

**Project Code: CPA06**

**Client: Bratherton Park Design Consultants on behalf of Mark and Helen Towers**

**Planning Application No: 5/06/0734**

**National Grid Reference: SD 2725 7400**

**Date: October 2006**

**Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Targeted  
Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1) at  
Colt Park, Aldingham, Ulverston, Cumbria:  
Data Structure Report**

**PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (CPA06)**

<b>Client</b>	Bratherton Park Design Consultants on behalf of Mark and Helen Towers
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	SD 2725 7400 (site centre)
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<b>Illustrations</b>	Craig Williams
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<b>Schedule</b>	
Fieldwork	15 <sup>th</sup> September, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2006
Report	October 2006

## **Contents**

### *Summary*

1. Introduction
2. Aims & Objectives
3. Archaeological Background
4. Method
5. Results
6. Discussion
7. Conclusions
8. References

### **Appendix 1 – Context Register**

### **Appendix 2 – Photo Register**

### **Appendix 3 – Sample Register**

### **Appendix 4 – Environmental Assessment**

### **Appendix 5 – Sites within a 500m buffer zone of the application area**

### **List of figures**

1. Application area, Evaluation area & Sites of Cultural Heritage Interest
2. Trench locations within Evaluation area

### *Summary*

*An archaeological desk based assessment was undertaken on land at Colt Park, Aldingham in order to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the area in advance of determination of a planning application. The assessment suggested that a Bronze Age cremation cemetery might have extended into the extreme south of the application area, adjacent to the current A5087.*

*In order to establish the presence or absence of cremations in this area an intrusive evaluation was undertaken in a defined area next to the A5087. Seven trenches were excavated and were positioned with a bias toward the road. The trenches established that some relatively recent landscaping had been undertaken in the area. The work also recorded two features, one was modern in date while the other was undated. The evaluation did not encounter any cremation burials and it does not appear that part of an extensive cremation cemetery is present within the application area.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION (Figure 1)

- 1.1 Following a planning application concerning the creation of a holiday park at Colt Park, Aldingham the Cumbria County Council's Assistant Archaeologist advised that further information on the archaeological impact of the development was required before the planning application was determined (letter of 18 July 2006).
- 1.2 To comply with this request the developer commissioned Headland Archaeology Ltd initially to undertake an archaeological walkover and desk-based assessment of the application area and its surroundings. This work was undertaken to terms agreed in a Project Design submitted to Cumbria County Council.
- 1.3 Following the results of this assessment and discussions with Cumbria County Council's Assistant Archaeologist it was decided to carry out a targeted archaeological evaluation of the field at the south end of the development. This area was adjacent to several Bronze age cremations recorded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that could have formed part of a cemetery that extended into the south end of the development area. Therefore it was decided to carry out a 5 % evaluation of a defined area (covering 1 ha).
- 1.4 The work was carried out following a Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation submitted by Headland Archaeology Ltd in accordance with a Brief prepared by Cumbria County Historic Environment Service.
- 1.5 This report details the results of both the desk-based assessment and the targeted archaeological evaluation.

## 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. The objective of the walkover and desk-based assessment was to provide baseline information concerning the site's archaeological potential. The evaluation was carried out to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development in a 1-hectare area adjacent to the road. This area forms the southern boundary of the site.

## 3. DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

### 3.1. Method

The desk based assessment included consultation of the National Monuments Record, County Records Office in Barrow and the County Historic Environmental Record in Kendal. A gazetteer is included in Appendix 5. In addition, primary and secondary documents and maps were consulted where appropriate. A rapid walkover survey of the application area was undertaken to check the results of the documentary research and record any previously unrecorded sites and their current condition. The topography of the site was assessed with regard to the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains to survive with no surface traces and current usage noted.

### 3.2. Historical background

- 3.2.1. Colt Park lies within Aldingham estate. The estate was still in Saxon hands at the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, but Henry I granted Aldingham to Michael le Fleming around the

end of the first decade of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. His estate became known as 'Muchland' (Michael's Land).

