

# WOODLEA, PAPCASTLE, COCKERMOUTH, CUMBRIA

## Archaeological Watching Brief



Client: Russell Butler

Planning ref.: 2/2009/0433

NGR: NY 1109 3160

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## Non-Technical Summary

Following a planning application for the demolition of the existing rear conservatory and entrance porch and construction of a new two storey extension at Woodlea, Papcastle, Cockermouth, Cumbria, a programme of archaeological investigation was requested by Allerdale Borough Council. A brief for the archaeological work was issued by the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service which comprised a rapid desk-based assessment and watching brief. The onsite work was carried out by Phil Cracknell (Historic Building Survey and Archaeological Illustration) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2010.

The desk-based assessment identified a high potential for encountering subsurface Roman deposits and the acknowledged a good likelihood of finding Roman artefacts due to the close proximity of the site to *Derwentio* Roman fort and its associated civil settlement, the full extent of which is not yet known. However, finds recovered during the course of the watching brief dated from the 18th century onwards and were largely 19th or 20th century, and no cut features were revealed at or below the interface between the topsoil and the underlying geological layers. Although no significant archaeological finds or features were observed, there is still some potential for remains of several periods to be present in the immediate area.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank the client, Russell Butler, for commissioning the project, also his agent, Paul Kitchin at Green Design Group, for providing information about the building works, and his builder, Adrian Thompson, for his co-operation. Additional thanks are due to Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) for providing the brief, and to Jo Mackintosh, Historic Environment Record Officer at CCCHES, for providing access to the Cumbria Historic Environment Record.

The watching brief was carried out by Phil Cracknell (Historic Building Survey and Archaeological Illustration), and the rapid desk-based assessment was carried out by Dan Elsworth, who also managed the project and edited the report. The report was written by Phil Cracknell, Jo Dawson and Tom Mace, and the figures were produced by Phil Cracknell and Tom Mace. Jo Dawson assessed the finds and edited the report.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 A planning application (2/2009/0433) was made by Russell Butler (hereafter 'the client') for the demolition of the existing rear conservatory and entrance porch, and construction of a new two storey extension at Woodlea, Papcastle, Cockermouth, Cumbria (NY 1109 3160). A programme of archaeological work was required by Allerdale Borough Council following consultation with the Cumbria County Historic Environment Service (CHES). Planning permission was granted by Allerdale Borough Council, Condition 2 of which stated that:

- An archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist during the course of the ground works of the proposed development, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Following its completion, three copies of the report shall be furnished to the Local Planning Authority.
- **Reason:** To afford reasonable opportunity for an examination to be made to determine the existence of any remains of archaeological interest within the site and for the preservation, examination or recording of such remains, in accordance with Policy CO22 and RCO1 of the Allerdale Local Plan Adopted 1999.

1.1.2 A brief for the work was subsequently produced by CHES, which was to comprise a rapid desk-based assessment, followed by a watching brief during any groundworks (*Appendix 1*); in response to this Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design (*Appendix 2*). Following the acceptance of the project design Greenlane Archaeology carried out the fieldwork on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010.

## 1.2 Location, Topography, and Geology

1.2.1 The village of Papcastle is located approximately 1km to the north-west of the town of Cockermouth, in the Borough of Allerdale, Cumbria, on a gentle rise between 60m and 80m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2002; see Figure 1)



**Plate 1: The site at the rear of 'Woodlea' photographed from the north-eastern ramparts of the Roman Fort**

1.2.2 The landscape is dominated by the broad flood plain of the river Derwent which flows westward from Bassenthwaite Lake through Cockermouth before joining the Irish Sea (Countryside Commission 1998, 27). Derwent Valley is intensively grazed by cattle and sheep and forms a linear, pastoral landscape subdivided by hedgerows and hedgerow trees with woodlands on the river bluffs (*ibid.*). The solid geology comprises Carboniferous limestone (Moseley 1978, plate 1), with overlying deposits of boulder clay (Countryside Commission 1998, 27).

