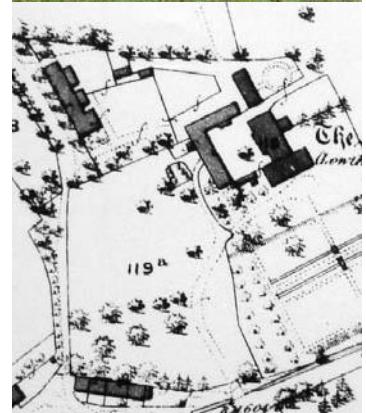


ASKHAM HALL, ASKHAM, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Evaluation



Client:
CIEL Hotels Ltd

Planning ref: 7/2011/3129

NGR: NY 51640 23940

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February 2012



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Non-Technical Summary

Following submission of a planning application for the change of use of Askham Hall, Askham, Cumbria, into a hotel and function room, including the creation of a new car park and garden room, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation to determine the nature and survival of any archaeological remains at the site.

This involved the initial completion of a desk-based assessment, which included an examination of early maps and sources relating to the site. Amongst these documents were two early plans, one from 1691-2 that was badly damaged and another from 1735 which was apparently based on the earlier one. The proposed development site is adjacent to the Grade I listed Askham Hall, which has origins in at least the 14th century, and is situated within a Grade II listed area of parkland on the edge of the village of Askham, which contains numerous earthworks of archaeological interest.

A total of five trenches were excavated with a combined area of approximately 37m². Trenches 1 to 3 were situated on the lawn to the west of the Hall and Trenches 4 and 5 were located in a small garden to the east. A similar sequence of natural glacial clays, overlain by subsoil and topsoil was present across the site, but in three trenches features were found laid on top of the subsoil or cut into it. Deposits of rubble and a cobbled surface were exposed in Trenches 1 and 2, which may represent a track or a path, perhaps one of those shown on early maps of the site. Trench 3 revealed cobbled surfaces, the remnants of a wall, and possibly a paved area with a gated entrance, which might relate to an enclosed area shown on the Ordnance Survey maps c1863 or the same tracks and pathways shown on the earlier maps and apparent in Trenches 1 and 2. In addition, the rounded corner of a pit or the end of a ditch was exposed in Trench 4; while this must be post-medieval in date based on its stratigraphic relationship to the other deposits in the trench, a sample from it contained an interesting collection of animal bones including fish, and various types of carbonised grain. No archaeological features were observed in Trench 5.

The bulk of the finds recovered were fairly late post-medieval in date, although earlier activity at the site is evidenced by a fragment of medieval pottery, with a suggested date range from the late 12th to 14th century, which was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 2. In addition, a small piece of flint was also recovered from a sample, potentially demonstrating prehistoric activity in the immediate area. Significant amongst the post-medieval finds were a collection of clay pipes all with the mark of a maker in Sunderland. A small but interesting collection of animal bone was collected from across the site, including typical domesticated species such as pig, sheep/goat, and cattle, but also cat, and smaller mammal bones and fish bones, as well as carbonised grain were also recovered from the one sample from the site. It is considered unlikely that any of the features identified are earlier than post-medieval in date, and they are all unlikely to be seriously affected by the proposed development.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank CIEL Hotels Ltd for commissioning the project and in particular Charles Lowther for his help on site. Further thanks are due to Miriam Kelly and Lee Warr of Feilden Bradley Clegg Studios, for their assistance, and to Gavin for driving the excavator. Additional thanks are due to Holly Beavitt-Pike, Archaeology and Heritage Assistant, Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), for issuing the project brief, and to John Hodgson, Senior Archaeologist, LDNPA, for approving the project design and for his additional comments.

The archaeological evaluation was carried out by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace, who also co-wrote the report and produced the illustrations. The finds and retent from the sample were examined by Jo Dawson, who also edited the report. Specialist assessment of the environmental remains from the sample was carried out by Scott Timpany (Headland Archaeology). The animal bones were assessed by Jane Richardson (Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS)) and the clay pipe was examined by Peter Davey. The project was managed by Dan Elsworth.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application (Planning ref. 7/2011/3129) on behalf of CIEL Hotels Ltd (hereafter 'the client') for the change of use of Askham Hall, Askham, Cumbria (NGR NY 51640 23940) into a hotel and function room, including the creation of a new car park and garden room, a request was made by the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) for a programme of archaeological evaluation. A Heritage Impact Statement has already been completed covering the standing building (FCB Studios 2011) but it was considered that more information was necessary with regard to the potential for below-ground archaeological remains. A brief for this work was provided (LDNPA 2011; *Appendix 1*) requiring a desk-based assessment followed by the excavation of five evaluation trenches, three measuring between 5m long by 1.5m wide, and two measuring 3m long and 1.5m wide in order to assess the presence or absence of features of archaeological interest within the area, their extent, date, nature, and significance. In response to this Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design for this work (*Appendix 2*) and the archaeological evaluation was carried out on 21st and 22nd December 2011.

1.1.2 The area of the evaluation is adjacent to the Grade I listed Askham Hall, which has origins in at least the 14th century (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 256-257). A tower and wing thought to have contained a chapel remain from that period, but there are substantial additions of later date (*ibid*). It is situated within a Grade II listed area of parkland and on the edge of the village of Askham, which contains numerous earthworks of archaeological interest (LDNPA 2011).

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 Askham is located in the Lake District National Park on the west side of the River Lowther approximately 8km south of Penrith (Ordnance Survey 2002). The Hall is located approximately 0.5km west of Lowther Castle, at approximately 109m above sea level (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). The evaluation trenches were excavated in the lawn to the west of the Hall (where the car park is intended to be positioned) and in a small garden to the east of the Hall where the Garden Room is intended to be built (see Plate 1 and Plate 2). The area designated for the car park sloped slightly down from west to east towards the existing driveway, which was relatively flat. A small raised, linear earthwork encroaches onto the south-western extent of the car park area and this was to be targeted during the evaluation. The small garden area to the west of the Hall was flat and had a paved path along its north-east edge (see Figure 1).

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the area comprises Dinantian Carboniferous limestone covered by glacial till (Moseley 1978, plate 1). The landscape is characterised by large expanses of moorland and rolling upland farmland with limestone outcrops (Countryside Commission 1998, 56).



Plate 1 (left): The lawn to the west of Hall; the site of Trenches 1 to 3

Plate 2 (right): The garden to the east of the Hall; the site of Trenches 4 and 5

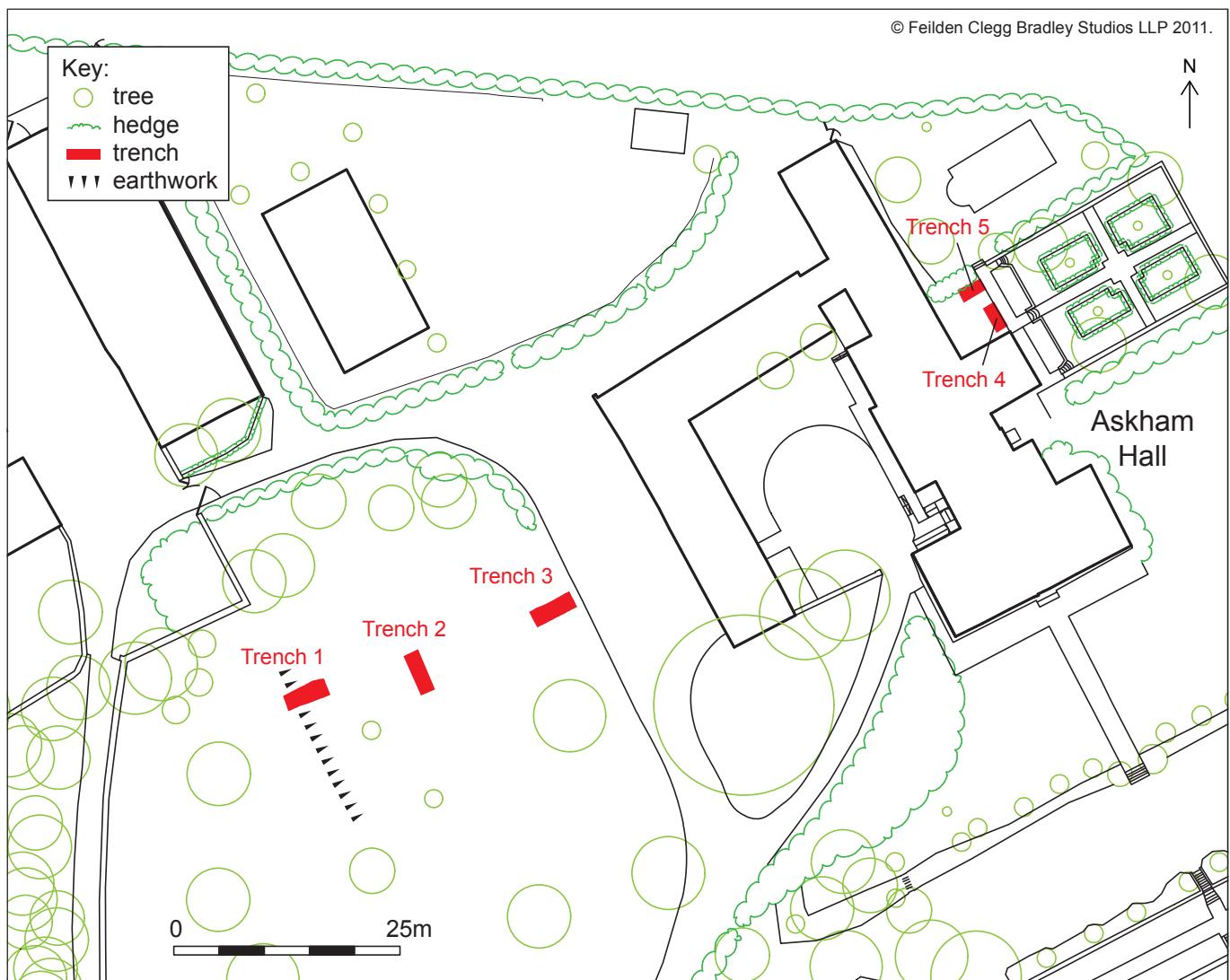
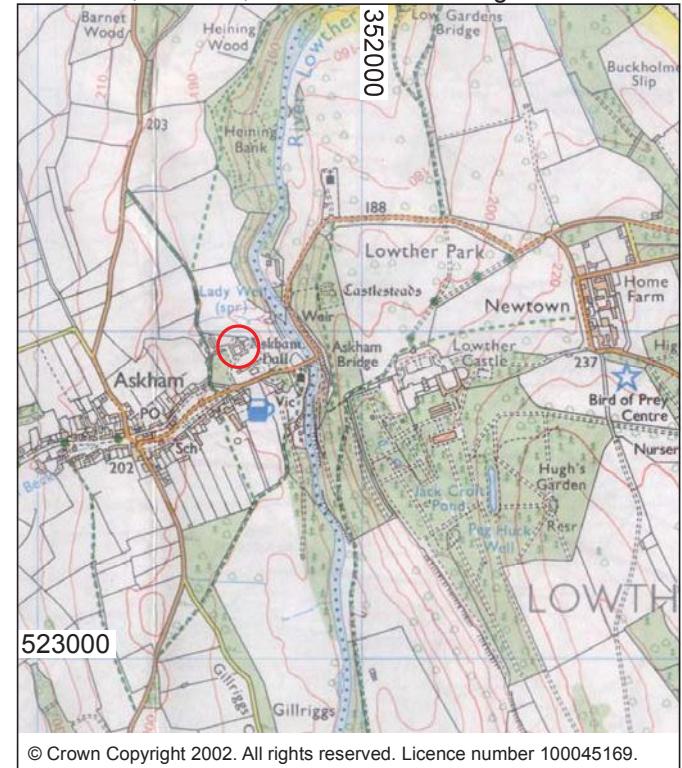
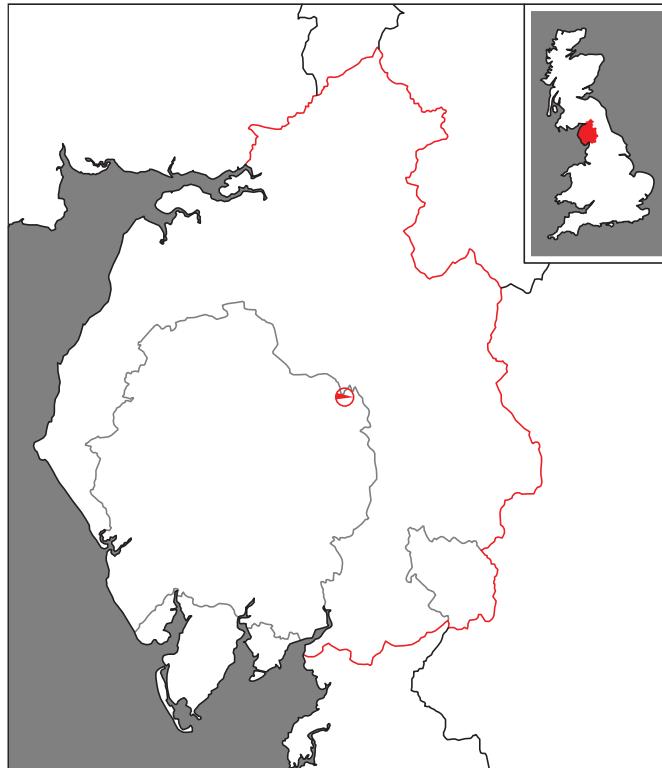


