other structures are shown within the site.
- 4.3 The 1891-95 map (Figure 5) shows a small building and adjacent ancillary structure within the site area where Cromwell Road and the southern site boundary meet. Also within the site boundary can be seen a siding, turntable and smaller siding. The southern boundary has gone, linking the site area with the adjacent southern parcel of land and the whole labelled as a Timber Yard which includes further sidings, turntables and a crane.
- 4.4 In the 1898 1:10,560 map (Figure 6) all the sidings and the Timber Yard are gone, and the southern boundary to the site has returned. A possible hard standing can be seen in the northern corner of the site.

Figure 3
1866-69 Map



Figure 4
1867 Map



Figure 5
1891-95 Map

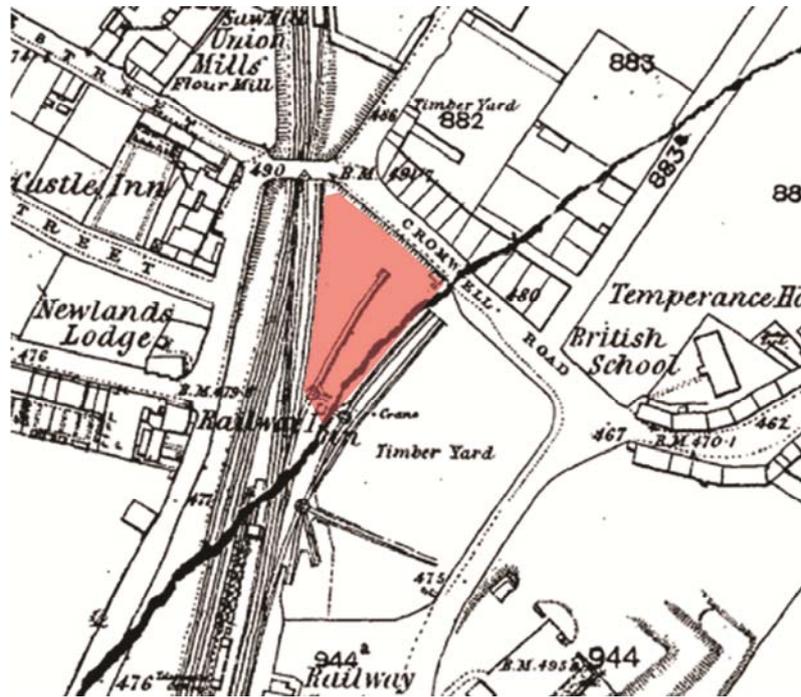
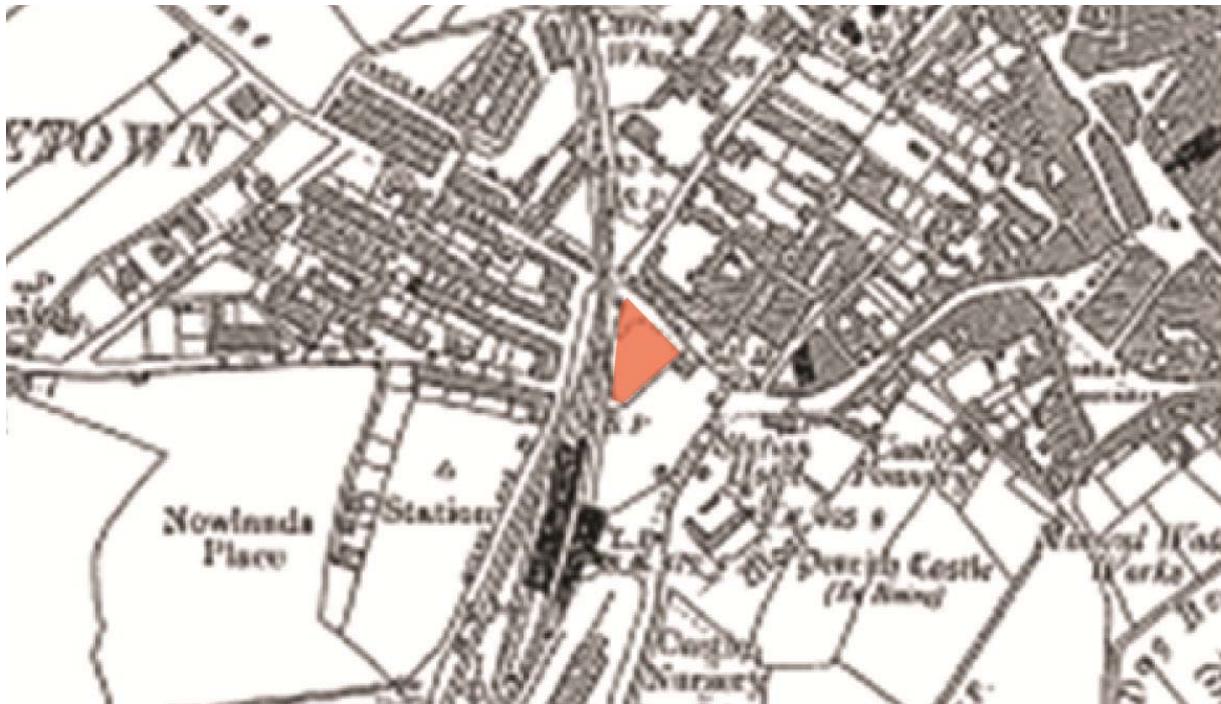