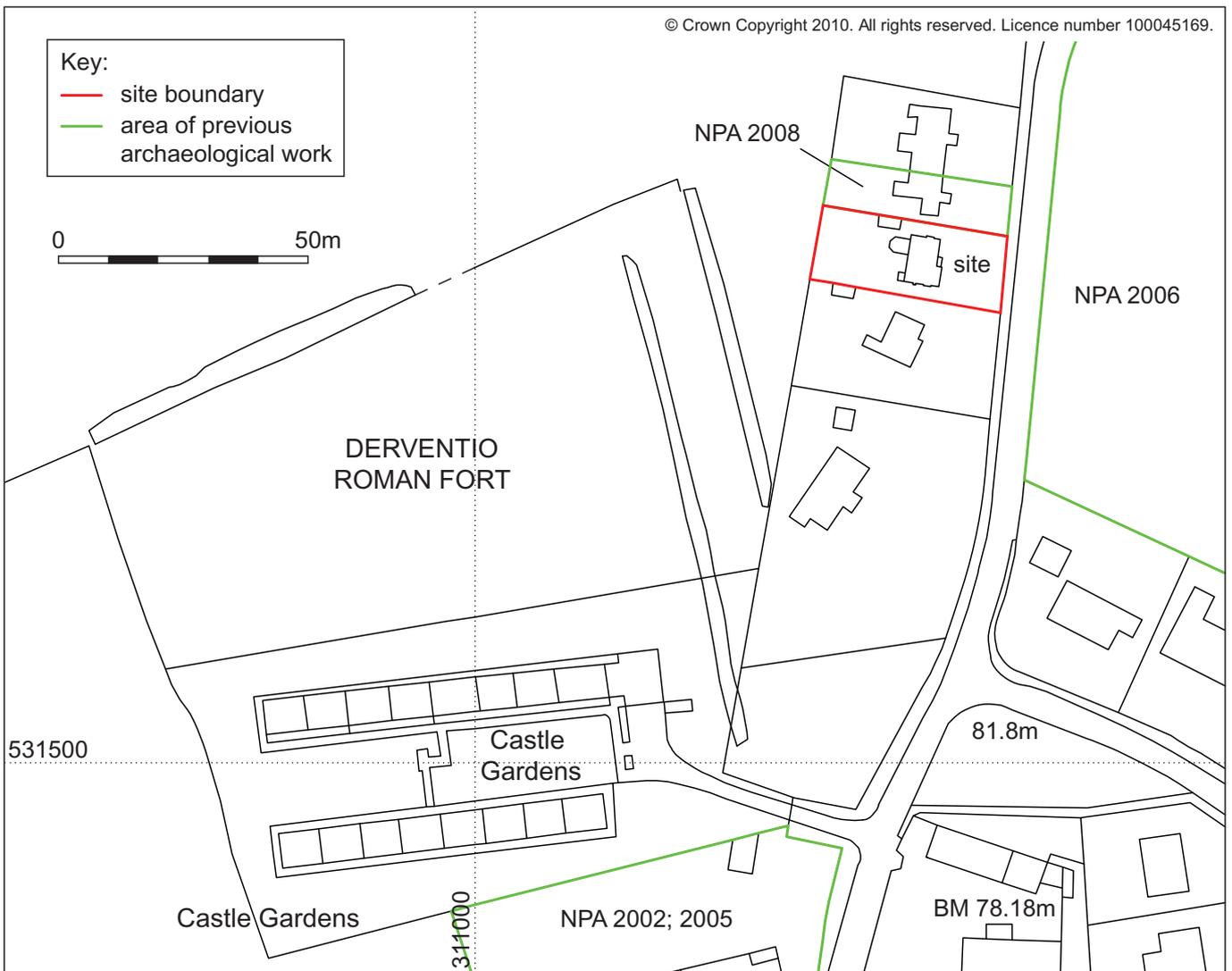
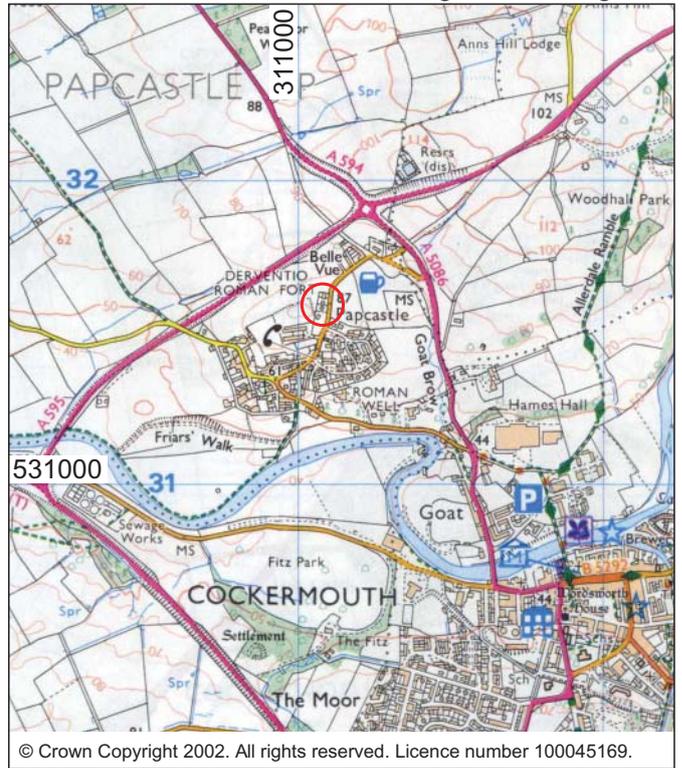
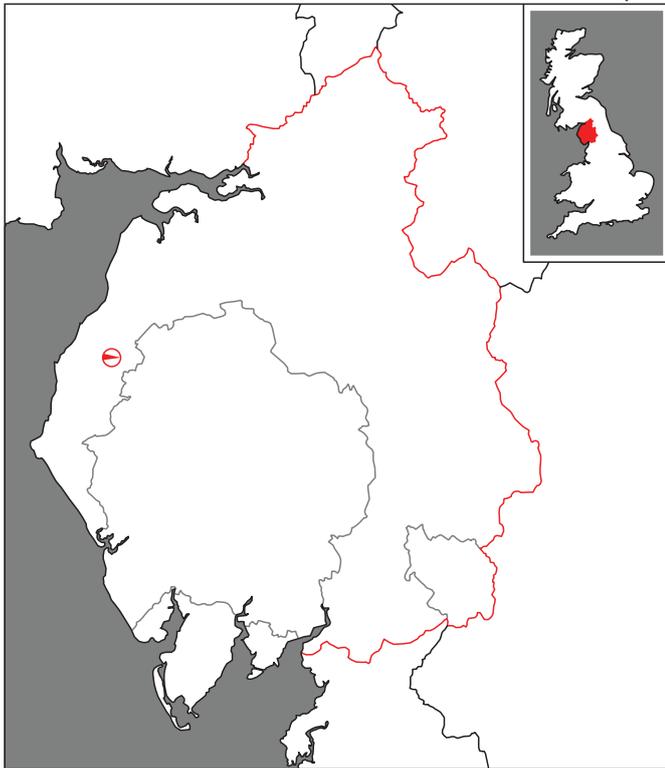


Figure 1: Site location

Client: Russell Butler

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This project comprised two separate elements intended to establish the extent, nature and, where possible, date of any buried deposits of archaeological interest present on the site. The first element was the completion of a rapid desk-based assessment in order to establish the extent of the known archaeological resource in the area and produce an outline history of the site environs. The second part was the watching brief carried out during the ground reduction at the site, which aimed to record any archaeological features that might be revealed.

2.1.2 All aspects of the desk-based assessment and watching brief were carried out according to the standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a; IfA 2008b).

### 2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 The following sources were consulted:

- **Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER):** this is a list of all the known sites of archaeological interest within the county, which is maintained by Cumbria County Council and is the primary source of information for an investigation of this kind. Each identified site comes with a grid reference, description and source, and any additional information referenced was also examined as necessary. The HER was used primarily, in this case, to access reports of previous archaeological investigations in other parts of Papcastle;
- **Greenlane Archaeology Library:** additional secondary sources were examined to provide information for the site background.