Figure 1: Site location

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2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with IfA guidelines (IfA 2008a) ahead of the archaeological evaluation. The evaluation phase comprised the excavation of five trial trenches, the intention of which was to establish, where possible, whether any remains of archaeological significance are present on the site and their nature, degree of survival, extent, significance, and date.

2.1.2 All aspects of the evaluation were carried out according to the standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008b) and according to Greenlane Archaeology's own excavation manual (Greenlane Archaeology 2007).

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 The intention of this element of the project was to identify the known remains of historical and archaeological interest present on the site, assess the potential for as yet unknown remains by examining the wider area, and thus identify what deposits and features were likely to be encountered during the course of the evaluation. This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site, information from the Lake District Historic Environment Record (LDHER), and published secondary sources. The following sources of information were used during the desk-based assessment:

- **Lake District Historic Environment Record (HER):** this is a list of all the known sites of archaeological interest within the county, which is maintained by the Lake District National Park Authority and is the primary source of information for an investigation of this kind. Details of all the known sites of archaeological interest and previous pieces of archaeological work carried out within 250m of the centre of the proposed development area (the 'study area') were examined. Each identified site comes with a grid reference, description, and source, and any additional information which was referenced was also examined as necessary. In addition, unpublished reports of archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site were examined;
- **Cumbria County Record Office, Carlisle (CRO(C)):** this was visited in order to examine early maps and plans of the site and local and regional histories and directories as well as other sources of information pertinent to the site;
- **Cumbria County Record Office, Kendal (CRO(K)):** this was visited in order to examine early maps and plans of the site and local and regional histories and directories as well as other sources of information pertinent to the site;
- **Greenlane Archaeology Library:** additional secondary sources were examined to provide information for the site background.

2.3 Archaeological Evaluation

2.3.1 A total of five trenches were excavated. Trenches 1 to 3 were excavated in the lawn area to the west of the Hall (Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios reference: Plot 4: proposed location for a new car park) and Trenches 4 and 5 were located in the gardens to the east (Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios reference: Plot 1: proposed location for a Garden Room) (Figure 1). Trenches 1 to 3 each measured approximately 2m wide by roughly 5m long, but Trenches 4 and 5 were restricted to approximately 3m long by 1.5m wide each by virtue of their position within the existing gardens and paving to the east of the Hall. The total area excavated was approximately 37m².

2.3.2 The topsoil was removed using a small tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket approximately 0.9m wide. Features of interest below this were subsequently cleaned by hand and recorded and the location of the trench was recorded relative to nearby buildings and other structures that were evident on the site plans and Ordnance Survey mapping. The following recording techniques were used during the evaluation:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all deposits and features (see Appendix 3) were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets. In addition, a general record was made of the day's events;
- **Photographs:** photographs in both 35mm colour print and colour digital format were taken of all archaeological features uncovered during the evaluation, as well as general views of the site, the surrounding landscape, and working shots. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report and the remainder are included in the archive. A written record of all of the photographs was also made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets (Greenlane Archaeology 2007);
- **Instrument survey:** the trench was surveyed using a Leica reflectorless total station coupled to a portable computer running AutoCAD 2006 LT and TheoLT, which captures the survey data in AutoCAD in real-time at a scale of 1:1;
- **Drawings:** drawings were produced as follows:
 - i. trench plans were produced for Trenches 1 and 3 at a scale of 1:20;
 - ii. sketches were produced on trench record and context sheets, including a sketch section of the pit in Trench 4.

2.4 Finds

2.4.1 **Processing:** artefacts were washed (or dried and dry brushed in the case of metal and glass), naturally air-dried, and packaged appropriately in self-seal bags with white write-on panels.

2.4.2 **Assessment and recording:** the finds were assessed, identified where possible, and a list of them was compiled (see Appendix 4).

2.4.3 For the purposes of assessment, the animal bones were rapidly scanned and recorded. They were assigned to taxa wherever possible, although lower-order categories were also used (e.g. sheep/goat, large mammal). Epiphyseal fusion and dental eruption and wear data were assessed. Bone condition, erosion and fragment size were noted in order to assess bone preservation, while gnawing, burning and butchery marks were recorded to determine bone treatment. Biometrical data were not recovered at this assessment stage, and very few measureable bones are present. No pathological bones were noted. Only a sub-sample of the sieved material has been assessed and the fish bones have not been identified to family or genus. Full reporting would require the creation of a more detailed, digital archive, and specialist analysis of the fish bones.

2.4.4 The clay pipe was examined by eye and recorded through comparison with known examples.

2.5 Environmental samples

2.5.1 **Strategy:** a single environmental sample (Sample 1) of 20 litres (two 10 litre buckets) was taken from the fill (**401**) of the probable pit (**402**) in Trench 4. This was the only negative feature considered worth sampling, although it was only sealed by the overlying topsoil (**400**).

2.5.2 **Processing:** half of the sample (one bucket of 10 litres) was wet sieved by hand; the light fragments were floated off and collected in 250µm and 500µm sieves with the coarse component collected on a 1mm mesh, and separated into different fractions using a 1cm sieve. The flot and retent were then air-dried in a drying oven. The flot was assessed by eye and all carbonised plant remains extracted and assessed. A sample of 50% of the retent was also examined by eye and all ecofacts, artefacts, and animal bones extracted. The fish and animal bones were added to the hand-retrieved bone and sent for specialist assessment.

2.5.3 **Assessment and recording:** the ecofacts within the flot were assessed using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers *et al* (2006). The

animal bone from the retent was assessed and the content of the retent was recorded on *pro forma* record sheets. The results are discussed in *Section 4.6*.

2.6 Archive

2.6.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*) and current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007). The archive, which comprises the drawn, written, and photographic record, will be deposited with the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle (CRO(C)). A copy of the report will also be provided to the client, Greenlane Archaeology will retain a copy, two copies will be provided for the Lake District National Park Historic Environment Record (HER), and a digital copy will form part of the OASIS scheme.

2.6.2 The client will ultimately be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to a suitable museum, which in this case is Kendal Museum. The museum is, however, currently at close to full capacity, and it is unlikely that it would be willing to take anything unless it was of exceptional importance. 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.

3. Site Archaeology and History

3.1 Map Regression

3.1.1 **Introduction:** the earliest map of the area is a plan of the Sandford estates in Askham surveyed by Andrew Pellin in 1691/2. Unfortunately it was badly damaged at the point showing the Hall. Pellin's early life and parentage are unknown (Tyson 1986, 180). Reputedly a skilled surveyor and serge weaver from Dublin, he arrived in Whitehaven around 1688 and, with the support of Sir John Lowther in securing a loan, was involved in surveying the town and Lowther's Whitehaven estates c1690s (Tyson 1986, 163-5). Complete surveys were made of Lowther's estates in 1693 and 1701 (Beckett 1977, 182) and the Town Plan, which was completed before February 1694 and updated several times (Tyson 1986, 180), 'occasioned the orderly development of the town...as a rectangular grid of roads' (Beckett 1977, 181). Pellin began teaching surveying in conjunction with mathematics at Whitehaven c1690s (Beckett 1977, 181) and appears also to have acted as a quantity surveyor c1700s until his death there in 1732 (Tyson 1986, 179-180). A general memorandum book kept by a steward of the Aglionby family's estate records that:

"Mr Pellin of Whitehaven Surveyed the Demain-Lands of the Manor of Askham and plotted the same on parchment att the rate of 1½d for each Statute-Acre and his Dyt" (op cit, 181)

The note probably postdates April 1694 and is possibly intended as a reminder of the terms on which the Aglionby family might have their estates surveyed if required (*ibid*).

3.1.2 **Chart of the Low Demaine, 1735 (CRO(C) DLONS/L5/1/3/179):** the alignment of this map is a little uncertain. It is based on the earlier plan by Pellin and appears to show the tower wing and two elevations of the large barn to the north-west of the Hall (Plate 3). Interestingly, it does not show the north or west wings of the Hall itself. The gardens and associated land to the west, the site of evaluation Trenches 1, 2, and 3, of the house appear to be cut across by various gated paths and tracks, but there is limited detail depicted in the area of Trenches 4 and 5.

3.1.3 **Tithe Map, 1838:** the Tithe Map of 1838 shows the range of buildings at Askham Hall surrounding the courtyard (Plate 4). The Hall is surrounded by fields, and buildings present essentially correspond to their present footprint. The range of buildings is labelled '238' and the fields to the south are numbered '242'. By this date the site of Trenches 1, 2, and 3 has apparently become a more open piece of land, with the location of previous tracks and gates not shown. In addition, the area of Trenches 4 and 5 appears to be covered by part of the building, perhaps an outshut extending from the north-west side of the chapel. The entries from the accompanying schedule for numbers 238 through to 242 are summarised in Table 1.