Figure 6
1898 Map



5.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS FROM DESK STUDY

5.1 Interpretation of the historic landscape

5.1.1 Prehistory.

The region around Penrith has been an important focus of prehistoric activity since at least the Bronze Age. Prehistoric activity in the area includes the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age stone circle Long Meg and Her Daughters, the Henges at Eamont Bridge: King Arthur's Round Table, Little Round Table Henge and Mayburgh Henge, a possible fourth henge of a similar size to Mayburgh and in the same vicinity is identifiable by the circular boundary at Brougham Hall showing a further extension of the sacred landscape. To the north west of Penrith there is also a bowl barrow and two long cairns near Newton Reigny. The presence of a prehistoric burial mound is also suggested at Barrow Hill.

It was not unusual for early Christians to utilize and convert ancient sacred sites for their own places of worship and St Andrews church on a slightly elevated area of ground may itself have been an example of such a site. Nearby was found a series of seven wells at Angel Lane (HER5056), but sadly these could not be investigated because a developer considered them to be of 'no great age' and covered them with concrete (HER). Wells have long been associated with pre-Christian sacred places, worship, healing and pilgrimage (made manifest in the practise of well dressing). Seven is a well known sacred number used in ancient and modern religions worldwide and these wells may have constituted a major part of the sacred prehistoric landscape through to the Iron Age, Romano-British period and beyond. It is worth noting therefore that Penrith was once well known *for the number of wells* it possessed and the ancient practice of well dressing (derived from a more ancient veneration of a tutelary goddess associated with healing) was commonly carried out during May – a well known month in the pagan calendar for its fertility festivals. Another well listed in the HER is Penrith Well (HER5052) although its location is more likely to be at Brougham Hall as it was reported by the Brougham Hall MSC archaeology team.

Within 500m from the site the HER records battleaxes of possible prehistoric date and a Bronze Age cup and ring marked stone for which the exact locations are not known.

The presence of so much prehistoric activity in the form of sacred landscapes would also indicate that there must have been settlements and ancient routeways in the vicinity, as yet unidentified although the green routeways shown on Figure 7 could possibly be of ancient origin, running from Newton Reigny and Greystones passed Penrith Castle site and on towards Brocavum and beyond. It is not unreasonable therefore to suspect that a prehistoric site or settlement could have formed part of the early development of Penrith itself.