### 2.3 Watching Brief

2.3.1 With the exception of two areas of the foundation trench for the proposed building, which were excavated by hand, all excavation work was completed by machine, a JCB 803 mini-excavator, using a 600mm toothed bucket. Any archaeological features identified were recorded in the following manner:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all deposits and cuts were made. A full list of the contexts encountered is present in *Appendix 3*;
- **Photographs:** a photographic record was produced in colour digital format. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report. A written record of all of the photographs was also made;
- **Drawings:** a plan of the excavated area was produced at a scale of 1:40 and a section was produced at a scale of 1:20.

2.3.2 The location of the area subject to truncation was recorded relative to the known location of nearby buildings and other structures (see Figure 1 and Figure 2).

### 2.4 Finds

2.4.1 **Processing:** all of the artefacts removed from site were washed then naturally air-dried and packaged appropriately in self-seal bags with white write-on panels.

2.4.2 **Assessment and recording:** a list of the finds was produced and is presented in *Appendix 4* and summarised in *Section 4.2*.

### 2.5 Environmental samples

2.5.1 No environmental samples were taken as no appropriate deposits were encountered.

## 2.6 Archive

2.6.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*), and current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (Brown 2007; English Heritage 1991). The completed archive, together with a copy of the report, will be deposited with Cumbria Record Office in Whitehaven (CRO(W)). Three copies of this report will be deposited with the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER), one with the client, and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. A record of the project, together with a digital copy of the report, will be added to the *Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) scheme (English Heritage 2007).

### 3. Desk-Based Assessment

#### 3.1 Historical Background

3.1.1 **Introduction:** the historical background to the site is compiled from sources held in the Cumbria HER, in particular reports for previous pieces of archaeological work carried out in Papcastle. It is intended to place the site in its local context and provide a comparison for similar projects carried out in the vicinity.

3.1.2 **Prehistoric:** a number of prehistoric finds are recorded in the Cockermouth area, most notably stone axes from the Langdales, and Elva Plain stone circle is located 4km to the east of the town (Bradbury 1996). Within Cockermouth itself the small Toot, or Tute Hill, located directly opposite the Castle, has been interpreted as a burial mound, possibly of Bronze Age origin, and there are further possibly Iron Age earthworks in Fitz Wood (*ibid*). Unfortunately, excavated evidence from this period is sparse but certainly demonstrates the presence of human groups in the region at this time (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 23).

3.1.3 **Romano-British:** the earliest known settlement at Papcastle dates to the Roman period. It was well situated being at the junction of two main Roman roads; the route from the fort at Carlisle heading south-west and the route heading west towards Maryport (Margary 1975). There was a heavy military presence in Cumbria during the Roman period and the fort at Papcastle occupied a strategic position atop a hill with a vantage point over a major crossing of the River Derwent (NPA 2008, 10). As with many Roman forts in the county epigraphic evidence from the site is sparse (only four inscriptions on stone are recorded), and none of these confirms nor refutes the generally accepted identification of Papcastle as *Derventio* (NPA 2008, 10).

3.1.4 The fort and extramural settlement have been described by many antiquarian authorities since the 16<sup>th</sup> century and have seen limited excavation throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century (see *Section 3.2*). This has revealed that the fort was occupied continuously from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century through to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century (NPA 2008, 10). The earliest fort dates to the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century and it was extensively rebuilt on a slightly different alignment in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century, probably with the general reorganisation of the district frontier under Lucius Septimius Severus (AD 193-211) (*ibid*). The majority of the stone appears to have been removed after the fort fell out of use and was probably incorporated into the construction of Cockermouth Castle, where stone inscriptions relating to the fort have been found (Birley 1963). Further Roman finds in close proximity to the development site include several coins and a winged figurine (NPA 2008, 11) as well as a Roman well (Ordnance Survey 2002; see also Figure 1).

3.1.5 **Medieval:** it is unclear how long the site of the fort remained occupied beyond the 4<sup>th</sup> century, but 'continued occupation seems almost certain, in view of the early name for the settlement, which first appeared in 1260 as 'Pabecastr', a compound of Old Scandinavian and Old English, meaning 'the Roman fort inhabited by a hermit' (NPA 2008, 11). However, similar place-names in Scotland, in particular Orkney, identify the word 'papi' or 'papar' as deriving from the Irish 'pápa' meaning a priest or cleric (Crawford 2005), suggesting that the former Roman fort might have been used as a religious settlement or monastery.

3.1.6 After the arrival of the Normans in Cumbria in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the area around Papcastle was owned by Waldeof, Lord of Allerdale (Nicholson and Burn 1777) and it is possible that Waldeof utilised part of the defensive structure of the fort at Papcastle (if it was still standing) as a ready made, easily defensible seat, only later moving to construct a castle in Cockermouth, at 'a more easily defended natural site...when cross-border raids from Scotland became more frequent' (NPA 2008, 12). Although there was certainly settlement in the area during the medieval period, archaeological evidence dating from this period is limited (*ibid*). A leper hospital was founded at Papcastle by the Dominicans of Carlisle during the 13<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid*). Papcastle House was built during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century and excavations there have revealed a large timber building and a probable retting pond for the processing of flax of a similar date (NPA 2004, 2005a).

3.1.7 **Post-Medieval and Modern:** during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the economy of the county as a whole had recovered to the extent that there was widespread rebuilding of town, villages and farmsteads in stone (Rollinson 1967), which may explain the lack of surviving examples of domestic architecture before the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Papcastle. This same period saw the enclosure and improvement of large areas of land at the same time, with Papcastle covered by an Enclosure Act in 1838 (NPA 2008, 12). Cartographic evidence suggests that Papcastle saw limited expansion during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (*ibid*).

## 3.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations

3.2.1 **Introduction:** the following previous archaeological investigations at Papcastle were identified from reports held at the HER. Those in immediate proximity to the site are shown in Figure 1.