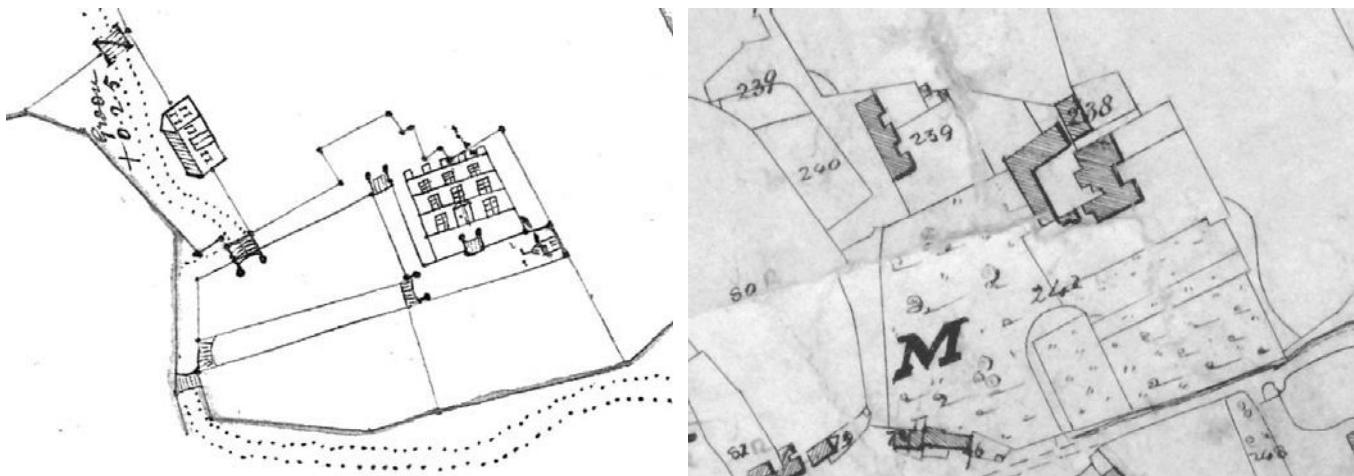


Plate 3 (left): Extract from the Chart of the Low Demaine of 1735

Plate 4 (right): Extract from the Tithe map of 1838 (CRO(K) WDRC/8/195 1838)

Number	Owner	Occupier	Description
238	Earl of Lonsdale	Robert Harrison	Dwelling house and homestead
239		John Mounsey	Barn and yard
240			Garden
241	Revd William Jackson Rector of Lowther	Himself	Hall, gardens and homestead
242			Park

Table 1: Summary of the Tithe apportionment details relating to properties near to and including Askham Hall (from CRO(K) WDRC/8/195 1839)

3.1.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1863:** the Hall is labelled ‘Lowther Rectory’ (Plate 5); some alterations have apparently been made to the range of buildings; the projecting section to the east of the main hall has been reduced to its current footprint (leaving the area of Trenches 4 and 5 clear). There are other minor differences to the general arrangement when compared to the previous map, although in general these make it closer to their present form. There are also various paths and trees shown within the field to the west of the range of buildings and a possible enclosure is shown at the north-east corner in the stippled field to the west side of the Hall (the location of Trenches 1, 2, and 3). Trees appear to line the approach to the Hall from the south and the south-west corner of the field to the west of the Hall appears to be fairly wooded. A path leads due south-east from the south of the Hall to the main road.

3.1.5 **Ordnance Survey, c1863:** this map shows the same general arrangement of buildings as the Ordnance Survey map of 1863 (Plate 6; cf. Plate 5) and is probably from around the same date. The enclosed area in the field immediately to the west of the Hall is shown with an almost jagged edge along the insides of its east and west extent, but it is unclear what this feature represents. An area to the north of this also appears to be divided by a small fence. The Hall is again labelled as Lowther Rectory. In addition, the Ordnance Survey reference book relating to this map available for 1861, which describes the land that is marked on this map (CRO(K) WDX 87/1 1861). Plot 118 is described as a stackyard, and plot 119 is ‘ornamental, ground, houses etc’.

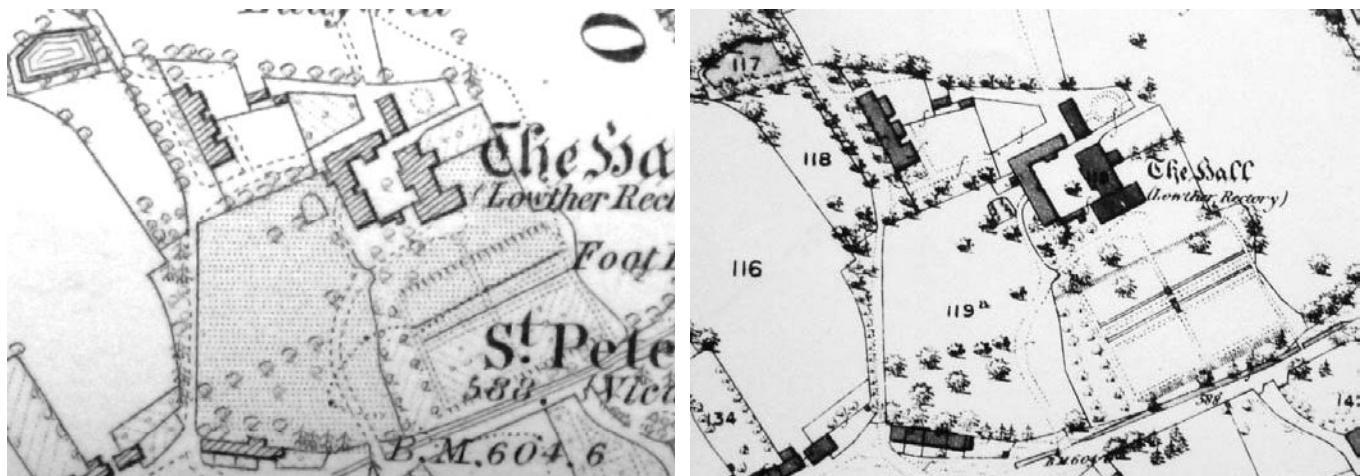


Plate 5 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1863

Plate 6 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of c1863

3.1.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1898:** the layout of the Hall remains largely unchanged in plan but the small enclosure within the field to the west of the Hall has been removed by this point (Plate 7; cf. Plate 6). The trees to the south-west of the field to the west of the Hall have now been removed and the tree-avenue to the south of the Hall appears less clear. This map has also been used as reference for the 1910 valuation, and the details are presented in Table 2 below:

Plot	Occupier	Owner	Description
9	Rev JB Tylecote	Rev JB Tylecote	Askham Hall, mansion and buildings
89	Earl of Lonsdale	John Irving	Part of Low Close

Table 2: Details from the 1910 Valuation (CRO(K) WTDV/2/4 1910)

3.1.7 **Ordnance Survey, 1915:** this map shows some of the internal divisions of the Hall (Plate 8). The path leading south-east from the Hall to the main road is no longer shown although the steps apparently still remain intact. The meandering track shown some distance to the west of these steps has been altered slightly and a greenhouse is now located between this track and the two sets of steps to the east. The field boundary which formerly was located hereabouts has been largely removed.



Plate 7 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1898

Plate 8 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1915

3.2 Site History

3.2.1 **Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1st century AD):** while there is some limited evidence for activity in the county in the period immediately following the last Ice Age, this is typically found in the southernmost part on the north side of Morecambe Bay. Excavations of a small number of cave sites have found the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country and artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type (Young 2002). Again, the county was also clearly inhabited during the following period, the Mesolithic (c8,000 – 4,000 BC), as large numbers of artefacts of this date have been discovered during field walking and eroding from sand dunes along the coast, but these are typically concentrated in the west coast area and on the uplands around the Eden Valley (Cherry and Cherry 2002). These discoveries demonstrate that further remains of similar date are likely to exist in the local area, and conforms to the notion that river valleys, lakesides, and coastal areas are a common place for such remains to be discovered (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152).

3.2.2 In the following period, the Neolithic (c4,000 – 2,500 BC), large scale monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles begin to appear in the region and one of the most recognisable tool types of this period, the polished stone axe, is found in large numbers across the county, having been manufactured at Langdale to the south-west of the site (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). Neolithic remains closer to the site include Moor Divock stone avenue, which is located on Askham Fell 2km to the west, and the Shap Avenue 5km to the south (OA North 2005, 10-11). A 274m long mound which is thought to date from this period was recorded at Lowther, approximately 3km east of Askham village (Higham 1986, 67). During the Bronze Age (c2,500 – 600 BC), monuments, particularly those thought to be ceremonial in nature, become more common still, and it is likely that many settlement sites thought to have been extant in the Iron Age or even Romano-British have their origins in this period. A comparatively dense scatter of enclosed settlement sites normally assigned to the later prehistoric period has been identified close to the junction of the River Lowther with Eamont, including the occupation site and *tumulus* of Yanwath Wood and the settlement site at Castlesteads, near Penrith, which forms part of

a wider group of settlements making use of the various resources of the river and woodland in addition to the available agricultural and grazing land within the Lowther valley (Higham 1983, 49-50).

3.2.3 Stray finds of Bronze Age date are found throughout the county and activity from this period is suggested by a burnt mound, a pair of round cairns to the south of Lowther Castle, and a pair of standing stones and associated round cairns at Crooklands to the north (OA North 2005, 11). Sites that can be specifically dated to the Iron Age (c600 BC – 1st century AD) in the region are very rare; there are large enclosures around the county that might represent hillforts, a typical site of this period, but none have been dated in any detail and most are small and unspectacular (see Higham 1986, 130-131). At Levens, in the south of the county, burials radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age have been discovered (OA North 2004), but these remain a rarity both regionally and nationally. There is, however, likely to have been a considerable overlap between the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Romano-British period; it is evident that in this part of the country, initially at least, the Roman invasion had a minimal impact on the native population in rural areas (Philpott 2006, 73-74).

3.2.4 **Romano-British to Early Medieval Period (1st century AD – 11th century AD)**: the Roman military presence in the North West is apparent from the existence of forts, which in many cases led to the formation of nearby towns or *vici* and the supply network of roads and coastal trade, as well as the incidence of Roman artefacts such as coins (Philpott 2006, 71). The Lune and Eden valley provided a route of access to Carlisle for the Roman advance (*ibid.*, 63) and the route northwards is still apparent along the modern A6 between Carlisle and Penrith (Shotter 2004, 31). A large proportion of the identified Romano-British settlement sites in Cumbria are located to the south and east of Penrith (Philpott 2006, 75) and it is likely that many of the rural settlements in the Eamont and Lowther river valleys that appear to have prehistoric origins continued to be used into and throughout the Roman period. The nearest Roman site is the fort at Brougham, where the main north/south road from Carlisle intersected with the road along the Eden Valley, approximately 6km to the north-east of Askham. The evidence here suggests an early Flavian occupation (69 to 96 AD), but burials at the notable formal Roman cemetery there date mainly to the second and third centuries AD (Shotter 2004, 62; see also Philpott 2006, 79, 80-81). A Roman coin (an *as*) of Vespasian, the founder of the Flavian dynasty, dated 71 AD, was found at Askham, although the exact find-spot is unknown (Shotter 1992, 278).

3.2.5 Following the cessation of Roman administration in the early fifth century the region fragmented into smaller kingdoms but by the mid-seventh century the area was securely under Northumbrian rule (Kirkby 1962, 80-81). Firmly dated archaeological evidence for the immediate post-Roman period in the county is sparse due in part to poor site visibility, which often consists of exiguous traces of rural settlements which have been heavily truncated (see discussion in Philpott 2006, 59). Furthermore, there is inevitably a great deal of uncertainty with dating settlement sites on stylistic grounds alone given the persistence of traditional styles from the Roman to the early medieval period. However, a rectangular building with earth-fast timber posts excavated at Shap, 5km to the south of Askham, has tentatively been attributed to the 7th to 8th century on the basis of loom weight fragments found nearby (Heawood and Howard-Davis 2002, 157-8). In the wider context of possible Anglo-Saxon settlement at Fremington and Brougham (although again the evidence for this classification is slight), a settled rural hinterland around the foci at Dacre and Penrith is suggested for the early medieval period (*ibid.*, 168).

