

WHALLEY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL Lancashire



Archaeological Watching brief



Oxford Archaeology North

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Abbey Holford Rowe

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SUMMARY

In April 2002 Oxford Archaeology North (OAN), undertook a watching brief within the grounds of Whalley C of E Primary School, Lancashire (SD 3732 4361) on behalf of Abbey Holford Rowe. The aim of the watching brief was to establish the location, extent and character of any archaeological remains uncovered in the course of construction.

None of the trenches excavated revealed remains of any antiquity. Trenches 2, 8, and 9 revealed parts of the original stone footings of the now demolished school building. The majority of the trenches were subject to contamination and disturbance due to the high volume of service trenches and manholes that peppered the site. It is possible, however, that due to the elevated location of the school building in relation to both Whalley Abbey and, to a lesser extent, the church of St Mary and All Saints, that archaeological features lie beneath the exposed bases of the trenches. With the exception of two sondages, the trenches were only excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m and, therefore, it is highly likely that earlier remains may be preserved below this depth.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks go to the staff of HH Smith and Sons for their assistance during the archaeological works.

The watching brief was undertaken by Andi Scott. The final drawings and report were prepared by Andi Scott and the finds analysis was by Sean McPhilips. The report was edited by Alison Plummer and Alan Lupton, the project being managed by Alison Plummer.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) undertook an archaeological watching brief at Whalley C of E Primary School, Church Lane, Whalley, near Clitheroe (SD 3732 4361) during the excavation of footings for the erection of a new classroom block. The Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS) specified the watching brief, on behalf of Ribble Valley Borough Council, due to the possibility that the school may occupy a medieval or Anglo-Saxon ecclesiastical site.
- 1.1.2 The development initially necessitated the stripping of hard-standing in advance of the excavation of footings. The stripping was carried out with a 1m wide toothless bucket, while the remaining deposits were removed with a toothed bucket.

1.2 THE SITE

- 1.2.1 Whalley C of E Primary School has mid-nineteenth century origins with later additions. The school (Fig 1) occupies an area of ground north of Whalley Abbey, and is located immediately to the west of St Mary's and All Saints Church. The proximity of the school to these sites suggests the potential for archaeological remains in the vicinity of the school grounds. The school is within the main area of medieval settlement of the village, which appears to have been centred on the Market Place and Parish Church.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A Project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OAN in response to a verbal brief provided by LCAS. The programme set out in the project design was a permanent programme of observation in order to document accurately the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features within the excavations in the course of the proposed development. This work comprised a watching brief programme during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the foundation works, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified during observation. The watching brief covered the whole of the area disturbed by the development, including building foundations, service trenches and other earthmoving activities.
- 2.1.2 A permanent programme of observation accurately recorded the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features within the excavations in the course of the proposed development. All archaeological information collected in the course of fieldwork was recorded in standardised form and the project design was adhered to in full.
- 2.1.3 The recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, or as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features were planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan provided by the Client. The work undertaken by OAN complied with current legislation and accepted best practice, including the Code of Conduct and the relevant professional standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).

2.2 ARCHIVE

- 2.2.1 A full archive of the evaluation has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991).

3. TOPOGRAPHIC AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.1 GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The solid geology of the area is essentially made up of Millstone Grit giving way onto Carboniferous Limestone and calcareous mudstones (Countryside Commission 1998, 93). The soils are Cambrian stagnogleys (Ordnance Survey 1983) and the drift geology is mainly thick glacial till with areas of sand and gravel (Countryside Commission 1998, 93).

3.2 TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.2.1 The landscape of the study area is a diverse mix of undulating pasture and broadleaf woodland (*op cit* 91). Fields tend to be small and defined by hedges and there is a relatively large amount of woodland (*ibid*). The area is on the edge of Pendle Hill to the east, major river valleys to the south and the Bowland Fells to the north (*ibid*).