3.2.2 **Excavations on the site of Deventio Roman Fort:** parts of the north and east ramparts were uncovered during excavations in 1912; the east gate consisted of a partially blocked double gateway paved with a concrete of lime and gravel laid on larger stones, whereas the north-east corner of the early fort was constructed from good ashlar and lime masonry (Collingwood 1912). During the excavation of a new gas main in 1923 a layer of blackened wheat was encountered outside the east gate associated with the rebuilt fort, and Roman coins, pottery, and large stone slabs, 5.5ft by 1.5ft, dug at a depth of 6 ft were discovered just outside the south-east corner of the fort at The Mount (Birley 1963). Parts of the barracks and Commandant's quarters were revealed by excavations carried out in 1961-2, with evidence for both stone and timber buildings, and although no floor levels remained within the barracks, some identifiable scale armour was identified from numerous items of corroded bronze (Charlesworth 1965). A small bronze statuette, a bronze fibula, and scraps of tent and shoe leather were also recovered (*ibid.*). A road which had been repaired many times was exposed running south from the south gate during an excavation ahead of a house building scheme in 1984 (Oliver 1984). The foundation for a large rectangular building was located to the east, set on a rectangular platform of dumped clay, below which were waterlogged deposits yielding industrial remains and timber drains and above it were traces of several phases of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century stone structures which could have been a temple (*ibid.*). It has been suggested that the temple might have been dedicated to Apollo: a small bronze statuette was recovered of Marsyas, a satyr who challenged Apollo, the god of music, to a music competition; Marsyas promised that he would submit himself to be bound and flayed alive if he lost, and the statue depicts him bound, awaiting his fate, having lost to Apollo (Shotter 1996).

3.2.3 **Papcastle bypass:** excavation of features identified by an earlier geophysical survey was undertaken by Cumbria County Council prior to the construction of the bypass in 1989 to the north and west of the Roman fort. A small ditch was excavated along its entirety, revealing both modern and Roman ceramics, which had been revetted with timber and might have been an early field boundary (Turnbull 1999).

3.2.4 **Land at Derwent Lodge:** in 1998, Channel 4's Time Team carried out a geophysical survey and dug two trial trenches in the garden of Derwent Lodge, which revealed remains of two Roman strip houses and the foundations of a possible monumental structure (Channel 4 2010). Further trenching in the field called Sibby Brows revealed the area of the vicus to be more extensive than previously recorded and the defences of the fort were also examined (*ibid.*).

3.2.5 **Land at Papcastle House:** excavations in 2004 revealed that despite evidence of 19<sup>th</sup> century terracing, a series of substantial postholes were identified, which had the potential of forming the corner of a building (NPA 2004). Further excavation in 2005 revealed more timber buildings and a probable medieval retting pond for the processing of flax (NPA 2005a).

3.2.6 **Land Adjacent to Derwentio House:** this site was evaluated in 2002, and then excavated in March 2004 (NPA 2002; 2005b). The results of this work revealed significant Roman deposits relating to the fort, including terracing carried out in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, when the fort was extensively remodelled, which unfortunately removed much of the evidence relating to the earlier phases of the fort (NPA 2005b, v). The main feature of the 4<sup>th</sup> century fort was a 'chalet type' barrack building fronting a minor east/west road. This stone building was partially demolished and a late Roman part-timber building was

constructed on the foundations of the earlier building (*ibid.*). This structure was subsequently replaced by an entirely timber structure on a slightly different alignment, possibly indicating very late Roman activity on the site into the 5<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid.*).

3.2.7 **Braeside**: a watching brief was carried out during the extension of a bungalow known as Braeside, to the south of the fort, in 2005. A deposit of soil containing pottery dating to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD and the top half of a beehive quern was discovered (Walker 2007).

3.2.8 **Land at Belle Vue**: a desk-based assessment was carried out prior to a proposed development in 2006 to the east of the site. This identified a high potential for Romano-British archaeology within the development area, which included the projected route of two Roman roads thought to extend into the area and the possibility of encountering outlying features associated with the civilian settlement around the east entrance to the fort (NPA 2006, 20).

3.2.9 **Land at Craiginvar**: a desk-based assessment and watching brief were carried out for this site in 2007 (NPA 2008). The desk-based assessment identified many Romano-British sites in the HER, associated with *Derventio* fort (*op cit*, iv), however, despite the high potential for subsurface finds, no archaeological features, and also no evidence of Roman archaeology, were identified during the watching brief (*ibid.*). The groundworks were relatively minor and previous disturbance resulting from the original construction of the house and garage potentially explains this apparent absence of features (*ibid.*).

## 4. Watching Brief

### 4.1 Results

4.1.1 During the morning of Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010 the Conservatory which occupied the northern half of the present development area was demolished and removed. This extension dated to the 1990s. The concrete base for the Conservatory (**100**), which measured c125mm in thickness, was broken up and removed.

4.1.2 The proposed two-storey extension measures 8.30m in length, from the south-western corner of the house along the western or rear elevation, by 3.80m in width. The area of the footprint for the proposed extension was covered by a flagstone patio (**101**), which extended below the concrete plinth (**100**) for the conservatory. The flagstones measured c50mm in thickness and the groundworks associated with the laying of the patio had effectively removed the topsoil across much of the present excavated area. The 'original' soil profile only survived on the northern, southern and western edges of the excavated area. An area measuring 9.50m in length along the entire western or rear elevation of the house by c5.20m in width was scraped back by machine to a depth of between c200mm and c300mm below the present ground level. The flagstone patio was broken up and removed by machine and the subsequent scraping of the site revealed natural across most of the excavated area (Figure 2 and Plate 2).