3.2.6 The arrival of Norse settlers between perhaps the late ninth and early 10th century had a considerable effect on the area, in particular on the local place-names (Edwards 1998, 7-8); Askham probably derives from the Old Norse ‘askum’, dative plural variation of ‘askr’, meaning ‘at the ash-trees’, or it may be a Scandinavianised form of an Old English ‘æscum’ (Smith 1967, 200). Several complete and fragmentary ‘Viking Age’ (late 9th and early 10th century) silver brooches have been found in the Penrith area, most notably on Flusco Pike, three miles to the west of Penrith (Edwards 1998, 33-36; Richardson 1996). Furthermore a furnished Viking burial is known at Hesket-in-the-Forest, north of Penrith (Edwards 1998, 10-12).

3.2.7 **Medieval Period (11th century AD – 16th century AD)**: Askham village is thought to have medieval origins, and areas of ridge and furrow visible in aerial photographs may represent the fossilised remains of medieval cultivation (OA North 2005, 15). Askham is first documented when William de Romara, Earl of Lincoln, granted the church and lands of Gamel the priest of Askham to the Canons of

Wartre Priory, in Yorkshire, the gift later being confirmed by Popes Innocent II in 1140 and Innocent IV in 1245 (Curwen 1932, 238).

3.2.8 The manor was acquired by Thomas de Helbeck, Lord of the Manor of Helbeck, possibly in exchange for others, during the 13th century (Ragg 1918, 154-158; Nicolson and Burn 1777, 422). The manor of Helbeck has a somewhat convoluted history: various accords were reached governing the manorial inheritance and it passed through the hands of a number of local families before the Askham estate was acquired by the Sandfords (*ibid.*). Thomas de Helbeck's second wife had consented to its going to Robert de Clifford after her husband's death, however, an accord was made in 1314 between Thomas de Helbeck and one of his daughters, Isabel (nee de Helbeck), and her husband, Richard de Blenkinsop, and after his death the manor of Askham ultimately came to his youngest daughter, Margaret, and her husband Robert de Swinburne (Ragg 1918, 157-8; 1921, 174-175). The manor was then sold by Sir Robert Swinburne (who was part of the de Helbeck family by marriage) to the Sandfords 'On the morrow of All Souls 1373' (Ragg 1921, 177) for a total cost of £566 13s. 4d.; homage remained due from them to the superior lords (the Cliffords) and Thomas de Lowther became their feoffee (trustee) (*op cit.*, 178), and so it remained until the lands and tenements of Askham were conveyed to Thomas Sandford and his wife, Margaret, by Thomas Louthyre in 1478 (*op cit.*, 185).

3.2.9 The earliest mention of a hall at Askham is an inquisition in 1326, when a dwelling at the site was burnt by the Scots (OA North 2005, 14; Ragg 1918, 159). The core of the house at Askham Hall is a 14th century semi-fortified 'pele' tower with a 15th century hall and additional 16th century domestic buildings (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 256). It was held by the Sandford family from around 1375 and the main block of the house probably dates from the last quarter of that century (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 122; RCHME 1936, 21). The earliest part of the Hall is a typical medieval H-plan house (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 122), comprising a hall-block, a south wing 'carried up as a tower', and a north wing which is said to have contained a chapel (RCHME 1936, 21).

3.2.10 The Sandford family's prosperity peaked c1560, being at the time in possession of pele strongholds at Askham and Howgill, but very costly expenditure on the house at Askham, as was the fashion in Elizabethan times, eventually got the Sandfords of Askham into financial difficulties (Ragg 1921, 195-6). The Hall was added to, altered, and expanded throughout the period; the Sandford arms dated 1574 appear above the semicircular arch of the west wing of the courtyard (the former stables) (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 122) and much rebuilding was done from 1575 onwards (RCHME 1936, 21); the buildings forming the north and west sides of the courtyard are also said to have been added in the latter part of the 16th century by Thomas Sandford (RCHME 1936, 21; Perriam and Robinson 1998, 256-257).

3.2.11 **Post-medieval Period (16th century AD – present):** parts of Askham manor were mortgaged or leased by Thomas Sandford to John Townley and Ralph Ashton in 1597 (Ragg 1921, 198) for 'the term of 80 years next following' (*ibid.*, 221). His son John sold the manor to his great-uncle, Richard Sandford of Howgill, in 1625 for £270 on the proviso that if the money were to be repaid within eight years then the sale should be invalid, but it appears that this was never fully done (Ragg 1921, 199, 222). A further indenture conditionally returned the manor to John in 1629, but John and his heirs were to give to Richard and his heirs £28 4s at Michaelmas every year, which, after the grant in 1597 from Townley and Ashton was repaid (which had yet to expire) and after the military service (cornage) was paid to Francis Clifford, Earl of Cumberland, would cripple the Askham estate (Ragg 1921, 199-200, 222). The manor and tithes of Askham were ultimately sold by William Sandford to Sir John Lowther in 1680 (Noble 1904, 92; Lowther Bouch 1943, 145). Further alterations were carried out at Askham Hall in the 17th century, presumably following the sale of the manor to the Lowther family; for instance, the oval windows in the west wing are thought to be 17th century (RCHME 1936, 21-22) and the Listed Building details record that the south front of Askham Hall was remodelled between 1685 and 1690 (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 256).

3.2.12 The Sandford family remained resident at the Hall. In 1730 William Sandford left the Hall to his daughters, including Mildred Tatham (nee Sandford) and by 1764 it belonged to her son William, the other coheiresses presumably having been bought out (Lowther Bouch 1943, 138). When William died intestate, his heirs at law were the two daughters, Elizabeth and Mildred, of his brother John, but his

sister, Dorothy, took out letters of administration and they entered into possession of the Hall together in 1775 (*op cit*, 138-9; original documents relating to this are held under reference CRO(C) DLONS/L5/1/3/198 1749-1847), which at the time was worth £5792 (Lowther Bouch 1943, 145). A document from this date describes its various elements in some detail, and land, which included a deer park with 42 deer (CRO(K) WDX 214/Box 3 c1760-1791). Unfortunately, William had been heavily and widely in debt at the time of his death; one of his chief creditors was Sir James Lowther, who through a sequence of alleged contrivances intended to foreclose a debt owed him from a mortgage taken out on the estate in 1773 (*op cit*, 140-141). Sir James was seemingly helped in this regard by Dorothy (who was married to a near relation of Sir James' and allegedly heavily under his influence) much to the detriment of the deceased's two nieces and the other creditors of the deceased (*ibid*). Allegations of any preformed plan to take advantage of the deceased in order to detain the premises for himself at a very cheap rate were, of course, denied, but on 16th June 1781 a court judgement found in favour of the two nieces (*op cit*, 142 and 144). On the 1st August 1782, the defendant was ordered to pay £2192. 14s. 11½d and on 11th March 1783 it was ordered that he should '*remit the said sum after a deduction of costs and thereupon reconvey the said mortgaged premises free and clear of all incumbrances [sic] and deliver all deeds and writings to the Plaintiffs*' (*op cit*, 144).

3.2.13 Descendants of the Sandford family appear to have continued to live at Askham Hall until the 19th century, when the house was used as a rectory for Lowther Parish (CRO(K) WPR 11/171/15 n.d.). The Hall was converted for this purpose in 1828 by permission of the bishop, at which point it was occupied by the Reverend William Jackson, Chancellor of the Diocese of Carlisle, and incumbent of Lowther (Mannex and Co 1851, 199), '*after which it was given to the Lowther estates in exchange for a more convenient house in Lowther Parish built by the estate for this purpose*' (CRO(K) WPR 11/171/15 n.d.). It appears to have been acquired by the Lowthers by 1916 (CRO(C) DLONS/L5/1/3/221 1915-1916), although it only appears to have become the private residence of Lord Lonsdale after Lowther Castle was abandoned in 1957 (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 256; Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 122).

3.2.14 **Previous archaeological work:** an archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation were carried out by Oxford Archaeology North prior to the construction of three dwellings at Holly House, Helton Road, which is situated within the medieval core of the village, although no significant archaeological features were encountered (OA North 2005). Similarly, a watching brief which was carried out during the course of trenching associated with laying an underground electricity cable through fields immediately to the south of the residential centre of Askham revealed no significant archaeological features (NPA 2005). The walkover survey however revealed the survival of ridge and furrow and related trackways of a medieval agricultural landscape suggesting the reasonable possibility of archaeological remains of this period surviving along the southern edge of the village (*ibid*, 17).

3.3 Conclusion

3.3.1 The earliest map of the area, surveyed in 1691-2 by Andrew Pellin, is unfortunately damaged at the point showing the Hall. The later map of 1735, however, which is based on this earlier map, shows the tower wing of the Hall and the gardens and associated land to the west of the house, which are crossed by various gated paths and tracks. These do not correspond with the field boundaries shown on the later maps, which have remained largely unchanged since at least 1838. The range of buildings at the Hall appear to have been altered slightly between 1838 and 1863, with apparent outshut against the north-west side of the chapel removed, causing the corner of the building to step in near the proposed location of the Garden Room (which is investigated by Trenches 4 and 5), but other than that the Hall has remained largely unchanged. The field to the west, the area of Trenches 1, 2, and 3, was clearly reorganised between 1735 and the early 19th century, with a number of paths originally shown. In addition a small enclosed area is shown in this field immediately to the west of the Hall c1863, it is unclear what this feature represents and it was removed before 1898.

3.3.2 The Hall was ostensibly held by the Sandford family and their descendants from 1375 until the 19th century when for a time it was used as a rectory for Lowther parish, after which it was given to the Lowther estates and became the private residence of Lord Lonsdale after Lowther Castle was abandoned in 1957.

3.3.3 Previous archaeological work in Askham has been relatively limited and not revealed any significant archaeological features.

4. Fieldwork Results

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located towards the west end of the lawn to the east of Hall and was intended to target an earthwork within the area designated for the main car park. The trench sloped down from west to east, and was 5m long, north-east/south-west, by 2m wide.

4.1.2 A thin gravel deposit (102) was exposed beneath the topsoil (100) at the south-west end of the trench. This gravel deposit was possibly later than or contemporary with a deposit of large boulders (101) which had been placed along the south-east side of the limit of excavation. It is with more certainty that the gravelly deposit overlay a cobbled surface (103) to the north-west side of the trench (Plate 9). This 'surface' extended approximately 3.5m to the north-east from the south-west end of the trench but did not appear to continue below the larger cobbles and boulders along the south-east side of the trench comprising context 101. Both the cobbled surface (103) and the larger boulders along the south-east side of the trench (101) overlay a thin layer of subsoil (104) (see Plate 10; Figure 2), which in turn overlay a firm, lighter orange, clayey-sand layer (105) (see Plate 11). There was no below ground evidence for what might have caused the appearance of the surface earthwork which was being targeted in this area; it may have been caused by a high deposit of gravel of a late date.

4.1.3 The topsoil (100) contained post-medieval pottery, potentially ranging in date from the late 17th to early 20th century. A fragment of a clay tobacco pipe bowl and fragments of pottery and glass were recovered from the deposit of large boulders (101), which suggest a similar date for this deposit.