3.2.2. Moat Hill situated on the coastline some 350 m to the southeast of Colt Farm is the remains of a motte and bailey castle (Figure 1, S7). Excavations at this site demonstrated that the earliest phases of the complex dated back to the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, indicating that it was associated with Michael le Fleming. The site was further developed during the 12<sup>th</sup> and early 13<sup>th</sup> century before it was abandoned later in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the le Fleming family moved to a moated site (Figure 1, S5) at Moat Farm some 200 m up the coast. This was the home of the family until they built a new castle some 2 km inland at Gleaston in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3.3. Archaeological background

3.3.1. There no known sites within the development boundary. However, within a 500 m buffer zone of the boundary, there are twelve known sites according to the local SMR (Appendix 5, Figure 1).

3.3.2. A flint scatter was discovered in a ploughed field at Gleaston Park Farm (Figure 1, S1) some 500 m to the northwest of the site in 1991. The assemblage contains one scraper that may be Neolithic.

3.3.3. During the construction of the present road past Colt Park in the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century two Bronze Age urns were found (Figure 1, S9). Both urns contained cremations. A third urn was found nearby while planting potatoes.

3.3.4. A mound (Figure 1, S2) is located in a field some 500 m to the northeast of the site. It was identified as a burnt mound during a small evaluation carried out by Morecambe Bay Archaeological Society in 2002. No dating evidence was found during the evaluation, but this type of monument is generally dated to the Bronze Age.

3.3.5. There are four medieval sites within the buffer zone. Three of these (Figure 1, S5-7) are remains of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century residences of the le Fleming family (see 3.1.2). The fourth medieval site (Figure 1, S8) is a moulded Norman arch situated above a first floor door opening of a granary at Colt Park. The arch is made from red sandstone and is thought to have come from Furness Abbey.

3.3.6. The remaining five sites are all post-medieval. Four of these are sites of buildings and structures, three footbridges and one limekiln, depicted on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch map surveyed in 1847 (Figure 1, S4, 10-12). The fifth site is a commemorative cross on the east side of the A5087 that marks the site of an accident in 1805 (Figure 1, S3).

3.3.7. The known sites indicate Bronze Age activity in the area with a burnt mound to the northeast and two, possibly three cremations immediately to the south of the development area. Adding to this pattern is an Early Bronze Age flat axe found at Gleaston Castle some 1.2 km to the northwest of the site.

### 3.4. Rapid Walkover

The walkover did not record any upstanding features that could be identified as possibly archaeological in origin. The topography of the site was gently rolling and there were no areas of the site that could be said to have a low archaeological potential because of steep slopes. It was also noted that the application area was under pasture and as such was not suitable for archaeological fieldwalking.

## 4. EVALUATION METHOD

- 4.1 Seven trenches were excavated using a JCB back-actor excavator equipped with a 1.5 m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to remove the modern cultivation soil. After the initial topsoil removal by machine, subsequent cleaning and excavation was carried out by hand.
- 4.2 The location of the trenches was specified in a WSI prepared by Headland Archaeology and approved by Cumbria County Council. The trenches were located across an area adjacent to the road and covering 1 ha (Figure 2). The trenches covered an area of 526 m<sup>2</sup> that represents a sample of just over 5% of the identified area.
- 4.3 The exposed features and deposits were cleaned by hand and fully recorded using pro-forma record sheets. Colour transparencies and prints were taken of all features.
- 4.4 All trenches and features were surveyed using an EDM total station and tied to the National Grid using reference points taken from an OS map. The heights of the surveyed points were approximately linked to ordnance datum levels using the 15 m contour line.

## 5. EVALUATION RESULTS

### 5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. A full description of all contexts is given in Appendix 1. The topsoil (04) in all trenches consisted of a mid brown sandy silt with some inclusions of gravel. The depth of the topsoil was generally 0.25 m to 0.4 m, with the exception of the southwest ends of Trenches 1 and 3 where the topsoil was up to 0.75 m deep. The natural subsoil was a mixture of orange gravel and grey to yellow sand.