3.3 GENERAL HISTORY

- 3.3.1 There is no evidence of any Roman occupation of Whalley, although the Roman road linking the fort at Ribchester with that of Ilkey runs near to the present northern boundary of the parish at Little Mytton (Snape 1978, 1). Roman coins of Vespasian, Constantine and others were recovered from the churchyard of St Mary's and All Saints, but they have since been lost (*ibid*).
- 3.3.2 During the early period it is thought that a church, known as the 'White Church under the Hill' and probably a wooden structure, stood on the site of the existing church of St Mary and All Saints (*op cit*, 3). The current church is believed to date from AD 596, although documentation dating from the fourteenth century claims an early seventh century foundation, built by St Augustine in honour of All Saints (*ibid*). This is reinforced by the fact that the settlement of Whalley is believed to be one of the oldest in Lancashire. Domesday Book (1086) states that 'the church of Saint Mary had in Wallei two carucates of land free of all custom' (two ploughlands comprise the whole township) (Faull and Stinson, 1986). The earliest structures on this site are the remains of three Celtic crosses that stand within the church grounds. The monks at Whalley Abbey attributed these to St Augustine, although it is more likely that the oldest dates to the tenth century. By 1080 a Norman church stood on this site, although very little remains of this structure today. The Norman influence is seen in a few fragments, such as the south porch with its four scalloped capitals, imposts and pillar bases. It appears that the construction of the present church began in earnest around 1200.
- 3.3.3 St Mary's Abbey of Whalley is one of the most important historic sites in Lancashire and one of the latest Cistercian foundations in Britain. The monastic settlement was founded around the 1170s by John, Baron of Halton and Constable of Chester at Stanlaw in the Wirral. Monks from the older

Cistercian Abbey of Combermere originally inhabited this site, until they were granted lands in Cheshire by the Constable that allowed them freedom from toll (Ashmore 1996, 7). It was, however, the connection between the Constable of Chester and the de Lacy family, Lords of the Honours of Pontefract and Clitheroe, which afforded them the opportunity to relocate to Whalley.

- 3.3.4 Flooding of the site of Stanlaw in 1279 prompted the monks to petition the Pope for their removal to the lands at Whalley. In 1283, Henry de Lacy agreed to the relocation, and granted the monks the right of appointment to Whalley Parish Church of St Mary and All Saints with a view to constructing the monastery at its present location. A licence from the King was received that year, and agreement from the Pope followed in 1289. The Pope made it a condition that four monks remained at the original site in Stanlaw (*ibid*). It was not until 4th April, 1296 that Abbot Gregory of Norbury and twelve monks took up residence in the Rectory House of Peter of Chester. Progress with the construction of the new monastery was slow. The erection of the Abbey Church and Claustal Buildings was not begun until 1330, and reportedly took over a century to complete (LUAU 1997, 4).
- 3.3.5 The first edition Ordnance Survey (1844-6) shows Church Lane forming a rounded boundary to the west end of the churchyard and the school grounds, which may indicate the original boundary of the church enclosure.

4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 TRIAL TRENCHES

- 4.1.1 A total of 10 trenches (Fig 2) was excavated by 13 ton machine within the footprint of the new school building. The size and location of these trenches were recorded and appear as Figure 2 and *Appendix 2*.

4.2 TRENCHES 1-10

- 4.2.1 The bulk of the work comprised the removal of 0.15m of tarmac and hardcore overlying a highly disturbed layer (*1*) 0.45-0.6m in depth. Layer *1* was *c* 80% building rubble, slate and builder's sand and *c* 20% dark yellow brown clay sand. The underlying subsoil (*2*) comprised a medium yellow clay sand with very few inclusions (<2% small sub-rounded stones). The soil matrix was a mixture of medium yellow clay sand and black grey clay sand, the blackness being due to seepage from the modern drainage channels that truncate several of the trenches (see *Appendix 2* for details).
- 4.2.2 The majority of the trenches (with the exception of Trenches 7, 8, and 10) were situated within the original footprint of the demolished school building and, consequently, were highly disturbed by the original structural footings and associated services which bisected the majority of the trenches.
- 4.2.3 In all cases, the trenches did not exceed 0.6m in depth, although two sondages *c* 2m x 0.6m x 1.45m were cut into the bases of Trenches 2 and 4. The sondages revealed the subsoil layer (*2*) but no archaeological features were identified.