**Plate 2: The rear elevation of the house during the course of site clearance**

4.1.3 The flagstone patio had been laid over two inspection panels to the drainage system for the house and the cut for the drains was revealed and recorded in plan and section (Figure 2). Figure 2 shows the 'original' present depth of topsoil (**102**), measuring c200mm in depth, which survives on the southern edge of the site (Plate 3). The cuts for the drains and the two brick-built inspection chambers (**103**) had disturbed much of the southern half of the excavated area (Figure 2). The cuts for the drainage pipes measured up to 750mm in width, were 'V-shaped' in profile and cut natural to a depth of up to 750mm below the present ground level. In all three arms of the foundation trench for the proposed extension, natural (**104**) was encountered at a depth of c200mm below the existing ground level. Natural (**104**) consisted of an orange/brown clay with occasional pebbles and small cobbles up to 90mm in length in the upper part, but with larger cobbles of up to c. 250mm in length at a depth of c. 500mm below the present ground level (Figure 2). At the northern end of the western arm of the foundation trench a 19<sup>th</sup> century clay field drain crossed the site on a north-west/south-east alignment (**107**, backfilled with **108** and the drain itself, **109**). The cut for the field drain (**107**) and the field drain itself (**109**) were only recorded during the excavation of the foundation trench. The field drain pieces formed an inverted 'U-shape' in section (Plate 4). With the exception of the fill of the cuts for the modern drain (**105**) and the field drain (**108**), natural (**104**) was firm and compacted and clearly undisturbed across the whole area of the site.



**Plate 3: The north-facing section of the southern arm of the excavated foundation trench**



**Plate 4: The field drain (109) in the western arm of the foundation trench**

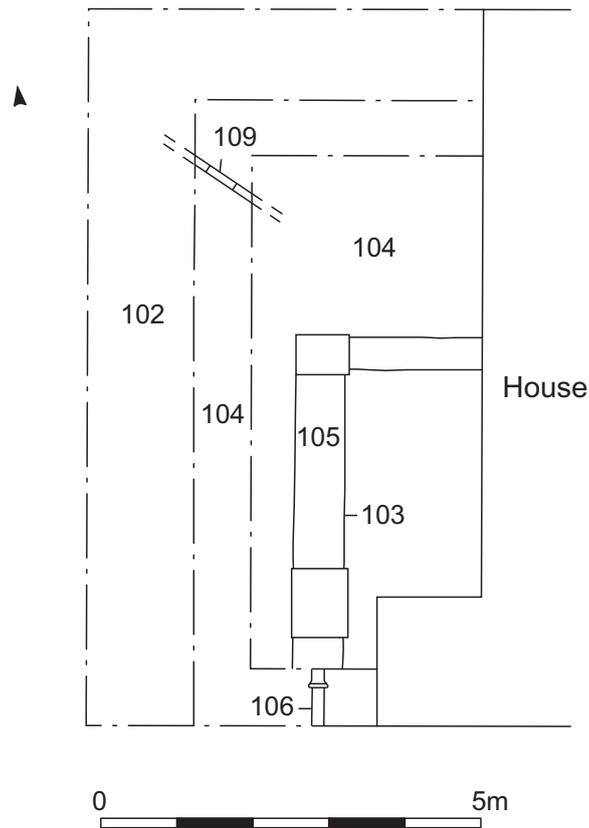
## 4.2 Finds

4.2.1 Only four finds were recovered from the entire excavation, all from the topsoil (**102**). There were two iron objects - one, a modern file from the area of the conservatory, and a heavily-corroded iron rod - both were discarded. Two sherds of pottery were recovered and retained. One was a 19<sup>th</sup> century blue transfer-printed white earthenware plate rim and the second was a body sherd of unglazed red earthenware, probably from a flower pot, again probably of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A summary is also presented in *Appendix 4*.

## 5. Conclusions

5.1.1 While the rapid desk-based assessment revealed some potential for prehistoric occupation in the general area and a high likelihood of Roman remains being present on the site, previous work on this side of the Roman fort has proved equally negative (NPA 2008). It appears that any settlement associated with the fort did not extend in this direction, or if it did it has been entirely destroyed by subsequent activity. The evidence from excavations carried out elsewhere around Papcastle indicates that the civilian settlement was located primarily to the south of the fort; recent discoveries have even suggested that it might extend across the river (Noon 2010).

EXCAVATION PLAN (Illustration by P. Cracknell)



NORTH-FACING SECTION OF THE SOUTHERN ARM OF THE FOUNDATION TRENCH (Illustration by P. Cracknell)

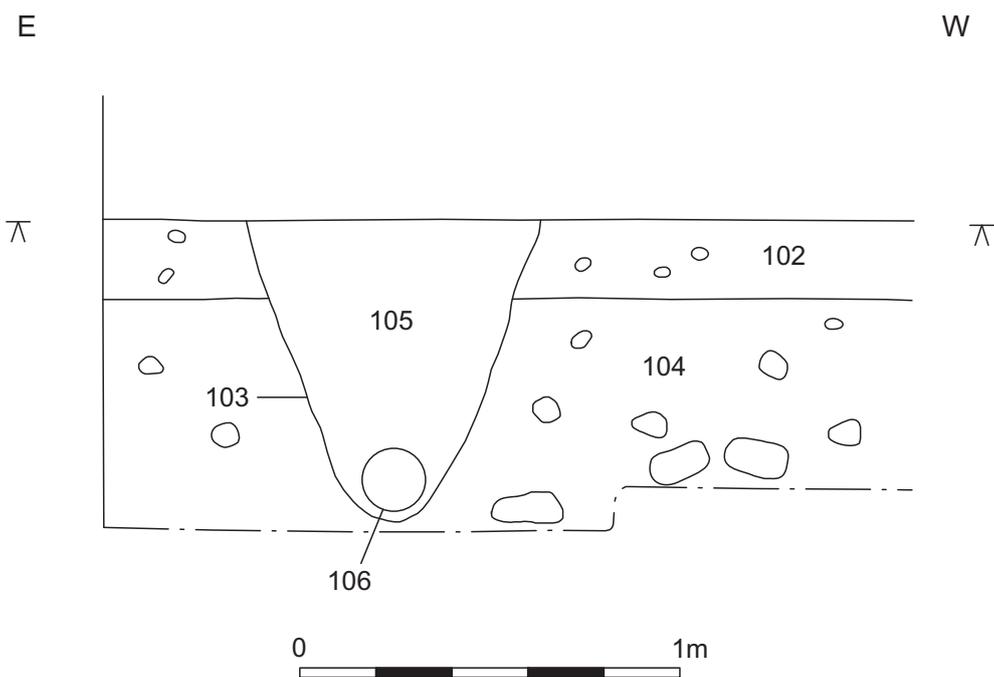


Figure 2: Excavation plan and north-facing section of the south arm of the foundation trench

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## **Appendix 1: Project Brief**

### **BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **AT WOODLEA, PAPCASTLE, COCKERMOUTH, CUMBRIA**

Issued by the

**County Historic Environment Service**

Environment Unit



**Date of Brief: 26 March 2010**

This Design Brief is only valid for 1 year after the above date. After this period the County Historic Environment Service should be contacted. Any specification resulting from this Brief will only be considered for the same period.