5.1.2. Seven trenches were excavated within the designated area. Only two of these trenches contained archaeological features and deposits, but none of these produced any dating evidence.

### 5.2. Trench 1 (Figure 2)

5.2.1. Trench 1 was 97 m long and aligned parallel with the A5087 to the southeast. It ran across the entire width of the field from a small burn in the southwest to a small cottage in the northeast. The topsoil (04) was quite deep, up to 0.7 m at the west end by the stream, the lower parts comprising what appeared to be redeposited gravel on top of natural sand. However the depth of topsoil decreased towards the east, down to 0.4 m some 30 m from the west end. At this point the subsoil changed from sands to gravel.

5.2.2. Pit [01; Figure 2] was located some 37 m from the west end of the trench. It was sub-oval in plan aligned SW to NE and measured 0.65 m by 0.60 m. It was up to 0.25 m deep and had steep

sides and a flat sloping base. It was cut into gravelly subsoil. The upper fill (02) was a mid grey-brown loosely compacted sandy silt with some dark mineral flecks overlying light brown loosely compacted sandy silt (03) with some sub angular stones up to 0.15 m across. The fills of the pit contained no finds. An environmental sample was taken from the upper fill and processed. The results are shown in Appendix 4, the sample did not contain any anthropogenic material.

### 5.3. Trench 2

Trench 2 was 30 m long and located parallel with and north of the east half of Trench 1. The topsoil (04) within the trench was on average 0.4 m deep above natural sands and gravel. The trench contained no features.

### 5.4. Trench 3

Trench 3 was 30 m long and located parallel with and north of the west half of Trench 1. As in Trench 1 the topsoil was quite deep at its west end next to the stream, up to 0.8 m, and gradually becoming shallower towards the east where it was 0.35 m deep. At the east end was a band of dark to mid brown sandy silt with some charcoal (07). The deposit was up to 0.1 m thick and sloped down towards the stream. It was buried beneath 0.8 m of what appeared to be redeposited deposits 0.8 m deep. An environmental sample was taken from deposit (07) the results are shown in Appendix 4. It contained some relatively large lumps of charcoal.

### 5.5. Trench 4

Trench 4 was 51 m long and aligned southeast to northwest. The topsoil (04) within the trench was on average 0.4 m deep above natural sands and gravel. The trench contained a modern rubble filled field drain.

### 5.6. Trench 5

Trench 5 was 50 m long and aligned south to north parallel with and some 12 m to the east of the stream. The topsoil (04) within the trench was on average 0.25 m to 0.3 m deep above natural sand. Within the trench was a modern pit that contained a beer bottle. No other features were exposed in the trench.

### 5.7. Trench 6

Trench 6 was 48 m long and aligned south to north roughly parallel with and some 30 m to the east of the Trench 5. The topsoil (04) within the trench was on average 0.3 m deep above natural sand. The trench contained two modern rubble filled field drains.

### 5.8. Trench 7

Trench 7 was located some 5 m west of Trench 6. It was aligned NW-SE and contained topsoil (04) on average 0.4 m deep. No features were identified.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Evidence from Trenches 1 and 3 suggested that the field had been subjected to some degree of landscaping in the past. The topsoil was markedly deeper at the southwest corner of the field. Looking at the terrain on both sides of the stream to the north of the road, the southwest corner of the evaluated field is at a high level compared with the surrounding fields. The current landowner did not know of any landscaping taking place in the past. However the location of the 15 m contour on the current Ordnance Survey map indicates that some degree of infilling has taken place in the past when compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch map of the area surveyed in 1847 and contoured in