4.3 THE ARTEFACTS

- 4.3.1 A leather shoe (*1001*), a fragment of bone (*1002*), and five sherds of post-medieval ceramics (*1003-4*, *Appendix 3*) were recovered from the initial surface strip prior to the excavation of the trenches. The shoe was recovered from underneath a stone footing of the original school building constructed during the mid-nineteenth century.
- 4.3.2 The pottery was badly abraded and appeared water worn. All the sherds represent utilitarian domestic use and date to between the seventeenth and the nineteenth century. The sherds include a seventeenth century green glazed candlestick base, an eighteenth century mottled ware body sherd, an underglazed early nineteenth century Transfer-Printed ware body sherd, a red earthenware flagon neck from the nineteenth century, and a late nineteenth century rim of a large storage jar.
- 4.3.3 The leather shoe was in a slightly dessicated condition and was incomplete, with the sole and upper attached by rivets and the heel missing. The style of the shoe would indicate that it belonged to a adult male, perhaps a workman involved with the school construction.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 TRIAL TRENCHES

- 5.1.1 No significant archaeological features were recorded in any of the trenches excavated. With the exception of the leather shoe (**1001**), no artefacts were recovered of any archaeological importance. It is possible that remains of medieval activity in the area have been removed by post-medieval activity, as the area was highly disturbed by the presence of the now demolished structure on this site. Medieval remains may also lie beneath the post-medieval layers in the trenches in which the natural geology was not exposed. There is a distinct variation in the ground level between the school grounds and both the Church of St Mary and All Saints to the east and Whalley Abbey to the south.
- 5.1.2 In general, the results show that the entire site has been subject to continuous excavation for the addition and subsequent maintenance of all the services pertaining to the building.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ILLUSTRATIONS

LIST OF FIGURES:

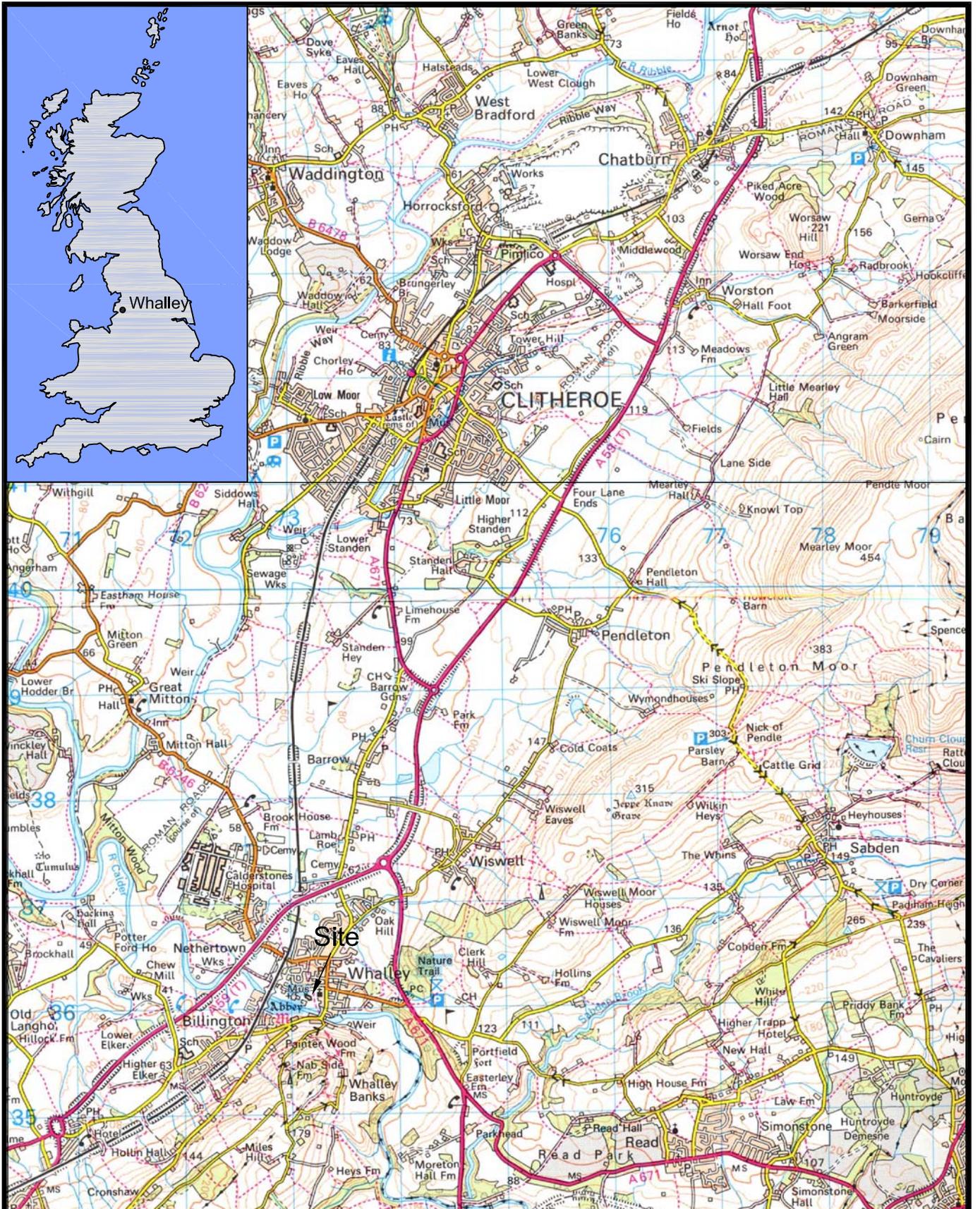
Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