5.1.2 Iron Age and Romano British.

The name Penrith probably derives from the Celtic word *pen* meaning hill and *rhudd* meaning red (the modern Welsh name for Penrith is *Penrhudd*) it is probably named after the red sandstone of Beacon hill which towers over the area. Two Roman forts are situated within close proximity of Penrith. Five miles to the north is the fort and associated vicus at Old Penrith identified as *Voreda*, occupied from the 1st to 4th centuries AD. The other fort, guarding the fording point of the Eamont River, is

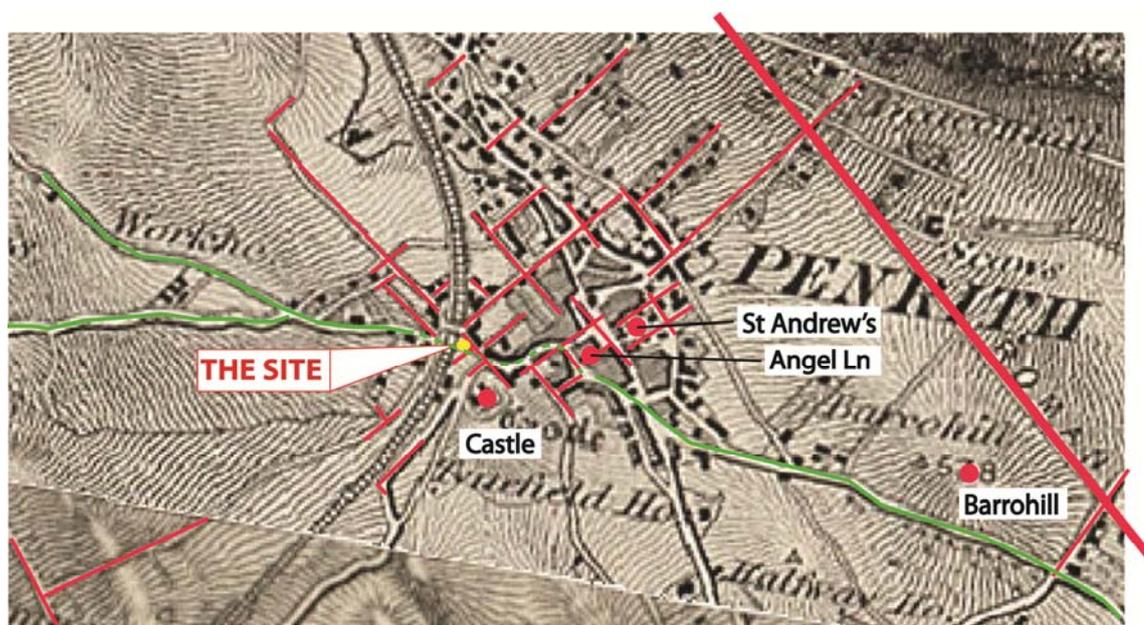
situated at Brougham Brocavum to the southeast of Penrith. Linking both forts is Watling Street Roman road which passes close by to the east of Penrith.

The remains of a possible Romano-British settlement were identified at Brougham Hall to the east of King Arthur's Round Table Henge (monument point HOB-UID 1205), although evidence of Roman settlement has yet to be identified within Penrith itself. It is worth noting however that a number of early roads in and around the old town lie on a grid system parallel to that of the Roman road (Figure 7). These may represent minor Roman roads and *cadastres* (field or property boundaries) apportioned to retired Roman military personnel, the alignments of which would have influenced later property boundaries and roads. Cromwell Road is one of several roads which make up part of this grid, identifying it as being of possible Roman origin. The moat of Penrith Castle can also be seen to lie on the same orientation as the grid and it has been suggested by English Heritage¹ that the site, which is slightly elevated above the town, may once have been used by another Roman fort, and its defences utilised by later builders for the medieval castle.

Another Roman road known as The High Street forks between Tirril and Yanwath to the south of Penrith, one branch heading northeast towards the Roman fort at Brocavum and the other branch heading north in the direction of Penrith Castle crossing the river Eamont at Yanwath *wath* meaning ford (*Ea ford*) perhaps joining up with what is now the A592.

Within 500m of the site two Roman coins are listed in the HER the exact find location of one is unknown but the second was found ambiguously 'near the Roman Way upon the Fell' in 1818.