1850. The 50 feet contour (=15.2 m) on the 1847 map follows its modern 15 m equivalent on the west side of the stream (Figure 2) but on the east side it deviates from the modern contour and curves around to the south corner of the Colt Park steading. This clearly indicates that the southwest corner of the field has been infilled sometime during the last 150 years. This infilling did not affect the evaluation as the trenches were cut through the recent deposits down to the original ground surface. Only two features were identified below topsoil and make-up deposits.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1. The evaluation indicated that if the Bronze Age urns discovered over 200 years ago were part of an extensive prehistoric cemetery, it did not extend into the application area on the north side of the road. The evaluation exposed two pits. One turned out to be modern as it contained a beer bottle the other contained no finds and is of unknown date, but it did not contain material characteristic of cremation burials (cremated bone or pottery fragments).

**APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER**

No	Trench	Over	Description
01	T1		Cut of oval pit aligned NW-SE, 0.6 m by 0.65 m and 0.25 m deep. Steep sides, flattish base.
02	T1	03	Upper fill in Pit 01. Mid brown/grey loosely compacted sandy silt. Contains some gravel and a few flecks of dark mineral.
03	T1	01	Lower fill in Pit 01. Light brown loosely compacted sandy silt with some rounded stones up to 0.15 m across and some gravel. Clear interface with context 02 above and the mixed subsoil below.
04	T1-7	3,5,8	Topsoil. Mid brown sandy silt with some inclusions of gravel. Generally 0.25 m to 0.4 m, with the exception of the southwest end of Trenches 1 and 3 where it was up to 0.75 m deep.
05	T1-7		Subsoil. Rounded gravel in matrix of silty sand.
06	T1-7		Subsoil. Yellow, orange and grey sands and clay.
07	T3	6	Deposit of dark to mid brown sandy silt mixed with flecks of charcoal.
08	T3	7	Grey compact silty clay. Redeposited natural deposits.

**APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPH REGISTER**

Shot no.	Colour Prints	Colour Slides	Digital JPG files	Direction facing	Description
1	1	1	CPA06_Pic_001.JPG	NE	Trench 1. SW facing section across Pit [01]
2	1	1	CPA06_Pic_002.JPG	SW	Trench 1, general view of W half of trench.
3	1	1	CPA06_Pic_003.JPG	NE	Trench 1, general view of E half of trench.
4	1	1	CPA06_Pic_004.JPG	NE	Trench 2, general view of trench.
5	1	1	CPA06_Pic_005.JPG	N	Trench 3, sondage trench into deposits (07) and (08) at west end of trench.
6	1	1	CPA06_Pic_006.JPG	SW	Trench 3, sondage trench into deposits (07) and (08) at west end of trench.
7	1	1	CPA06_Pic_007.JPG	NE	Trench 3, general view of trench
8	1	1	CPA06_Pic_008.JPG	NE	Trench 4, general view of trench
9	1	1	CPA06_Pic_009.JPG	N	Trench 5, general view of trench
10	1	1	CPA06_Pic_010.JPG	N	Trench 5, modern pit partly excavated
11	1	1	CPA06_Pic_011.JPG	N	Trench 6, general view of trench
12	1	1	CPA06_Pic_012.JPG	NW	Trench 7, general view of trench
13	1	1	CPA06_Pic_013.JPG	S	Trench 6, general view of trench
14			CPA06_Pic_014.JPG	NE	General view of evaluation area from the southwest

**APPENDIX 3: SAMPLE REGISTER**

Sample no.	Context	Volume	Description
01	02	10l	Upper fill in Pit 01. Mid brown/grey loosely compacted sandy silt.
02	07	10l	Deposit of dark to mid brown sandy silt mixed with flecks of charcoal.

## APPENDIX 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Scott Timpany

### SAMPLE STRATEGY FOR BULK SAMPLES

Bulk soil samples ranging from 10 to 20 litres in size were taken from an evaluation trench across the former town defence wall; the subject of the archaeological investigation.