## 1. SITE DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATION

**Site:** Woodlea, Papcastle

**Grid Reference:** NY 1109 3160

**Scope of Development:** a two storey extension

**Planning Application No.:** 2/09/0433

- 1.1 Detailed proposals and tenders are invited from appropriately resourced, qualified and experienced archaeological contractors to undertake the archaeological project outlined by this Brief and to produce a report on that work. The work should be under the direct management of either an Associate or Member of the Institute for Archaeologists, or equivalent. Any response to this Brief should follow IFA *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* 2008 and be in line with recommendations outlined in English Heritage (1991). The specification must include:
- ❖ A description of the methods of observation and recording system to be used
  - ❖ A description of the finds and environmental sampling strategies to be used
  - ❖ A description of the post excavation and reporting work that will be undertaken
  - ❖ Details of key project staff, including the names of the project manager, site supervisor, finds and environmental specialists and any other specialist sub-contractors to be employed
  - ❖ Details of on site staffing, e.g. the number of people to be employed on site per day
  - ❖ A projected timetable for all site work and post excavation work (through to final publication of results)
- 1.2 Any significant variations to the specification must be agreed by Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) in advance. No fieldwork may commence until the specification has been approved by CCCHES.

## 2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 CCCHES has been consulted by Allerdale Borough Council regarding a planning application for the erection of a two storey extension at Woodlea, Papcastle.
- 2.2 The development affects an area of archaeological significance, as it lies adjacent to the Scheduled Monument of *Derventio* Roman fort (Scheduled Monument no. 22499). Consequently, a condition has been attached to the planning consent requiring an archaeological mitigation scheme to be implemented. This scheme comprises an archaeological watching brief to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains disturbed during the course of the ground works of the development.

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies immediately outside the Roman fort of *Derventio*. Archaeological excavations nearby have revealed that the remains of two distinct phases of the fort lie in a good state of preservation below ground. Several small-scale archaeological investigations throughout Papcastle have identified evidence of the Roman civilian settlement that lay immediately adjacent to the fort.

## 4. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

### Objectives

- 4.1 To identify, investigate and record any surviving archaeological remains revealed during the course of the development groundworks.

## Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

- 4.2 Before any on site work commences the County Historic Environment Record should be consulted and a rapid desk-based survey of the existing resource undertaken to set the watching brief results in a brief archaeological and historical context. This should include an assessment of those primary and secondary sources referenced in the County Historic Environment Record but does not require a map regression exercise in this instance.

## Fieldwork

- 4.3 All topsoil stripping, ground reduction, and excavation of footings and services trenches must be carried out under archaeological supervision. Any putative archaeological features must then be cleaned by hand and if possible a stratigraphic record made. Finds and environmental samples should be retrieved as appropriate. A reasonable period of uninterrupted access should be allowed to the archaeologist for all necessary archaeological recording.

## Reporting

- 4.4 The archaeological work must result in a report which should include as a minimum:
- ❖ A site location plan, related to the national grid
  - ❖ A front cover/frontispiece which includes the planning application number and the national grid reference of the site
  - ❖ A concise, non-technical summary of the results
  - ❖ A date when the project was undertaken and by whom
  - ❖ A description of the methodology employed and work undertaken
  - ❖ The results of the rapid desk-based assessment
  - ❖ Plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of deposits and finds located
  - ❖ A brief photographic record of the site must be included, showing any features of archaeological interest. Where the results of the project revealed no significant archaeological remains a single photograph showing an indicative section of trench will suffice
  - ❖ A description and interpretation of the archaeological deposits identified
  - ❖ A list of, and dates for, any finds recovered
  - ❖ A description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained
- 4.5 Three copies of the report should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record (HER) within six months of completion of fieldwork. This will be on the understanding that the report will be made available as a public document through the HER.

## Publication

- 4.6 A summary report should be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork. If archaeological remains of significance are identified, one or more full reports should also be submitted to a suitable journal or other publication in due course.
- 4.7 Cumbria HER is taking part in the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/> must therefore also be completed as part of the project. Information on projects undertaken in Cumbria will be made available through the above website, unless otherwise agreed.

## Archive

- 4.8 An archive must be prepared in accordance with the recommendations in Brown (2007). Arrangements must be made for its long term storage and deposition with an appropriate repository.
- 4.9 The landowner should be encouraged to transfer the ownership of finds to a local or relevant specialist museum. The museum's requirements for the transfer and storage of finds should be discussed before the project commences.

4.10 CCCHES must be notified of the arrangements made.

## 5. PROJECT MONITORING

5.1 One weeks notice must be given to CCCHES prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

## 6. FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

6.1 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to establish safe working practices in terms of current health and safety legislation, to ensure site access and to obtain notification of hazards (eg. services, contaminated ground, etc.). **The County Historic Environment Service bears no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief or subsequent specification.**

6.2 The Institute for Archaeologists' *The Code of Conduct* (2009) must be followed.

6.3 Care must be taken in dealing with human remains and the appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations followed. CCCHES and the local Coroner must be informed immediately human remains are discovered.