Plate 9 (left): Trench 1 from the south-west showing cobbled surface 103 and boulders 101

Plate 10 (right): Cobbled surface 103 exposed towards the centre of Trench 1



Plate 11: Subsoil (104) and natural (105) exposed at the north-east end of Trench 1

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Trench 2 was located between and perpendicularly aligned to Trenches 1 and 3 (Figure 1), and was again approximately 5m long by 2m wide. The sequence of deposits encountered in Trench 2 extended across the entire trench and comprised topsoil (200), a dumped rubble deposit (201), subsoil (202), and natural (203) (visible from top to bottom in Plate 12). The dumped rubble deposit (201) was up to 0.1m thick below the topsoil and contained some angular cobbles, red sandstone, and brick fragments. The underlying natural deposits were encountered at a depth of approximately 0.3m below the current ground surface (Plate 13). The trench was devoid of archaeological features.

4.2.2 The topsoil (200) contained post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipe fragments and broken glass with the majority of the finds likely dating from the 18th, 19th, or 20th century. Finds from the dumped rubble deposit (201) included post-medieval pottery and broken glass, the suggested date ranges for which overlap and suggest an 18th century date. The subsoil (202) contained a much abraded green-glazed medieval pottery fragment, which possibly dates from the late 12th to the 14th century (Bradley and Miller 2009, 663-664).



Plate 12 (left): Deposits encountered in Trench 2

Plate 13 (right): The natural (203) exposed in Trench 2 following removal of overlying deposits

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 Trench 3 was located near the edge of the driveway on the west side of the Hall (Figure 1), orientated the same direction as Trench 1, and again approximately 5m long by 2m wide. A wooden fencepost set in concrete (304) was removed from a posthole (305) towards the north-east end of the trench, and two possible cobbled surfaces (301 and 302), which were separated by what may be the remnants of a wall (303), were exposed beneath the topsoil (300) (see Figure 2; and also Plate 14 and Plate 15). The cobbled surfaces were set in a firm sandy-clay matrix at each end of the trench and larger boulders were incorporated into the wall. The area conceivably had a paved entrance as one of the larger flatter stones towards the south-east side of the trench had a hole in it, perhaps marking the position of an iron gate. Two large voids were created either side of the wall where two large boulders were removed during the course of the excavation. A possible subsoil (306) up to 0.2m thick was encountered below the other features in the trench overlying the natural (307) (see Plate 16).

4.3.2 The majority of finds from the topsoil (300) date from the 18th to 20th century, including pottery and glass fragments. A fragment of Cistercian ware, with a suggested date range from the mid 15th to 17th century, was recovered from the cobbled surface (301).



Plate 14 (left): Trench 3 viewed from the south-west, showing cobble surface 302 in the foreground and possible wall 303 beyond

Plate 15 (centre): Trench 3 viewed from the north-east, showing cobbled surface 301 and post hole 305 in the foreground and possible wall 303 beyond

Plate 16 (right): The subsoil (306) natural (307) exposed at the north-east end of Trench 3

4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 Trench 4 was located along the edge of the stone slabs of the path to the east side of the Hall (see Figure 1) and was approximately 3m long (north-west/south-east) and 1.5m wide, although 0.2m along the north-east edge could not be excavated due to the proximity of a concrete strip edging the path. The concrete edging extended below the turf of the lawn and the trench was stepped in accordingly to avoid disturbing it (Plate 17). A layer of topsoil (400) up to 0.28m thick overlay the whole trench and the rounded corner of a possible pit cut or ditch terminus (402) was exposed at the south-east end of the trench (Plate 18). The cut was filled by a silty-clay deposit (401) which was similar in appearance to the underlying subsoil (403). The cut had a concave base and gently sloping sides and appeared to cut 403. The firm clayey-sand 'natural' (404) was encountered below the subsoil at a depth of approximately 0.6m below the current ground surface.



Plate 17 (left): Trench 4 viewed from the north-west showing natural (404)

Plate 18 (right): Cut of possible pit 402 at the south-east end of the north-east facing section of Trench 4

4.4.2 Finds dating from the 18th century onwards were recovered from the topsoil (**400**).

4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 Trench 5 was located near to the small garden hedge immediately to the east of the Hall (Figure 1), and was again 3m long north-east/south-west and 1.5m wide, although again a 0.2m wide strip along the north-east end could not be excavated due to the presence of a concrete strip edging the path. The trench was therefore stepped in slightly at the north-east end along the edge of the path, where the concrete edging extended below the topsoil. A straightforward sequence of deposits was encountered, which was fairly uniform across the trench. The underlying firm sandy-clay natural layer (**502**) was encountered at a depth of approximately 0.8m below the current ground surface, beneath a layer of subsoil (**501**) and topsoil (**500**) (see Plate 19). The topsoil was noticeably thicker in Trench 5 than Trench 4; it was up to 0.55m thick in Trench 5 but less than 0.3m thick in Trench 4. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

4.5.2 Post-medieval finds were recovered from the topsoil (**500**), the majority of which probably date from the late 18th to the 20th century.



Plate 19: Trench 5 viewed from the south-west showing natural (502)

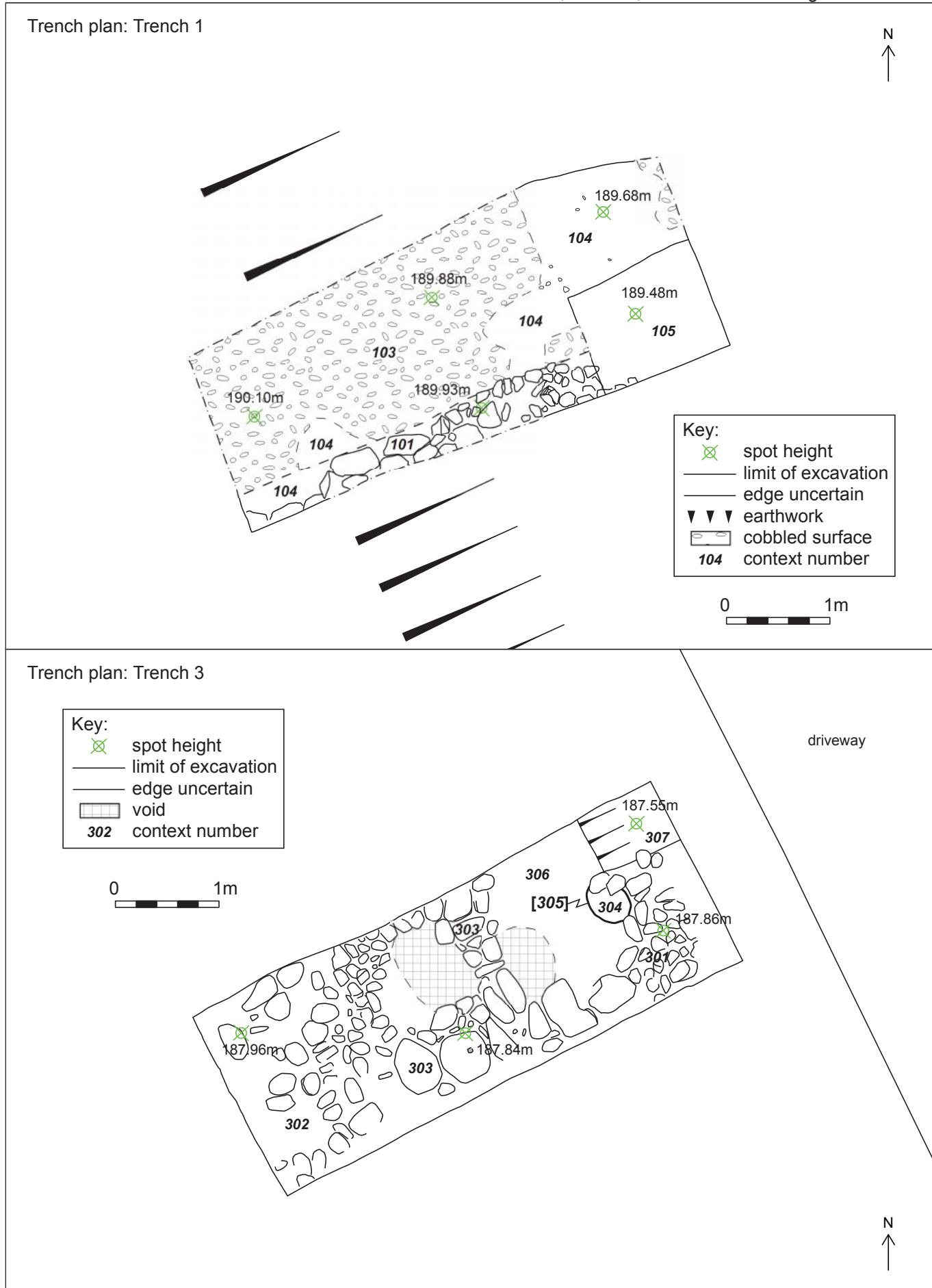


Figure 2: Trench plans for Trench 1 and 3

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4.6 Finds and samples

4.6.1 In total, 157 artefacts were recovered during the evaluation, the majority comprising fragments of pottery, but glass, metal, slag, clay tobacco pipe, and bone were also present in smaller quantities. A full catalogue is presented in *Appendix 4*. The pottery ranges in date from the medieval to the post-medieval periods.

4.6.2 ***Medieval and earlier:*** a glazed strap handle fragment from a medieval vessel with a suggested date range from the late 12th to 14th century was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 2 (**202**).

4.6.3 ***Post-medieval:*** finds recovered from the topsoil in each trench were fairly late post-medieval in date; the majority probably date from the 18th century onwards. The earliest post-medieval finds were recovered from the dumped rubble deposit in Trench 2 (**201**) and the cobbled surface in Trench 3 (**301**).

4.6.4 ***Clay pipe:*** a summary of all the clay pipe fragments recovered during the evaluation is provided in *Appendix 4*. The most interesting are arguably the five stems marked 'W. BREWSTER / SUNDERLAND'. William Brewster is recorded in Sunderland directories between 1838 and 1853, although the 'late' look of these pieces suggest that it is possible that the firm continued to function later in the 19th century (Peter Davey pers comm.).

4.6.5 ***Animal bone:*** the assemblage is fragmented but otherwise is in reasonable condition with few eroded bone surfaces. Some bones had been gnawed suggesting that burial was not rapid. Butchery marks, restricted to cattle, pig and sheep/goat bones, reflect the use of domestic livestock for food. Despite the small size of the assemblage, bones of cattle, pig, sheep/goat, cat, domestic fowl (chicken), vole and fish were noted (Table 3). Meat-rich body parts predominate for cattle, sheep/goat and chicken. The assemblage can be summarised by phase (see column headings in Table 2) as follows:

Phase 1: only one bone, a fragment of sheep/goat radius is associated with this phase. A cut mark is present across the shaft indicative of meat removal.

Phase 2: the bones of cattle, sheep/goat and sub-adult chicken are present in the hand-collected material, some of which have been gnawed by dogs prior to disposal. The sieved material includes further sub-adult bird bones (probably chicken), vole and fish bones. The fish are represented by vertebrae and scales, but no obvious head bones are present. The 'microfauna' bones may have come from a small vole or mouse.

Phase 3: cattle, pig, sheep/goat and cat are represented, and sub-adult cattle and sheep are noted. Some of the cattle bones (a pelvis and a radius) and the pig bone display butchery marks indicative of carcass reduction. Some of the bones have also been gnawed.