### METHODOLOGY FOR SAMPLE PROCESSING

Bulk soil samples were subjected to a system of flotation in a Siraf style flotation tank. The floating debris (flot) was collected in a 250  $\mu$ m sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (flot) was wet-sieved through a 1mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed.

Total number of samples	2
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### RESULTS

Two 10-litre samples [001, 002] were taken from the fill [002] of a Pit [001] and a band of dark to mid brown sandy silt [007], from Trenches 1 and 3, respectively. The samples were processed in laboratory conditions using a standard floatation method (cf. Kenward *et al*, 1980).

Only Sample 002 from the sandy silt band [007] was found to contain any charred plant material, with Sample 001 being archaeologically sterile. Sample 002 contained common amounts of charcoal within the retent sample and rare amounts of charcoal in the flotation sample. The concentration of larger pieces of charcoal (up to 1.5cm in size) within this deposit suggests this material may represent the fragmented remains of an *in-situ* fire or a deliberate deposit of conflagration material (e.g. discards of a fire) rather than being a secondary deposit (e.g. through reworking).

Sample 002 does contain charcoal fragments of sufficient size for identification and/or AMS dating.

### References

Kenward, H. K., Hall, A. R. and Jones, A. K. G. (1980). A tested set of techniques for the extraction of plant and animal macrofossils from waterlogged archaeological deposits. *Science and Archaeology* 22, 3-15.

**APPENDIX 5 – SITES WITHIN 500 M BUFFER ZONE**

Site no: 1      SMR no: 40432      NMR no:      Grid ref: SD 26600 70600

*Description:*

A number of flints were discovered in 1991 while walking a field near Gleaston Park Farm. Most of the flints are waste flakes and chunks, but there are one burnt flint and one broken scraper amongst the collection. Some of these flints may have been found near Walney some 9 km to the SW

Site no: 2      SMR no: 19981      NMR no:      Grid ref: SD 27950 70680

*Description:*

A burnt mound 9 m to 10 m across and some 1 m high is situated in a field 60 m W of the A5087. The mound lies 30 m to the SE of an old watercourse. Morecambe Bay Archaeological Society identified the mound as being a prehistoric burnt mound during a small evaluation carried out in August 2002.

Site no: 3      SMR no: 2306      NMR no:      Grid ref: SD 28026 70632

*Description:*

A commemorative cross that marks the site of an accident in 1805.

Site no: 4      SMR no: 18072      NMR no:      Grid ref: SD 27900 70130

*Description:*

Site of limekiln annotated on OS 1st edition 6-inch map Lancashire Sheet 22 surveyed 1847.

Site no: 5      SMR no: 2337      NMR no: SD 27 SE 35      Grid ref: SD 2781 7003  
SM no: 27683

*Description:*

Earthwork remains of a medieval moat, supposedly the site of a 13th century manor house.

Site no: 6      SMR no: 16082      NMR no: SD 26 NE 2      Grid ref: SD 2781 6990

*Description:*

Castle ditch associated with Moat Hill Castle (SMR no 2613).

Site no: 7      SMR no: 2613      NMR no: SD 26 NE 2      Grid ref: SD 2778 6986  
                  SM no: 27682

*Description:*

The earthwork remains of a motte and bailey castle is located some 200 m to the SW of Moat Farm. Excavations in 1968 showed that this castle overlay a 12th century ringwork, was modified in the late 12th/early 13th century and was abandoned in the mid-13th century. Aldingham motte is 30 feet high with a surrounding ditch 10 feet deep on the south side and 8 feet deep on the north, varying from 15 to 20 feet wide at the bottom. Some 40 yards north of the mound there is a broad straight ditch 250 feet long and 18 feet wide at the bottom, extending at almost right angles to the sea cliff.

Site no: 8      SMR no: 2336      NMR no: SD 27 SE 34      Grid ref: SD 2748 7004

*Description:*

Situated above a door opening in the SE wall at the first floor level of a granary at Colt Park is a transitional Norman arch, which may have originally been part of Furness Abbey. It is a plain semi-circular arch with undecorated mouldings of rounded and hollow section made from a reddish stone. There is a dressed block of red stone with one moulded edge on the NE side of the gate at the entrance to Colt Park, also thought to have come from Furness Abbey.