Figure 7
Roman field systems

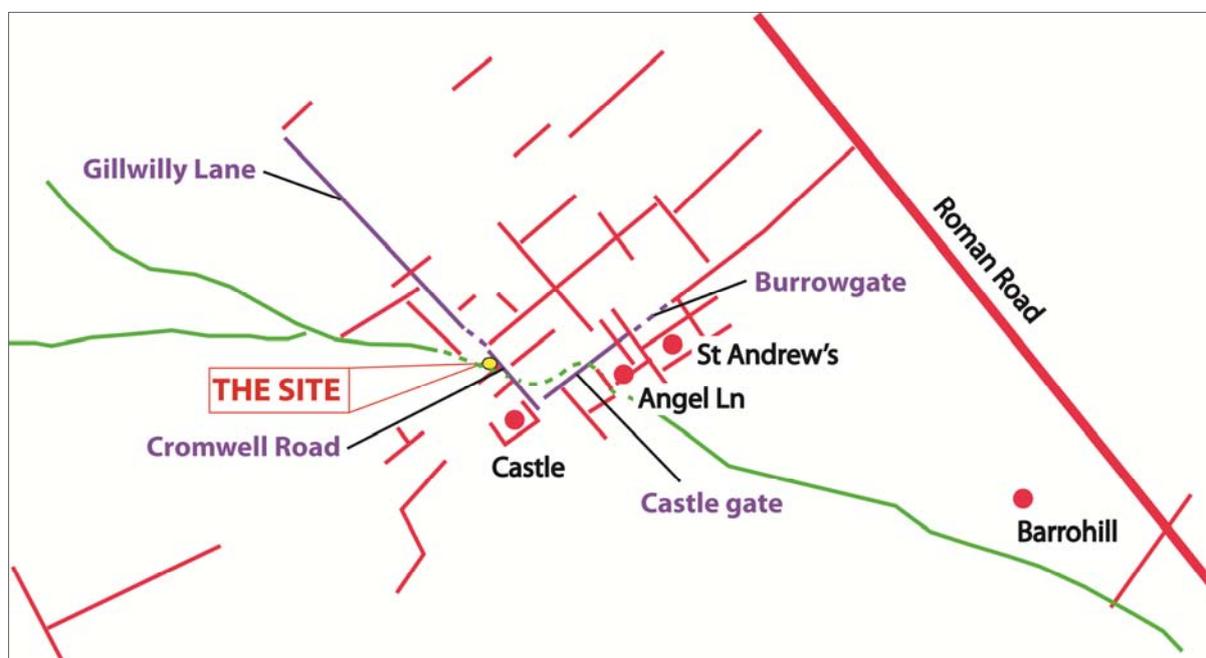


¹ <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/penrith-castle/history-and-research/>

5.1.3 Early medieval.

The etymology of Burrowgate in Penrith (said to be one of the oldest recorded streets in the town) is from the old English word for *burgh* meaning a fortified place suggesting that there was once a pre Norman or earlier fortified enclosure in the vicinity. Looking at Figure 8 it is interesting to note that before the early development of Penrith, Burrowgate and Castle Gate may once have been the same road leading to and from the castle site, indicating that this may already have been known as a fortified place long before construction of the medieval castle. This road is not directly connected with the site but Gillwilly Lane and Cromwell Road similarly appear to have been one road heading to the castle adjacent to the application site

Figure 8
Simplified map showing site in relation to routeways



The place believed by many scholars to be the most likely location for the fortified enclosure is the block of land enclosed by Burrowgate, De Whelpdales Lane, Friar Gate, King Street and Devonshire Street which include St Andrew's Church and churchyard. Further evidence of a pre Norman settlement comes from the remarkably fine Giant's Thumb High Cross and The Giant's Grave, both of which are located within St Andrew's churchyard having been moved to their present positions during renovations to the church in the early 1700s². The Giant's Thumb is a 4' high stone cross worn to a shaft dated to 920. The Giant's grave consists of four 'Hog back' tombstones and two c.11' high monoliths topped with early carved crosses and

² English Heritage 2002, Extensive Urban Survey, Archaeological Assessment Report: Penrith. Cumbria County Council

carvings. The grave is said to belong to Owen Caesarius, king of Cumbria between 900-937AD, described as an ancient hero of gigantic stature. Certainly such fine examples of 10th century craftsmanship indicate the presence of great wealth and aristocratic significance in the area at this time, which might indicate a royal estate centre although this is unlikely to have extended out to where the application site is located.