LIST OF PLATES:

Plate 1: General View of the Site

Plate 2: Trench 9, facing east



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50000
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0 500 1000
 metres

Figure 1: Location Map



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PROJECT:

WHALLEY C OF E
PRIMARY SCHOOL
LANCASHIRE

DRAWING No:

2



Scale
1:250

DRAWN BY: A.S.

DATE: April 2002

LOCATION:



KEY

T Trench numbers

- - - Trench Location

Original School Building
Before Demolition

Existing School Building

Location of Sondages

TITLE:

Trench Location Plan

COMMISSIONED BY:

Abbey Holford Rowe



Figure 2 : Trench Location Plan



Plate 1: General View of the Site



Plate 2: Trench 9, facing east

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

**Oxford
Archaeology
(North)**

April 2002

**WHALLEY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
WHALLEY, LANCASHIRE
ERECTION OF NEW CLASSROOM BLOCK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
PROJECT DESIGN**

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request from Abbey Holford Rowe Architects for an archaeological watching brief during the erection of a new classroom block at Whalley Church of England Primary School, Whalley, Clitheroe, Lancashire

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Ribble Valley Borough Council have received a planning application from Abbey Holford Rowe (hereafter the client) for the erection of a new classroom block at Whalley Church of England Primary School, Whalley, near Clitheroe, Lancashire. The site is of archaeological potential because of its location in what may be the enclosure of an Anglo Saxon ecclesiastical site.
- 1.2 The settlement of Whalley is believed to be one of the oldest in Lancashire. It is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) as two ploughlands. The abbey dominated the settlement from the thirteenth century, although the presence of sculptural fragments in the churchyard would suggest an early foundation of the church, and it is possible that there was an Anglo Saxon monastic foundation in the settlement. The first edition Ordnance Survey 1844-6 shows Church Lane forming a rounded boundary to the west end of the churchyard and the school grounds, which may indicate the original boundary of the church enclosure.
- 1.3 Oxford Archaeology (North) OAN has considerable experience of excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 20 years. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. OAN has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency.
- 1.4 OAN is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (**IFA**) **registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to evaluate the archaeological deposits affected by the proposed developments. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:
- 2.1.1 ***Permanent Presence Watching Brief:*** archaeological monitoring during all ground disturbing activities on site.
- 2.1.2 ***Report and Archive:*** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3. METHODS STATEMENT

3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work summarised above.

3.2 PERMANENT PRESENCE WATCHING BRIEF

3.2.1 The watching brief will cover the whole of the area to be disturbed by the development including building foundations, service trenches and other earthmoving activities.

3.2.2 A permanent programme of observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features within the excavations in the course of the proposed development. This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the foundation works, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.

3.2.3 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, or as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). All archaeological information collected in the course of fieldwork will be recorded in standardised form, and will include accurate national grid references. Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large scale plan provided by the Client.

3.2.4 It is assumed that OAN will have the authority to stop works for up to one hour to enable the recording of significant archaeological deposits.

3.2.5 **Health and Safety:** OAN 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 (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

3.2.6 OAN has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

3.3 REPORT AND ARCHIVE PRODUCTION

3.3.1 **Archive:** the results of Stage 3.2 will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project.

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.