Site no: 9      SMR no: 2612      NMR no: SD 26 NE 1      Grid ref: SD 2733 6991

*Description:*

Two MBA urns found when making the road passed Colt Park before 1805. Both urns contained cremations. A third urn had been found nearby while planting potatoes.

Site no: 10      SMR no: 16091      NMR no:      Grid ref: SD 26975 69551

*Description:*

Site of footbridge annotated on OS 1st edition 6-inch map Lancashire Sheet 22 surveyed 1847.

Site no: 11      SMR no: 16090      NMR no:      Grid ref: SD 27029 69536

*Description:*

Site of footbridge annotated on OS 1st edition 6-inch map Lancashire Sheet 22 surveyed 1847.

Site no: 12      SMR no: 16092      NMR no:      Grid ref: SD 27030 69500

*Description:*

Site of footbridge annotated on OS 1st edition 6-inch map Lancashire Sheet 22 surveyed 1847.

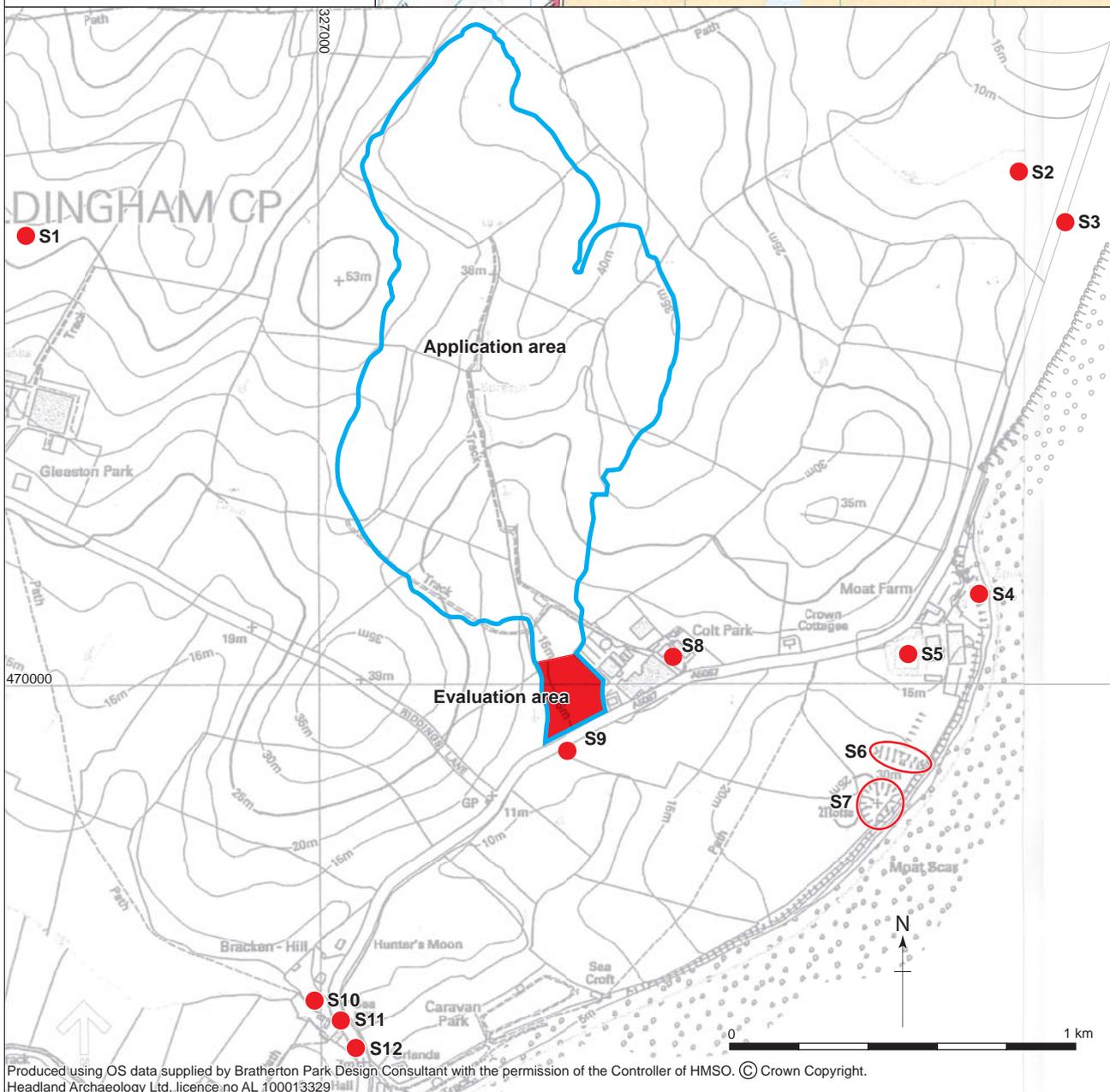
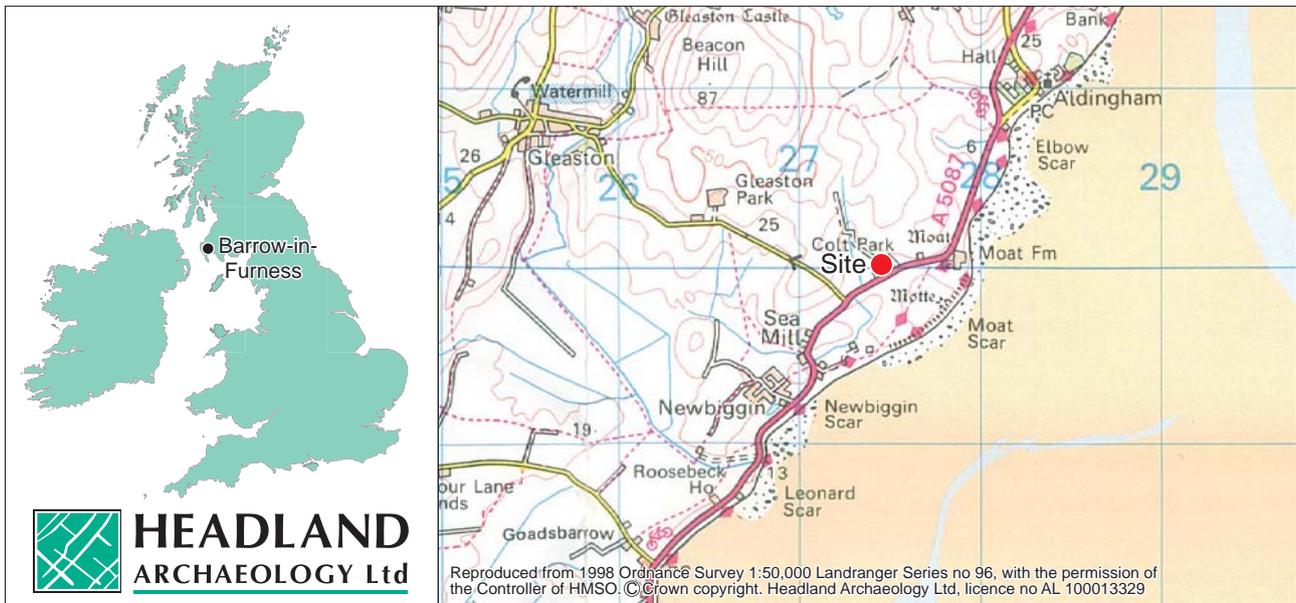


Figure 1 - CPA06: Application area, Evaluation area & Sites of Cultural Heritage Interest