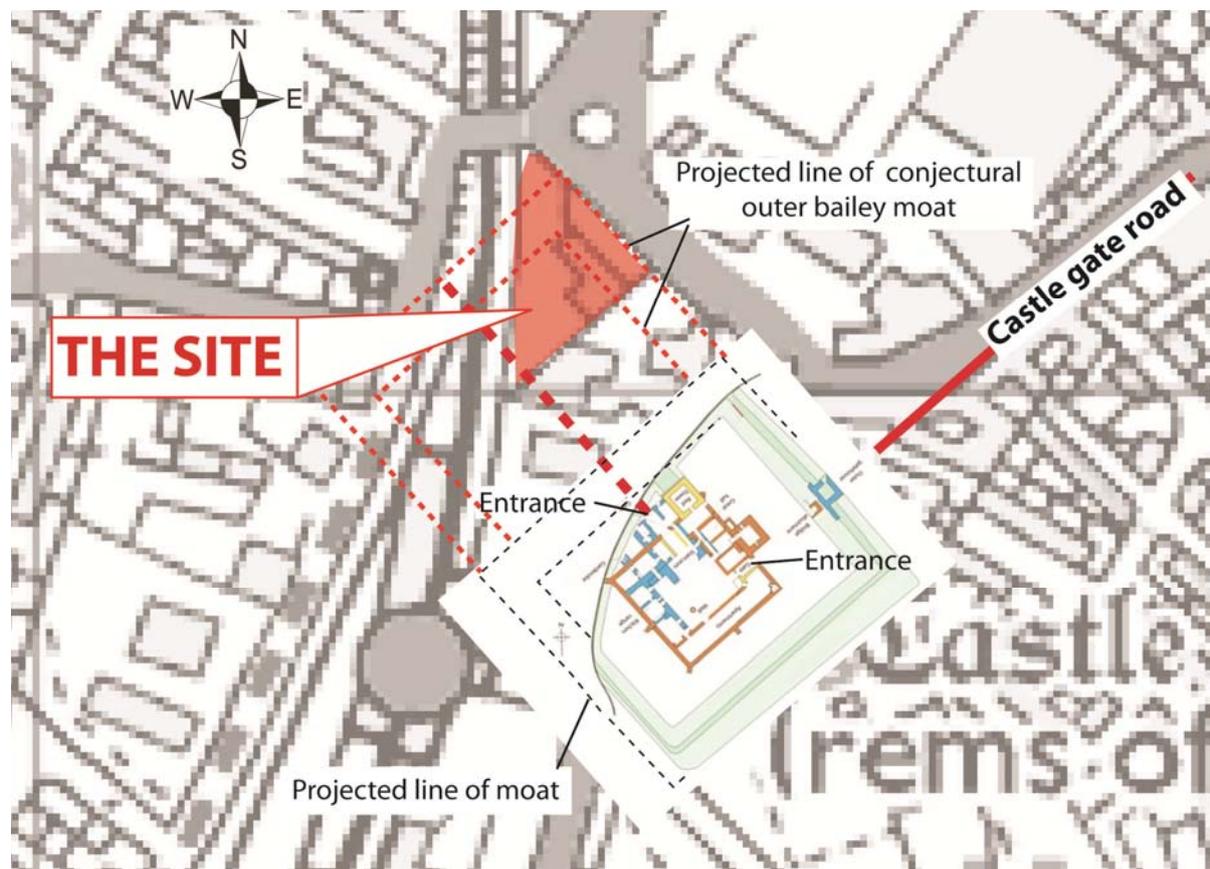
At the time of the Norman Conquest, Penrith was the capital of the kingdom of Cumbria and was seized by William I in 1070, although there is no documentary evidence for this, it would suggest there must have been a Norman castle established in Penrith, most likely at the present castle site. There was a couple of hundred years of intermittent fighting with the Scots until the town was seized by Edward I in 1295. But fighting continued and after a particularly heavy attack in 1346, which left a number of settlements completely wasted, Penrith received a grant of murage enabling the inhabitants to build a stone wall around the town. It is not known if this wall was built because no physical evidence for it has been found to date and it is unlikely that this would have included the application site.