	Phase 1 (subsoil 202)	Phase 2 (rubble 201 , cobbled surface 301 and pit fill 401)	Phase 2 (sieved; pit fill 401)	Phase 3 (topsoil/garden soil: 200 , 300 , 400 , and 501)
Cattle		1		5
Sheep/goat)	1	2		8
Pig				1
Cat				1
Domestic fowl		2		
Bird sp.			9	
Vole sp.			3	
Microfauna			6	
Fish sp.			18	
Large mammal		2		4
Small mammal		4	3	4
Undiagnostic			c85	
Total	1	11	c124	23

Table 3: Summary of the animal bones by phase

4.6.7 **Samples:** the single sample (Sample 1) recovered from context 401 in Trench 4. The flot contained a number of carbonised grain fragments, as well as small amounts of industrial residue, burnt fuel, and small mammal bone, as summarised in Table 4 below:

Latin name	Plant part	Common name	Quantity
cf. <i>Avena</i> sp.	caryopsis	possible oat	2
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	caryopsis	barley sp.	3
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (hulled)	caryopsis	hulled barley	11
cf. <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (hulled)	caryopsis	possible hulled barley	3
cf. <i>Secale cereale</i>	caryopsis	possible rye	1
<i>Triticum aestivo-compactum</i>	caryopsis	bread/club wheat	14
cf. <i>Triticum aestivo-compactum</i>	caryopsis	possible bread/club wheat	2
<i>Cerealia</i> indet.	caryopsis	Indeterminate cereal	12
Cinder	-	-	7
Coal	-	-	3
Small mammal bone	-	-	1
Prill	-	-	1

Table 4: Carbonised material present in Sample 1

4.6.8 The grain was found to be quite poorly preserved, hence the number of probable grain types and indeterminate grain. Most of the grain was found to show signs of abrasion or breakage or both. This indicates the grain was either exposed on the surface for some time prior to being incorporated within the deposit or has been affected by taphonomic movement (e.g. reworking). Small fragments of cinder and coal were also present in the sample, together with some charcoal of probable root material. On the whole the assemblage suggests a medieval to later date, consisting largely of hulled barley and club/bread wheat. The lack of wild taxa such as ruderals and chaff elements indicates a clean crop.

4.6.9 The retent from the sample contained a number of other artefacts and ecofacts, as detailed in Table 5 below. Of particular interest within this are the ceramic building material (CBM) and glass, both of which would appear to suggest a post-medieval date. In addition a single small piece of dark brown flint was also present, which, although not diagnostic and difficult to date, is suggestive of debitage from flint working in the vicinity and could perhaps be Mesolithic or Neolithic in date.

Volume	3
Uncharred roots	+
Uncharred seed	+
Charred cereal grain	+
Bone	++++
CBM	+
Glass	+
Cinders	++
Coal	++
Slag (prill)	+
Flint (debitage?)	+

Table 5: Volume and contents of the retent from Sample 1

5. Discussion

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 The cobbled surface in Trench 1 and spreads of rubble in Trenches 1 and 2 may represent a track or path, probably the northernmost of those shown on the early plans of the site running approximately east/west between the hall and the road. There was scant evidence for what might have caused the appearance of the earthwork running north-west/south-east, which was examined in Trench 1; it seems to have been a later feature perhaps simply constructed from a layer of gravel. The cobbled surfaces in Trench 3 perhaps form part of the same track feature seen in Trenches 1 and 2, although those in Trench 3 were of better quality construction and were apparently associated with a section of walling that seems to correspond to the small enclosure shown on some of the early mapping. The dating evidence recovered from this surface, consisting of two refitting fragments of Cistercian ware, also suggests that these features are earlier than those in the other trenches.

5.1.2 Trenches 4 and 5, despite being adjacent to one of the medieval sections of Askham Hall, revealed few significant finds or features and nothing earlier than the post-medieval period. A shallow pit or ditch terminal was exposed in Trench 4, which contained a relatively rich assemblage of ecofacts comprising a large amount of small animal bone, including fish, as well as charred cereal grain of various types, perhaps suggestive of household food waste and possibly cereal processing nearby.

5.1.3 Trench 5 had a similar sequence of deposits in it to Trench 4 but no archaeological features were observed.

5.1.4 The bulk of the finds recovered were fairly late post-medieval in date, although earlier activity at the site is evidenced by a fragment of medieval pottery with a suggested date range from the late 12th to 14th century, which was recovered from the subsoil in Trench 2 (202).

5.2 Phasing

5.2.1 It is apparent that the earliest deposits comprise layers of firm clay, varying remarkably in character across the site, most likely left in the valley of the River Lowther following the last Ice Age. On top of this a shallow subsoil was evident across the site. The dating evidence would suggest that this probably began to develop by at least the medieval period, but was continuing to be turned over into at least the early part of the post-medieval period.

5.2.2 All of the features identified were deposited on top of or cut into the underlying subsoil. The probable small pit in Trench 4 is difficult to date, but material present in the sample suggests it is post-medieval. The cobbled surfaces and possible wall in Trench 3 may be the earliest features encountered, but this is based on the discovery of two pieces of pottery within their composition, and still suggests a post-medieval date. Assuming the gravel surfaces and rubble deposits in Trenches 1 and 2 do correspond with the tracks shown on the early plans, they evidently did not go out of use prior to 1691-2, which is consistent with the few finds recovered from them. The gravel deposit identified in Trench 1, corresponding with the earthwork evident on the ground, is clearly later still.

5.3 Conclusion

5.3.1 While a number of features were discovered during the evaluation they all appear to be post-medieval in date. In some cases they appear to correspond to features shown on early maps of the site and include a pit containing a relatively rich assemblage of ecofacts, presumably relating to food consumed or processed at Askham Hall. The single piece of medieval pottery recovered, and perhaps also the piece of flint from the sample, indicates that earlier activity was taking place on the site, but no other finds or features of these periods were found.

5.3.2 It is unlikely that the proposed development will therefore affect any deposits or features of archaeological significance. This is especially true in the area of the proposed car park, where it is anticipated that only topsoil will be removed during construction (Charles Lowther pers comm.).

6. Bibliography

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Appendix 1: Project Brief



A BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

ASKHAM HALL, ASKHAM

08 December 2011

Holly Beavitt – Pike
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Brief for Archaeological Evaluation

Location: Askham Hall, Askham, Cumbria.

Proposed: Change of use for Askham Hall and curtilage buildings from private residence to 26 bed hotel, function venue, tea room and associated facilities.

Summary

An application has been submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority for change of use for Askham Hall. The proposal includes structural and conservation repair works to the main building and curtilage buildings. Other proposed works includes the development of a main car park and the construction of a new garden room (Planning Ref. 7/2011/3129).

Askham Hall is a grade 1 listed building and is made up of a large house with associated outbuildings in a courtyard plan with a gatehouse. The site is also situated within a grade II registered park and garden of historic interest. Askham Hall has had various phases of construction. The earliest part is the main block which dates from the last quarter of the 14th century with later additions in the 16th and 17th century. Askham Hall is situated within Askham medieval village which has been designated a Conservation Area.

Further information on the built environment at Askham Hall has been compiled in a Heritage Statement which has been submitted as part of the application (Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios 2011). However, this report does not consider the potential impact of the proposed development on any surviving sub-surface archaeological remains.

Therefore the National Park Archaeology and Heritage Assistant has advised that the archaeological implications of the proposal cannot be adequately assessed on the basis of the available information. The applicant has been advised that an archaeological field evaluation should be carried out before any decision on the planning application is taken, in order to obtain and supply to the Lake District National Park Authority further information. This is in line with CLG Planning Policy Statement 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPS 5) and Policy NE 16 of the Lake District National Park Local Plan.

This brief sets out the requirements for that programme of archaeological work.

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 of Archaeologists, or equivalent. No fieldwork may commence until approval of a specification has been issued by the Lake District National Park Authority.

1. Location

1.1 The site is centred around national grid reference NY 51640 23940, in the parish of Askham. The total area of the current proposal (7/2011/3129) affects approximately 2.8 hectares, which is presently in use as a family house with gardens.

1.2 The underlying geology of the site is carboniferous Limestone.

2. Archaeological Background

2.1 The site of the proposed development is located within a grade I listed building and a grade II registered park and garden of historic interest. Askham Hall is also situated within the medieval village of Askham. There are a number of prominent and well defined earthworks of unknown date visible from aerial photographs and recorded in the Historic Environment Record in the near vicinity. No previous investigation work has taken place at the site. However there is reason to believe that archaeological features and remains exist on this site.

2.2 There are a number of other sites or finds in the immediate area which have been recorded on the Historic Environment Record. Further details of these sites can be obtained from the Lake District National Park Authority, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, LA9 7RL. Tel. 01539 724555/ Fax 01539 740822/ Email archaeology@lakedistrict.gov.uk.

3. Requirement for archaeological work

3.1 The proposed development would severely damage or destroy any archaeological remains which may be present on the site. It has therefore been recommended that an archaeological evaluation should take place to obtain further information on the presence and preservation of any archaeological deposits before any decision is reached as to whether planning consent should be granted.

3.2 The objectives of the evaluation should be to gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation, date, condition and significance of any archaeological deposits within the areas of proposed development.

4. Techniques

Land use at the time fieldwork is carried out will influence the methods used. The techniques chosen should be selected to cause the minimum amount of destruction and should comply with all relevant health and safety regulations. It is envisaged that the following work would be required:

Stage One:

4.1 A rapid review of the published and unpublished information relevant to the site and its immediate surroundings. This will aim to review the currently available archaeological information for the site and its locality, with particular reference to recent archaeological work in the vicinity. It will also investigate the past use of the site through an examination of the historic mapping of the area. Sources consulted should include: data held by the Lake District Historic Environment Record; maps (printed and manuscript); aerial photographs and other illustrative evidence; place and field name evidence; published and unpublished documentary sources and other relevant background material.

Stage two:

4.2 An assessment of the artefact content of the topsoil. Techniques might include measured surface artefact collection, a series of topsoil test pits, or sampling of the topsoil from trenching.

Stage three:

4.3 A programme of trial trenching, excavated across the site, in order to establish the extent, date, nature and preservation of archaeological deposits. The area identified on the attached plan shows the location where these trenches should be positioned. The exact location of these should be agreed in advance of the excavation by the Lake District National Park Authority.

These include:

- Two 1.5m x 3m trenches located in the area of the new garden room. Plot 1 on the attached Image.
- Three 1.5m x 5m trenches located in the area of the new main car park. Plot 4 on the attached Image.

The position of all trenches and observations should be recorded on a site plan, at an appropriate scale. All significant deposits should be fully recorded on context sheets, photographs, scale plans and sections. A general photographic record should also be maintained.

5. Proposal

A **detailed** proposal, including the following, should be prepared by potential contractors in accordance with the recommendations of MoRPHE (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/training-and-skills/training-schemes/short-courses/project-management-using-morphe>) and submitted to the National Park Archaeology and Heritage Assistant for approval:

5.1 A description of the proposed methods of investigation and the recording system to be used.

5.2 A description of the finds, dating and environmental sampling strategies to be used.

5.3 A description of the post excavation and reporting work that will be undertaken.

5.4 A projected timetable for all work on site, including machine hire time and staff structure and numbers of people to be employed on site per day.

5.5 A projected timetable for all post excavation work, including staff numbers and specialist sub-contractors (through to final publication of results).

5.6 The names of the project director, supervisors, specialists and any sub-contractors to be employed on the project (including details of qualifications and experience of the key project personnel).

5.7 A separate itemised estimate of costs (core/project staff, specialist fees, travel/subsistence, site works, equipment/materials, archive preparation and copying, report preparation, finds storage fees, overheads, contingency, specified other costs).

5.8 Any significant variations to the proposal must be agreed by the National Park Archaeology and Heritage Assistant in advance.