6.4 The involvement of CCCHES should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, DH, 2007 *Archaeological Archives A Guide To Best Practice In Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum

English Heritage, 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Swindon

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Reading

Institute for Archaeologists, 2009 *By Laws: Code of Conduct*, Reading

## 8. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding this Brief, contact

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## Appendix 2: Project Design

# WOODLEA, PAPCASTLE, COCKERMOUTH, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Watching Brief Project Design



Client: Mr Russell Butler

Planning Application Ref: 2/2009/0433

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June 2010

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application (Ref. 2/2009/0433) for the construction of a new extension at Woodlea, Papcastle, Cockermouth, Cumbria (NGR NY 1109 3160) a condition was placed by Allerdale District Council requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during any groundwork. The site is adjacent to the Roman fort of *Derwentio*, which is a Scheduled Monument and is therefore considered to be of national importance. A brief was provided for the work by the Cumbria County Historic Environment Service (CHES 2010), in response to which this project design was produced.

1.1.2 The Roman fort at Papcastle, known as *Derwentio*, was recorded from a very early date and numerous finds recorded from it but was not investigated in detail until 1912, when excavations were carried out by the *Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society* under the direction of RG Collingwood (Collingwood 1913). This work, although not exhaustive, revealed large elements of the plan of the fort and that it had been occupied from the late 1<sup>st</sup> century to the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD (see summary in Birley 1931). Subsequent work in the 1960s, in advance of the construction of bungalows on part of the site, recorded additional elements of the southern part of the fort (Charlesworth 1965). More recently work has also been carried out in the area of the civilian settlement associated with the fort, known as the *vicus*, starting with work carried out by the *Time Team* in 1998.

## 1.2 Greenlane Archaeology

1.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology is a private limited company based in Ulverston, Cumbria, and was established in 2005 (Company No. 05580819). Its directors, Jo Dawson and Daniel Elsworth, have a combined total of over 18 years continuous professional experience working in commercial archaeology, principally in the north of England and Scotland. Greenlane Archaeology is committed to a high standard of work, and abides by the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Code of Conduct. The desk-based assessment and watching brief will be carried out according to the Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a; 2008b).

## 1.3 Project Staffing

1.3.1 The project will be managed by **Dan Elsworth (MA (Hons), AIFA)** and carried out by a suitably qualified member of staff or sub-contractor. Daniel graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1998 with an honours degree in Archaeology, and began working for the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, which became Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in 2001. Daniel ultimately became a project officer, and for over six and a half years worked on excavations and surveys, building investigations, desk-based assessments, and conservation and management plans. These have principally taken place in the North West, and Daniel has a particular interest in the archaeology of the area. He has recently managed a wide variety of projects including building recordings of various sizes, watching briefs, and excavations.

1.3.2 All artefacts will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology, and it is envisaged that they will initially be examined by Jo Dawson, who will fully assess any of post-medieval date. Finds of earlier date will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate, and in this case it is envisaged that medieval pottery will be examined by Ian Miller at Oxford Archaeology North. Cumbria CHES will be notified of any other specialists, other than those named, who Greenlane Archaeology wishes to engage, before any specialist contracts are awarded, and their approval will be sought.

1.3.3 Environmental samples and faunal remains, should significant deposits of these be recovered, will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology. It is envisaged that charred plant remains will be assessed by Scott Timpany of Headland Archaeology Ltd, and significant faunal remains by Steve Rowland or Andy Bates, both at Oxford Archaeology North. Cumbria CHES will be informed and their approval will be sought for these arrangements.

# 2. Objectives

## 2.1 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 To examine information held in the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER) in order to better understand the development of the site, and set the results of the watching brief in context.

## 2.2 Watching Brief

2.2.1 To identify any surviving archaeological remains and to investigate and record any revealed archaeological remains or deposits.

## 2.3 Report

2.3.1 To produce a report detailing the results of the watching brief.

## 2.4 Archive

2.4.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the watching brief.

# 3. Methodology

## 3.1 Desk-Based Assessment

3.1.1 A rapid examination of relevant information particularly the results of previous pieces of work in the area, but also published and unpublished local histories, pieces of research, articles and studies relating to the proposed development site and a suitable area around it (the 'study area') will be carried out. These sources will be consulted at the following locations:

- **Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER):** this is a list of all of the recorded sites of archaeological interest recorded in the county, and is the primary source of information for a study of this kind. The details of sites recorded in the HER from a suitably sized study area around the development site will be obtained. Each HER site is recorded with any relevant references, a brief description, and location related to the National Grid. All of the references relating to sites identified in the HER will be examined in order to verify them and add any necessary background information. In addition, relevant secondary sources, particularly details of previous archaeological investigations in the immediate area and relevant aerial photographs, will also be examined;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** a number of copies of maps, local histories, unpublished reports, and journals are held in Greenlane Archaeology's library. These will be consulted in order to provide further information about the development of the site, and any other elements of archaeological interest.

3.1.2 The results of this assessment will be used to establish the location, extent, date, and development of any sites of archaeological interest demonstrated to be present within the proposed development area. The extent of all of the sites identified will be shown on an appropriately scaled map.

## 3.2 Watching Brief

3.2.1 Any groundworks under undertaken within the development area shall be monitored, with one archaeologist on site.

3.2.2 The watching brief methodology will be as follows:

- Groundworks such as foundation trenches or trenches for services will be excavated by machine under supervision by staff from Greenlane Archaeology;
- All deposits of archaeological significance will be examined by hand if possible in a stratigraphic manner, using shovels, mattocks, or trowels as appropriate for the scale;
- The position of any features, such as ditches, pits, or walls, will be recorded and where necessary these will be investigated in order to establish their full extent, date, and relationship to any other features. If possible, negative features such as ditches or pits will be examined by sample excavation, typically half of a pit or similar feature and approximately 10% of a linear feature;
- All recording of features will include detailed plans and sections at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 where practicable or sketches where it is not, and photographs in both colour print and colour digital format;
- All deposits, drawings and photographs will be recorded on Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- All finds will be recovered during the watching brief for further assessment as far as is practically and safely possible. Should significant amounts of finds be encountered an appropriate sampling strategy will be devised;