In 1222 Henry III granted a Charter allowing the town to hold a market and fair, an indication that Penrith was growing in importance. Markets and fairs generally were held outside castle or abbey gates, in the case of Penrith markets were held at Dockray which lies between the old town and the castle site, suggesting that fairs and markets were not held at the application site.

The construction of the Penrith Castle which survives today has long been attributed to William Strickland, Bishop of Carlisle, but the licences granted to him in 1379 and 1399 to build a fortified tower may refer to Hutton Hall – a 14th century tower house situated near St Andrews Church. The castle was probably built by Ralph Neville who was granted the parish of Penrith in 1396. As warden of the West March he was responsible for the defence of this area against The Scots and played a key role in the defence of the Scottish border. Penrith Castle would have demonstrated his power and dominance over the area.

Penrith Castle is a grade 1 listed building and a scheduled monument, which is situated about 68m from the proposed development site. It is not situated on the highest part of the hill and its location was chosen because it was probably the site of an old Roman fort, the banks and ditches of which could be conveniently re-used (National Heritage List for England). The dry moat surrounds the castle on all sides except the in the north west where it has been filled in over time and the A592 cuts into the curtilage of the castle close to its western corner. The moat is up to 15m wide and 6m deep with an upcast adjacent outer bank measuring a maximum of 9m wide by 2m high. There are two entrances through the curtain, one adjacent to the Pele tower and the other through the north western side to another gatehouse (Figure 9). Access to the Pele tower gateway is via Castle gate road.

Figure 9
Plan of Penrith Castle



The substantial north western gateway was built in 1471 by Richard Duke of Gloucester, Later King Richard III who made many improvements to the castle making it a fine residence while he lived there from 1471 to 1485 as sheriff of Cumberland. A well sculptured female head (HER19607) with a flat back for mounting on a wall, was thought by the finder to have been previously in the castle grounds. An Elizabethan silver goat was found in 1846 whilst removing rubbish from around the castle. The location and size of the north west gateway indicates that there was another road leading to the castle to access it at this point. There would also have been an outer gatehouse for controlled access over the moat. The road, moat and gatehouse no longer exist.

A reconstruction drawing of the castle by English Heritage, shows a conjectural outer bailey, with associated buildings, on the north western side and an extension of the moat around it (Figure 9). If an outer bailey and extended moat had existed (there is no documentary evidence for this), it is possible that the proposed site might lie over part of the moat and a section of the outer bailey.

The road which is likely to have run directly north west from the castle gateway could have passed through the southern corner of the proposed site.

By 1580 the castle was described as 'greatly decayed'. During the Civil War, parliamentarian forces, consisting of 3000 horse and foot soldiers, were quartered in the town in 1648 (the name Cromwell Road remembers this event) under Major General Lambert who made his headquarters at the castle. The castle was dismantled soon after.

- 5.1.4 Penrith was a prosperous town in the post medieval period being at the centre of major communication networks and enjoying the produce brought to town by farmers from miles around. This led to an increase in markets, inns, public houses and fine dwellings as witnessed by the number of listed buildings shown in Figure 2, although this does not appear to have extended to the application site.
- 5.1.5 The Lancaster to Carlisle railway and Penrith station was opened in 1846, the 69 miles of track being built very quickly in just two and a half years by some 10,000 men. The railway runs immediately adjacent to the western side of the proposed development site, itself once part of the railway's timber yard with sidings and a turntable.