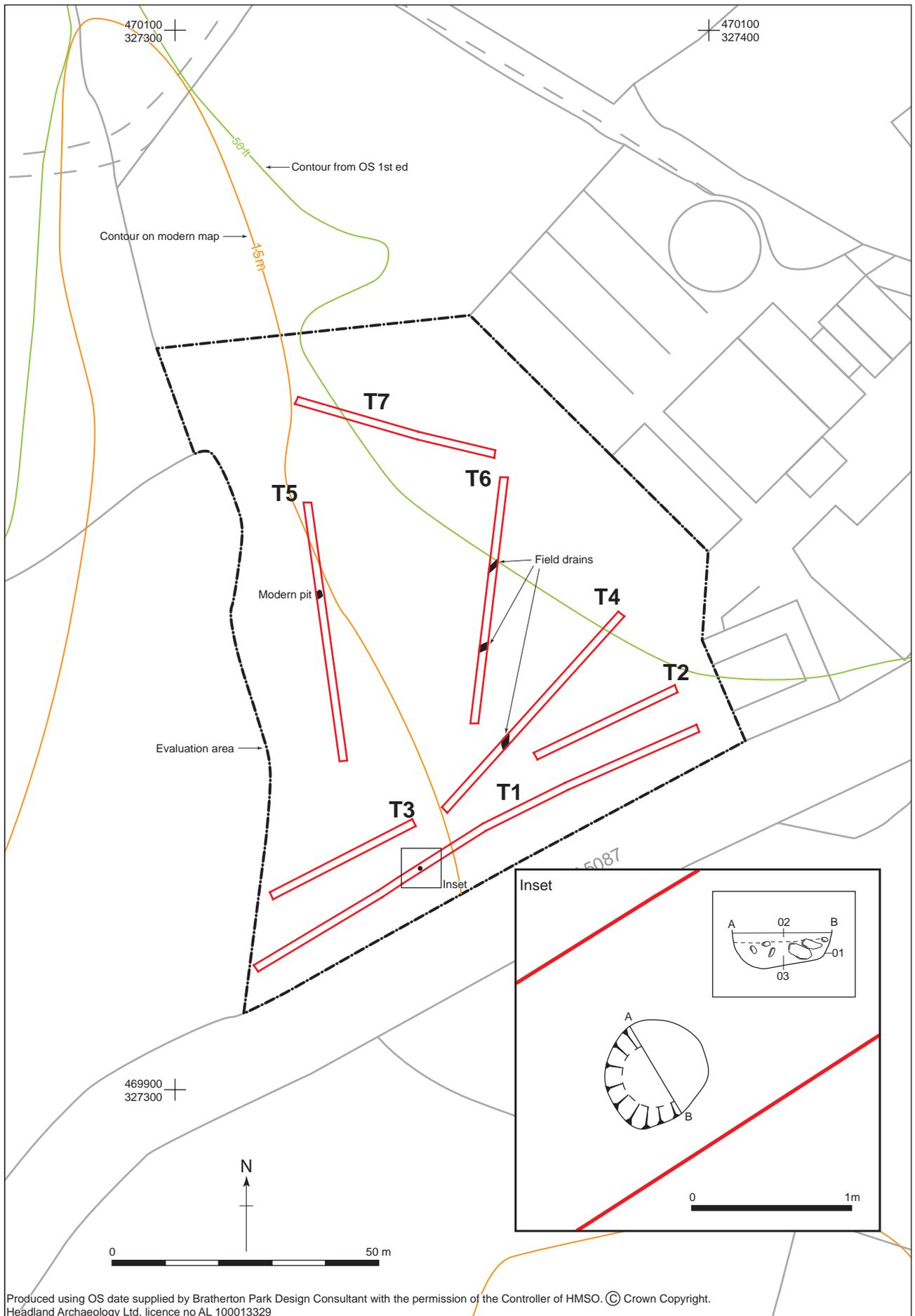


Figure 2 - CPA06: Trench locations within Evaluation area