- All faunal remains will also be recovered by hand during the watching brief as far as is practically and safely possible, but where it is considered likely that there is potential for the bones of fish or small mammals to be present appropriate volumes of samples will be taken for sieving;
- Deposits that are considered likely to have preserved environmental remains will be sampled. Bulk samples of between 10 and 40 litres in volume, depending on the size and potential of the deposit, will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches) and occupation deposits such as hearths and floors. An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of samples of suitable deposits by specialist sub-contractors (see *Section 1.3.4* above), who will examine the potential for further analysis. All samples will be processed using methods appropriate to the preservation conditions and the remains present;
- Any human remains discovered during the watching brief will be left *in situ*, and, if possible, covered. Cumbria CHES will be immediately informed as will the local coroner. Should it be considered necessary to remove the remains this will require a Home Office licence, under Section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857, which will be applied for should the need arise;
- Any objects defined as 'treasure' by the Treasure Act of 1996 (HMSO 1996) will be immediately reported to the local coroner and secured stored off-site, or covered and protected on site if immediate removal is not possible;
- Should any significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the watching brief these will immediately be brought to the attention of the Cumbria CHES so that the need for further work can be confirmed. Any additional work and ensuing costs will be agreed with the client and according to the requirements of the Cumbria CHES, and subject to a variation to this project design.

### 3.3 Report

3.3.1 The results of watching brief will be compiled into a report, which will include the following sections:

- A front cover including the appropriate national grid reference (NGR);
- A concise non-technical summary of results, including the date the project was undertaken and by whom;
- Acknowledgements;
- Project Background;
- Methodology, including a description of the work undertaken;
- Results of the watching brief including descriptions of any deposits identified, their extent, form and potential date, and an assessment of any finds or environmental remains recovered during the watching brief;
- Discussion of the results, with specific reference to their relationship with elements of the associated iron furnace;
- Bibliography;
- Illustrations at appropriate scales including:
  - a site location plan related to the national grid;
  - a plan showing the location of the site in relation to nearby structures and the local landscape;
  - copies of early maps, plans, drawings, photographs and other illustrations of elements of the site, as appropriate;
  - a plan showing the location of the ground works;
  - plans and sections of the watching brief ground works, as appropriate, showing any features of archaeological interest;
  - photographs of the watching brief, including both detailed and general shots of features of archaeological interest and the trenches;
  - photographs of individual artefacts as appropriate.

## 3.4 Archive

3.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the watching brief, formed during the project, will be stored by Greenlane Archaeology until it is completed. Upon completion it will be deposited with the Cumbria Record Office in Whitehaven (CRO(W)). The archive will be compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the IfA (Brown 2007), and in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). In addition details of the project will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public.

3.4.2 A copy of the report will be deposited with the archive at the Cumbria Record Office in Whitehaven, one will be supplied to the client, and within six months of the completion of fieldwork, three copies will be provided to the Cumbria HES. In addition Greenlane Archaeology Ltd will retain one copy, and digital copies will be deposited with the NMR and OASIS scheme as required.

3.4.3 The client will be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to a suitable museum. Any finds recovered during the watching brief will be offered to The Beacon in Whitehaven. If no suitable repository can be found the finds may have to be discarded, and in this case as full a record as possible would be made of them beforehand.

## 4. Work timetable

4.1 Greenlane Archaeology will be available to commence the project on **3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010**, or at another date convenient to the client. It is envisaged that the project will involve tasks in the following order:

- **Task 1:** rapid desk-based assessment;
- **Task 2:** watching brief;
- **Task 3:** post-excavation work on archaeological watching brief, including processing of finds and production of draft report and illustrations;
- **Task 4:** feedback, editing and production of final report, completion of archive.

## 5. Other matters

### 5.1 Access

5.1.1 Access to the site will be organised through co-ordination with the client and/or their agent(s).

### 5.2 Health and Safety

5.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology carries out risk assessments for all of its projects and abides by its internal health and safety policy and relevant legislation. Health and safety is always the foremost consideration in any decision-making process.

### 5.3 Insurance

5.3.1 Greenlane Archaeology has professional indemnity insurance to the value of **£500,000**. Details of this can be supplied if requested.

### 5.4 Environmental and Ethical Policy

5.4.1 Greenlane Archaeology has a strong commitment to environmentally- and ethically-sound working practices. Its office is supplied with 100% renewable energy by Good Energy, uses ethical telephone and internet services supplied by the Phone Co-op, is even decorated with organic paint, and has floors finished with recycled vinyl tiles. In addition, the company uses the services of The Co-operative Bank for ethical banking, Naturesave for environmentally-conscious insurance, and utilises public transport wherever possible. Greenlane Archaeology is also committed to using local businesses for services and materials, thus benefiting the local economy, reducing unnecessary transportation, and improving the sustainability of small and rural businesses.

## 6. Bibliography

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### Appendix 3: Summary Context List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Layer	Concrete base c125mm in thickness	Concrete floor to conservatory
101	Layer	Flagstones c50mm in thickness	Flagstone patio
102	Layer	Topsoil c200mm in depth	Topsoil
103	Cut	Cuts up to 750mm in width, 'V-shaped' in profile	Cut for modern drains to house
104	Layer	Orange/brown clay with occasional pebbles and small cobbles up to 90mm in length in the upper part, but with larger cobbles of up to c250mm in length at a depth of c500 mm below the present ground level	Natural subsoil across site
105	Fill	Re-deposited natural within cut (103)	Fill of modern drain cut (103)
106	Clay drain	Aligned north/south	Modern drain to house
107	Cut	Aligned north-west/south-east	Cut for 19th-century field drain (109)
108	Fill	Re-deposited natural within cut (107)	Fill of field drain cut (107)
109	Clay drain	Aligned north-west/south-east	19th-century field drain

### Appendix 4: Summary List of Finds

Context	Fabric	Qty	Description	Date range
102	Pottery	2	Iron file from the area of the conservatory and a heavily corroded iron rod (not retained)	20 <sup>th</sup> century?
		1	White earthenware blue transfer-printed plate rims	Mid 19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> century
		1	Body sherd of unglazed red earthenware, probably from a flower pot	Probably 19 <sup>th</sup> century