5.2 Potential for archaeological remains at the proposed development site

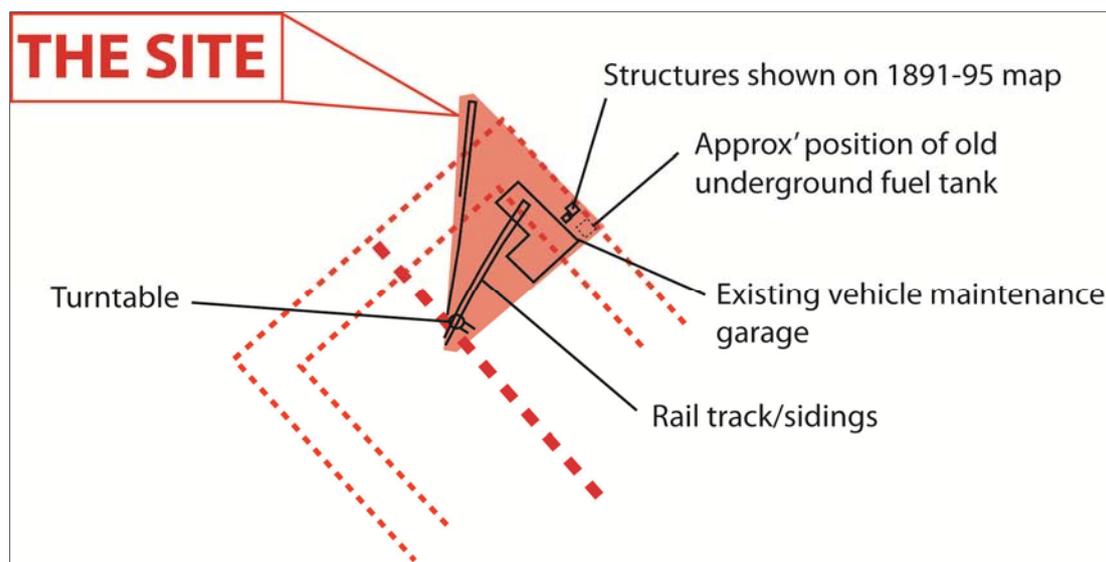
Very little by way of finds or archaeological features have been found within Penrith to date despite the close proximity of significant prehistoric and Roman activity in the surrounding landscape which would suggest that they should be present. It is possible that potential prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman evidence lies beneath the core of the early settlement near St Andrews Church and the surrounding medieval town. Further evidence might be detected in undisturbed pockets of ground although such partial recovery might render some features difficult to identify or date.

The proposed development site lies adjacent to the railway line and there are no records in the HER to suggest that during the line's construction any artefacts or monuments i.e masonry related to the castle was found. On the other hand the line was clearly built to a very tight schedule at a rate of 2.3 miles a month (by hand) so little attention or consideration might have been paid to features of 'antiquarian' interest.

As has been discussed above, an ancient routeway might have passed close to the site which could suggest a low to medium potential for prehistoric remains; it might lie adjacent to what could be a Roman boundary or road (now Cromwell Road) leading to a possible Roman fort; it might lie over part of an outer bailey and moat associated with the medieval castle, although it is too far out to be part of the castle itself, and a road or trackway to the northwest gate probably once passed through the southern corner area of the site all of which could suggest a low to medium potential for Roman and medieval remains.

The proposed site however has been used since at least 1846, and Figure 10 shows the known above and below ground structures built over time since then which will have caused varying degrees of ground disturbance. Most of the open ground is covered with tarmac.

Figure 10
History of site disturbance



6.0 CONCLUSION

This desk based assessment has shown that there is a wealth of archaeology within the general area. The application site however, does not lie within the historic core of Penrith, and the earlier prehistoric context for a sacred landscape, provides no indication as to whether the site would have any prehistoric archaeology. Its proximity to the castle and to potential historic routeways might raise the probability of roman or medieval finds. English Heritage's conjectured extension to the castle would extend into the site, but the evidence for this projected addition is unclear from the sources consulted.