6. Site Monitoring

6.1 The National Park Archaeology and Heritage Assistant will be responsible for monitoring the work. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork must be given by the archaeological contractor to the Lake District National Park Authority so that arrangements for monitoring can be made.

7. Reporting Requirements

7.1 The work should result in a report including as a minimum:

- a location plan at an appropriate scale, related to the national grid;
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results;
- a description of the methodology employed;
- a summary of the historical and archaeological background;
- plan(s) and section(s) at an appropriate scale showing location and position of trenches dug, features and finds located;
- section drawings should include heights OD;
- plan(s) should include OD spot heights for all principal strata and features;
- a list of and date for any significant finds recovered;
- photographs where appropriate;
- a description of archaeological features and deposits identified;
- a description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained;
- an interpretation of the results and of their potential archaeological significance;
- a full bibliography of sources consulted and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted;
- an index to the project archive;
- a copy of the brief and agreed project design and an indication of any variations.

7.2 The objective account of the archaeological evidence recovered should be clearly distinguished from the interpretation of those features. The methodology used should be critically reviewed.

7.3 Two copies of the project report and a full digital version should be deposited with the Lake District National Park Authority, on the understanding that it will be made available as a public document after an agreed period (not exceeding 6 months from the completion of fieldwork).

7.4 The results of the work should be published in an appropriate journal or other publication and should include an account of any structures located and full details of significant finds, illustrated as appropriate. Details of the place and date of publication must be notified to the Lake District National Park Authority. **Developers and archaeological contractors should be aware that fulfilment of this part of the brief is mandatory and that the Lake District National Park Authority will not issue approval for a specification that does not include details for its implementation.**

7.5 The Lake District Historic Environment Record (LDHER) supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact the LDHER prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, the LDHER may place the information on a web-site. Please ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the archaeological officer at the LDHER.

8. Deposition of Archive and Finds

8.1 The archive must be prepared in accordance with the recommendations of MoRPHE (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/training-and-skills/training-schemes/short-courses/project-management-using-morphe>) and should be deposited in an appropriate local institution, in a format to be agreed with that institution. The National Park Authority must be notified of the arrangements made. Any finds of archaeological interest should be conserved and deposited in an appropriate institution: any finds which cannot be so deposited should be fully analysed and published.

9. Further Requirements

9.1 The Code of Conduct of the Institute of Archaeologists must be followed.

9.2 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).

9.3 The involvement of the Lake District National Park Authority should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

10. References

Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios. 2011. Askham Hall. Heritage Impact Assessment (Planning Application reference 7/2011/3129).

Appendix 2: Project Design

ASKHAM HALL, ASKHAM, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Evaluation Project Design



Client: CIEL Hotels Ltd

Planning ref: 7/2011/3129

NGR: NY 51640 23940

December 2011

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application (Planning ref. 7/2011/3129) on behalf of CIEL Hotels Ltd (hereafter 'the client') for the change of use of Askham Hall, Askham, Cumbria (NGR NY 51640 23940) into a hotel and function room, including the creation of a new car park and garden room, a request was made by the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) Archaeology and Heritage Assistant for a programme of archaeological evaluation. A Heritage Impact Statement has already been completed covering the standing building (FCB Studios 2011) but it was considered that more information was necessary with regard to the potential for below-ground archaeological remains. A brief for this work was provided (LDNPA 2011), in response to which Greenlane Archaeology produced this project design.

1.1.2 The proposed development site is adjacent to the Grade I listed Askham Hall, which has its origins in at least the 14th century (Perriam and Robinson 1998, 256-257). A tower and wing thought to have contained a chapel remain from that period, but there are substantial additions of later date (*ibid*). It is situated within a Grade II listed area of parkland and on the edge of the village of Askham, which contains numerous earthworks of archaeological interest (LDNPA 2011).

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 evaluation 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 and supervised by **Dan Elsworth (MA (Hons), AlFA)** with suitably qualified assistance. 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 number of similar archaeological excavation projects in the region including evaluation and excavation at the former Lowwood Gunpowder Works in Haverthwaite (Greenlane Archaeology 2010; 2011a), evaluation at Salthouse Farm, Millom (Greenlane Archaeology 2011b), and evaluation in Cartmel (Greenlane Archaeology 2011c), as well as several more projects over the last six years ranging from large excavations, to building recordings, surveys and desk-based assessments.

1.3.2 All artefacts will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology, and it is envisaged that they will initially be assessed by Jo Dawson, who will fully assess any of post-medieval date; medieval pottery will be assessed by Tom Mace. Finds of earlier date will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate. The LDNPA will be notified of any other specialists, other than those named, who Greenlane Archaeology wishes to engage, before any specialist contracts are awarded, and the approval of the LDNPA will be sought.

1.3.3 Environmental samples, and faunal or human remains will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology. It is envisaged that any environmental samples would be assessed by Scott Timpany at Headland Archaeology, human remains by Malin Holst at York Osteoarchaeology, and animal bones by Jane Richardson at ASWYAS. Other remains, such as industrial material, will be assessed by specialist

sub-contractors as appropriate and the LDNPA will be informed and their approval will be sought for these arrangements.

2. Objectives

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 To examine information held in the Lake District National Park Historic Environment Record (HER), early maps of the proposed development site, and any other relevant primary and secondary sources, in order to better understand its development, set it in its historic context, and assess the significance of any existing and potential archaeological remains.

2.2 Archaeological Evaluation

2.2.1 To excavate five evaluation trenches, three measuring between 5m long by 1.5m wide, and two measuring 3m long and 1.5m wide. This will assess the presence or absence of features of archaeological interest within the area, their extent, date, nature, and significance.

2.3 Report

2.3.1 To produce a report detailing the results of the desk-based assessment and evaluation, that will present the results, and assess the potential of the site and significance of the remains.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the evaluation.

3. Methodology

3.1 Desk-Based Assessment

3.1.1 An examination of both primary and secondary sources, particularly maps, 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:

- **Lake District National Park 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. Each 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 previous archaeological investigations in the immediate area, will also be examined, as will aerial photographs;
- **Cumbria Record Office (Kendal):** the majority of original and secondary sources relating to the site are deposited in the Cumbria Record Office in Kendal. Of principal importance are early maps, especially those produced by the Ordnance Survey. These will be examined in order to trace the origin and development of any buildings or other structures on the site, and, where possible, their function. In addition, information relating to the general history and archaeology will also be consulted, in order establish the context of the sites identified within the study area, and the potential for further, as yet unknown, sites of archaeological interest;
- **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.

3.2 Archaeological Evaluation

3.2.1 A total of 31.5m² of evaluation trenching is required, comprising two trenches 3m in length and 1.5m wide in the area of the proposed garden room (Plot 1) and three trenches 5m in length and 1.5m wide in the area of the proposed car park (Plot 4). These will be excavated until significant archaeological deposits or the natural geology are reached, or to a depth of 1.2m. Where possible, the trenches will target areas identified during the desk-based assessment as having the greatest archaeological potential and the least likelihood of constraints, and following consultation with the LDNPA – a plan showing the proposed location will be submitted. It is anticipated that the evaluation will take two days on site with two archaeologists (totalling four person days).

3.2.2 The evaluation methodology, which is based on Greenlane Archaeology's excavation manual (Greenlane Archaeology 2007c), will be as follows:

- The site will be checked with a Cable Avoiding Tool (CAT) in order to establish the presence of live electrical services. Any existing service plans held by the client will also be consulted in order to identify the presence of other services;
- The trench will be excavated with regard to the position of any services, focussing on the areas of high archaeological interest or potential, and avoiding areas which are likely to have been severely damaged or truncated by later activity, unless they are considered to have a high potential;
- The overburden (which is likely to largely comprise topsoil) will be removed by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist until the first deposit beneath it is reached;
- All deposits below the overburden will be examined by hand in a stratigraphic manner, using shovels, mattocks, or trowels as appropriate for the scale. Deposits will only be sampled, rather than completely removed, below the first identified level of archaeological interest, unless specified by the LDNPA, with the intention of preserving as much *in situ* as possible;
- 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. 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 hand-drawn plans and sections, typically at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10, respectively, and photographs in both 35mm colour print and colour digital format;
- All deposits, trenches, drawings and photographs will be recorded on Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- All finds will be recovered during the evaluation for further assessment as far as is practically and safely possible. Should significant quantities of finds be encountered an appropriate sampling strategy will be devised;
- All faunal remains will also be recovered by hand during the evaluation, 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, for example, preserved environmental remains, industrial residues, and/or material suitable for scientific dating will be sampled. Bulk samples of between 20 and 60 litres in volume (or 100% of smaller features), depending on the size and potential of the deposit, will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (e.g. 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 1.3.3 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 evaluation will be left *in situ*, and, if possible, covered. The LDNPA 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 securely stored off-site, or covered and protected on site if immediate removal is not possible;
- Each evaluation trench will be backfilled following excavation although it is not envisaged that any further reinstatement to its original condition will be carried out.

3.2.3 Should any significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the evaluation these will immediately be brought to the attention of the LDNPA 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 LDNPA, and subject to a variation to this project design.

3.3 Report

3.3.1 The results of the desk-based assessment and evaluation will be compiled into a report, which will include the following sections:

- A front cover including the appropriate national grid reference (NGR) and planning application number;
- 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 desk-based assessment;
- Results of the evaluation including descriptions of any deposits identified, their extent, form, and potential date, and an assessment of any finds or environmental remains recovered during the evaluation;
- Discussion of the results including an assessment of the significance of any archaeological remains present within the study area, and areas of further archaeological potential. Any recommendations for further work, and appropriate types of further work, will be provided separately;
- Bibliography, including both primary and secondary sources;
- Illustrations at appropriate scales including:
 - a site location plan related to the national grid;
 - a plan showing the location of the evaluation trenches 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 to aid the understanding of the results of the evaluation;
 - a plan showing the position of the evaluation trenches;
 - plans and sections of the evaluation trenches showing any features of archaeological interest;

- photographs of the evaluation, including both detailed and general shots of features of archaeological interest and the trench;
- illustrations of individual artefacts as appropriate.

3.4 Archive

3.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the evaluation, 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 Kendal (CRO(K)). 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 Kendal, one will be supplied to the client, and within two months of the completion of fieldwork, two copies will be provided for the Lake District National Park Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition, Greenlane Archaeology will retain one copy, and a digital copy will be deposited with the 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 evaluation will be offered to an appropriate museum, most likely Kendal Museum, however this is currently close to full capacity, so this may not be possible. 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 **15th December 2011**, or at another date convenient to the client. The project will comprise the following tasks:

- **Task 1:** archaeological desk-based assessment, and compilation of that element of the report;
- **Task 2:** submission of proposed evaluation trench location plan to LDNPA Archaeology and Heritage Assistant for approval;
- **Task 3:** archaeological evaluation;
- **Task 4:** post-excavation work on archaeological evaluation, including processing of finds and production of draft report and illustrations;
- **Task 5:** feedback, editing and production of final report and archive.