- 3.3.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files (as appropriate). The paper archive will be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. The material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) will be deposited with an appropriate museum following agreement with the client. A synthesis of the archive will also be available for deposition in the National Monuments Record.
- 3.3.3 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of the report will be submitted to the client within six weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A further copy of the collated final report will be submitted to the County SMR within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. The final 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 recommendations for any further mitigation works and details of the final deposition of the project archive.
- 3.3.4 **Confidentiality:** the final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, 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.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.1 The various stages of the project outlined above will fall into two distinct phases, which would follow on consecutively, where appropriate. The phases of work would comprise:
- 4.1.2 **Permanent Presence Watching Brief:** the development programme will dictate the timescale of this phase. OAN generally calculates a 1:0.5 ratio of fieldwork: post-fieldwork (archive, analysis, and report preparation) if the level of archaeology observed is low or 1:1 if the level of archaeology is high.
- 4.1.3 **Archive/Report:** the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be submitted within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork and the archive deposited within six months.

5. OUTLINE RESOURCES

- 5.1 The project will be managed by **Alison Plummer, BSc (Hons)** (OAN senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

- 5.2 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing exactly who will be carrying out each specific task, but all elements of the project are likely to be supervised by an OAN project supervisor experienced in this type of project. All OAN project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.
- 5.3 Assessment of the finds from the watching brief will be undertaken by OAN's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis BA MIFA** (OAN project officer). Christine acts as OAN's in-house finds specialist and has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England.

6. MONITORING

- 6.1 Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by the County Development Control Officer (DCO).
- 6.2 Access to the site for monitoring purposes will be afforded to the DCO at all times.

7. PROJECT COSTINGS

The total cost quoted is a fixed price, inclusive of all management, overheads, and other disbursement costs (travel and expenses), to undertake the programme of work as defined in this project design. Any other variations from this programme of work at the clients' direction will require recosting. All staff costs are inclusive of holiday entitlement, as well as NI and Superannuation.

Watching brief day rate £275.00 per day

(this day rate includes an element built in for the production of the report, which will not be subject to any further change).

A minimum call out fee of £ 450.00 applies for projects of one day only in duration

Normal OAN working hours are between 9.00am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, though adjustments to hours maybe made to maximise daylight working time in winter and to meet travel requirements. It is not normal practise for OAN staff to be asked to work weekends or bank holidays and should the client require such time to be worked during the course of a project a contract variation to cover additional costs will be necessary. Additional hours are charged at a rate of time and a half.

Notes:

1. Salaries and wages inclusive of NI, Superannuation and overheads
2. Total costs exclusive of VAT
3. All costs at 2001/2002 prices

APPENDIX 2: TRENCH DESCRIPTION

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (max) (m)	Orientation	Location and Features
1	6.98	1.00	0.60	E-W	Northern extent of site, truncated by drain
2	9.76	0.86	0.60	N-S	North-eastern edge of site
3	6.985	0.80	0.60	N-S	North-western edge of site, truncated by drain and manhole
4	3.135	0.80	0.60	N-S	Between Trenches 1 and 3. Manhole at junction with Trench 1
5	6.245	0.86	0.60	E-W	Along existing building (northern end of site). Exposed footings of existing building
6	12.75	0.86	0.60	N-S	Parallel with Trench 1
7	3.15	1.80	0.60	N-S	Along existing building (southern end of site), exposed footings of existing building. 1 drain running e-w through trench
8	18.0	0.80	0.60	E-W	Southern extent of site. Exposed original footings to demolished building and two drains
9	20.77	0.80	0.60	E-W	Parallel to Trench 6. Exposed footings of demolished building
10	6.0	0.86	0.60	N-S	Connects Trenches 8 and 9. Truncated by manhole and drain

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT/OBJECT INDICES

Context No.	Description
<i>1</i>	Modern made-up ground. Dark yellow brown clay sand
<i>2</i>	Medium yellow clay sand subsoil

Object Record No.	Context	Quantity	Material	Description
1001	U/S	1	Leather	Post-medieval shoe with copper tacks
1002	<i>1</i>	1	Bone	Fragment of a cut tibia – dog/sheep?
1003	<i>1</i>	1	Ceramic	Post-medieval sherd
1004	U/S	4	Ceramic	Medieval (?) bottle rim