Nineteenth and early twentieth century land use as shown by historic mapping would suggest disturbance to parts of the site. This might include deep features at places such as the underground tanks for the fuel pumps and possibly for some parts of the turntable, the vehicle maintenance garage could also include areas of disturbance. The watching brief on the adjacent land in 2011 showed that in the areas monitored showed that there was ash and cinders overlying natural sand, suggestive of ground levelling in the timber yard using waste products from the railway.

As yet there has not been a geotechnical or land quality survey of the application site which would provide some data for the depth and character of the below ground deposit sequence. On existing evidence therefore, there would seem to be a low probability for archaeological remains to be found in the application site.

7.0 CLOSURE

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the

interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of Wm Morrison Supermarkets Ltd; no warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR.

SLR disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.



global environmental solutions

AYLESBURY

7 Wornal Park, Menmarsh Road,
Worminghall, Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire HP18 9PH
T: +44 (0)1844 337380

BELFAST

24 Ballynahinch Street, Hillsborough,
Co. Down, BT26 6AW Northern Ireland
T: +44 (0)28 9268 9036

BRADFORD-ON-AVON

Treenwood House, Rowden Lane,
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 2AU
T: +44 (0)1225 309400

BRISTOL

Langford Lodge, 109 Pembroke Road,
Clifton, Bristol BS8 3EU
T: +44 (0)117 9064280

CAMBRIDGE

8 Stow Court, Stow-cum-Quy,
Cambridge CB25 9AS
T: + 44 (0)1223 813805

CARDIFF

Fulmar House, Beignon Close, Ocean
Way, Cardiff CF24 5HF
T: +44 (0)29 20491010

CHELMSFORD

Unit 77, Waterhouse Business Centre,
2 Cromar Way, Chelmsford, Essex
CM1 2QE
T: +44 (0)1245 392170

DUBLIN

7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy
Arbour, Dundrum, Dublin 14 Ireland
T: + 353 (0)1 2964667

EDINBURGH

No. 4 The Roundal, Roddinglaw
Business Park, Gogar, Edinburgh
EH12 9DB
T: +44 (0)131 3356830

EXETER

69 Polsloe Road, Exeter EX1 2NF
T: + 44 (0)1392 490152

FARNBOROUGH

The Pavilion, 2 Sherborne Road, South
Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 6JT
T: +44 (0)1252 515682

GLASGOW

4 Woodside Place, Charing Cross,
Glasgow G3 7QF
T: +44 (0)141 3535037

HUDDERSFIELD

Westleigh House, Wakefield Road,
Denby Dale, Huddersfield HD8 8QJ
T: +44 (0)1484 860521

LEEDS

Suite 1, Jason House, Kerry Hill,
Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4JR
T: +44 (0)113 2580650

MAIDSTONE

19 Hollingworth Court, Turkey Mill,
Maidstone, Kent ME14 5PP
T: +44 (0)1622 609242

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Sailors Bethel, Horatio Street,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 2PE
T: +44 (0)191 2611966

NOTTINGHAM

Aspect House, Aspect Business Park,
Bennerley Road, Nottingham NG6 8WR
T: +44 (0)115 9647280

ST. ALBAN'S

White House Farm Barns, Gaddesden
Row, Hertfordshire HP2 6HG
T: +44 (0)1582 840471

SHEFFIELD

STEP Business Centre, Wortley Road,
Deepcar, Sheffield S36 2UH
T: +44 (0)114 2903628

SHREWSBURY

Mytton Mill, Forton Heath, Montford
Bridge, Shrewsbury SY4 1HA
T: +44 (0)1743 850170

STAFFORD

8 Parker Court, Staffordshire Technology
Park, Beaconside, Stafford ST18 0WP
T: +44 (0)1785 253331

WARRINGTON

Suite 9 Beech House, Padgate Business
Park, Green Lane, Warrington WA1 4JN
T: +44 (0)1925 827218

WORCESTER

Suite 5, Brindley Court, Gresley Road,
Shire Business Park, Worcester
WR4 9FD
T: +44 (0)1905 751310



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