5. Other matters

5.1 Access

5.1.1 Access to the site for the evaluation 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.

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Appendix 3: Summary Context List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Deposit	Soft, dark, blackish-brown silt; up to 0.13m thick	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Large, sub-rounded limestone boulders (up to 0.4 by 0.2 by 0.25m) and sub-angular sandstone cobbles (less than 0.2m on a side) fairly firmly packed in a firm, mid grey-brown silty matrix; extends up to 0.43m in from the south-east side of Trench 1	Large dumped stones?
102	Deposit	Loose, angular gravels (less than 0.04m) in a friable silt matrix at the south-west end of Trench 1; less than 0.1m thick	Gravel deposit
103	Structure	Firmly packed small and mid-size cobbles (approximately 0.15 by 0.1 by 0.03m) in a friable, mid, greyish-brown, slightly sandy, silt matrix; possible cobbled surface, less than 0.05m thick, extending approximately 3.5m to the north-east from the south-west end of Trench 1	Cobbled surface
104	Deposit	A lighter greyish-brown sandy-silt underlying 103 ; less than 0.06m thick, with infrequent gravel and small cobble-sized stone inclusions	Subsoil
105	Deposit	Firm, orangey clayey-sand, with infrequent angular limestone inclusions (less than 0.06m on a side); unknown thickness	Natural
200	Deposit	Soft, dark brown-black silty-clay, with 1% rounded gravel inclusions, extending across Trench 2; up to 0.1m thick	Topsoil
201	Deposit	Angular and some rounded cobbles in a firm mid grey-brown sandy-clay matrix, with 1% brick fragments and 5% red sandstone inclusions; extends across Trench 2; up to 0.1m thick	Dumped rubble
202	Deposit	Rounded gravel in a firm, mid orange-brown sandy-clay matrix, with 1% rounded cobble inclusions; extends across Trench 2; up to 0.1m thick	Subsoil
203	Deposit	Firm to soft, mid orange sandy-clay, with 2% rounded cobbles, extending across Trench 2; up to 0.1m thick	Natural
300	Deposit	Soft, dark greyish-brown silty-clay, with 1% rounded gravels, extending across Trench 3; between 0.2 and 0.3m thick	Topsoil
301	Structure	Rounded cobbles in a firm mid-brown sandy-clay, forming a surface approximately 0.8m wide and 0.1m thick at the north-east end of Trench 3	Cobbled surface
302	Structure	Rounded cobbles in a firm mid brown sandy-clay forming a surface approximately 1.7m wide and 0.1m thick at the south-west end of Trench 3	Cobbled surface
303	Structure	Rounded boulders and cobbles in a firm, mid-brown sandy-clay, forming a surface approximately 0.6m wide; perhaps up to 1.2m wide, incorporating a paved area and a possible gated entrance - one stone has a hole for a gate	Possible wall and a paved entrance

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
304	Deposit	Hard, grey concrete up to 0.4m deep surrounding an approximately 0.4m diameter timber post; fill of cut 305	Concrete fill around a fencepost in cut 305
305	Cut	Oval or round north-east/south-west aligned cut, with vertical sides and a flat base; up to 0.4m deep; filled by 304	Posthole
306	Deposit	Firm, mid brown sandy-clay with 2% rounded gravel inclusions; up to 0.2m thick	Possible subsoil
307	Deposit	Firm, mottled brownish-yellow sand, with 30% angular sandstone inclusions; at least 0.1m thick	Natural
400	Deposit	Rooted, fairly soft, uniform, mid to dark brown silt, up to 0.28m thick, with 1% small gravel inclusions, covering Trench 4	Topsoil
401	Deposit	Firm, charcoal rich, pinkish to reddish-brown silty-clay, with 1% sub-rounded small and medium-sized limestone and sandstone cobbles	Fill of possible pit cut 402
402	Cut	Possible terminus of a ditch, orientated north-east/south-west, or the rounded corner of a pit cut extending 0.9m from the south-east end of Trench 4; approximately 1.1m long along the south-east end of the Trench and 0.24m maximum depth. The cut has gently sloping sides (approximately 40° to the horizontal) and a fairly even / flat base; not truncated	Possible pit
403	Deposit	Variable, light (yellowish) brown clayey-sand, with infrequent sub-angular cobbles and gravels; uniform thickness (maximum 0.32m thick)	Subsoil
404	Deposit	Firm, light (yellowish) brown, clayey-sand, with infrequent, sub-angular ('weathered') sandstone boulders	Natural
500	Deposit	Soft, very dark brown silt, with very infrequent, very small gravel inclusions; uniformly approximately 0.55m thick, which is notably thicker than the topsoil in Trench 4 (400)	Topsoil
501	Deposit	Firm, pinkish/reddish brown, silty-clay, uniformly 0.25m thick, with sparse small angular gravel inclusions	Subsoil
502	Deposit	Firm, light orangey / yellowish-brown, very sandy-clay, with fractured angular and sub-angular yellow sandstone and mixed volcanic large cobble-sized boulders	Natural

Appendix 4: Summary Finds List

Context	Type	Qty	Description	Date range
100	Pottery	1	Tin-glazed earthenware: blue painted body fragment	18 th century?
100	Pottery	2	Black-glazed red earthenware: coarseware body fragments	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
100	Pottery	1	Red earthenware: flower pot (?) body fragment	18 th – early 20 th century
101	Clay tobacco pipe	1	Relief-moulded bowl fragment with three feathers	Late 18 th century onwards
101	Pottery	1	Slipware: Brown-glazed red earthenware with white slip-trailed decoration (appears as yellow zigzag line along flat rim), dish rim fragment	Late 17 th – 19 th century
101	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware (?): body fragment, fabric reduced and fired to stoneware hardness, inner surface and small part of body oxidised	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
101	Glass	1	Dark green bottle body fragment	17 th – early 20 th century
101	Glass	1	Green bottle body fragment	19 th – 20 th century
200	Clay tobacco pipe	5	Stem fragments: all marked (some partially) 'W. BREWSTER / SUNDERLAND'	1835-1853, possibly later
200	Clay tobacco pipe	1	Bowl fragment, unmarked	19 th century?
200	Pottery	3	Tin-glazed earthenware: two base fragments from same vessel with blue painted floral pattern, with blue-coloured enamel, and plain white fragment	18 th century?
200	Pottery	1	White earthenware: plate base, bowl rim, body fragment, small blue transfer-printed body fragment, blue sponge-printed fragment, blue banded factory-produced slipware fragment, burnt tea cup handle with blue transfer-printed pattern (?)	19 th – 20 th century
200	Pottery	2	Brown-glazed red earthenware with white slip-coated interior: body fragments	19 th – early 20 th century
200	Pottery	2	Refined red earthenware (factory-produced): tea pot (?) body fragments, from same vessels, unglazed and turned (?) externally, glazed on interior	Mid 18 th – 19 th century
200	Glass	8	Dark green: body fragments, probably all from same bottle, including rim, neck, and shoulder	Mid 17 th – 18 th century

Context	Type	Qty	Description	Date range
200	Glass	1	Dark green: bottle body fragment, possibly heat-affected	17 th – 20 th century
200	Glass	1	Dark green: cylindrical bottle body fragment	19 th – 20 th century
200	Glass	3	Colourless: 2 very thin curved fragments, similar thickness to test tubes etc, 1 thicker fragment from bottle or tableware	19 th – 20 th century
200	Animal bone	2	Sheep/goat	Not closely dateable
201	Pottery	1	Tin-glazed earthenware: plain white body fragment	18 th century?
201	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware: coarseware base fragment	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
201	Glass	1	Dark green: probably from same bottle as 8 fragments from 200	Mid 17 th – 18 th century
201	Animal bone	4	Unidentified large mammal, unidentified small mammal	Not closely dateable
202	Pottery	1	A soft, almost powdery, sandy fabric (it will mark paper), with sparse fine inclusions, and a dipped pale olive green glaze on external surfaces. The fabric is oxidised to a light orange colour towards the outer surfaces and outer margins, with a reduced light grey core. It is heavily abraded due to the relative softness of the fabric but may be part of a strap handle with an undulating outer surface.	Late 12 th – 14 th century
202	Stone	1	Fragment of dark grey-black, fine grained, possibly polished on some surfaces and apparently part of a longer piece, perhaps a whetstone?	Not closely dateable
202	Animal bone	1	Sheep/goat	Not closely dateable
300	Pottery	4	Creamware: plate and bowl fragments	Mid-late 18 th century
300	Pottery	5	Pearlware (?): blue 'Willow' transfer-printed plate rim and body fragments x 2, blue painted cup (?) fragment, blue shell edge plate fragment, plain base fragment	Late 18 th – early 19 th century
300	Pottery	18	White earthenware: 7 fragments from 'Broseley' transfer-printed mug, including 4 refitting rim and body fragments; blue painted fragments x 2, factory-produced banded slipware x 1, blue transfer-printed pattern x 1, rest plain	19 th century
300	Pottery	2	White ironstone: refitting saucer rim-base fragments, relief-moulded with blue transfer-printed floral pattern	Late 19 th – 20 th century
300	Pottery	1	Bone china: gilded saucer rim fragment	19 th – 20 th century

Context	Type	Qty	Description	Date range
300	Pottery	1	Factory-produced buff-coloured earthenware: base fragment	19 th – 20 th century
300	Pottery	9	Black-glazed red earthenware: 7 crock (?) body fragments from single vessels, most refitting, 1 pantheon (?) body fragment, 1 well-glazed fairly thin-walled hollow-ware	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
300	Pottery	4	Brown-glazed red earthenware: including hollow-ware rim and base fragments, and possible under-fired stoneware bottle fragment	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
300	Pottery	2	Brown-glazed red earthenware with white slip-coated interior: rim and body fragment	19 th – early 20 th century
300	Pottery	4	Red earthenware: flower pot body fragments, including one with white slip stripe on exterior (all unglazed)	18 th – early 20 th century
300	Glass	2	Dark green: body and base fragments from cylindrical bottle	19 th – 20 th century
300	Clay tobacco pipe	1	Stem and bowl base fragment: blackened, narrow bore, leaves along outer mould seam of bowl	c1800-1840
300	Bone	2	Multi-part object: central rod screwing into turned disc	18 th – 19 th century?
300	Industrial residue	2	Undiagnostic slag, perhaps smithing waste	Not closely dateable
300	Fe	1	Fragment of horseshoe	Post-medieval
300	Animal bone	15	Cattle, sheep/goat, unidentified large mammal, unidentified small mammal	Not closely dateable
301	Pottery	2	Cistercian ware (?): fine hollow-ware shoulder fragments	Mid 15 th to mid-17 th century
301	Animal bone	3	Cattle, sheep/goat	Not closely dateable
400	Pottery	1	Tin-glazed earthenware: plain white fragment	18 th century?
400	Pottery	1	Creamware: saucer (?) base fragment	Mid – late 18 th century
400	Pottery	1	White earthenware: body fragment	19 th – 20 th century
400	Pottery	3	Bone china: enamelled lined saucer rim, plate base, unidentified object rim	19 th – 20 th century
400	Pottery	1	Buff-coloured stoneware: ribbed marmalade/jam jar rim and body with groove for tie-on lid	19 th – 20 th century

Context	Type	Qty	Description	Date range
400	Animal bone	5	Cattle, sheep/goat, pig, cat	Not closely dateable
401	Animal bone	3	Sheep/goat, domestic fowl	Not closely dateable
500	Pottery	2	Creamware: plate rim and base	Mid – late 18 th century
500	Pottery	3	Pearlware: blue shell edge plate rim, refitting body fragments from factory-produced slipware hollow-ware with encaustic decoration	Late 18 th – early 19 th century
500	Pottery	4	White earthenware: lilac-coloured transfer-pattern hollow-ware body fragment, other fragments plain	19 th – 20 th century
500	Pottery	3	Bone china: relief-moulded rim fragments from single saucer (?), and relief-moulded foot for sugar bowl or similar vessel	19 th – 20 th century
500	Pottery	2	Black-glazed red earthenware: coarseware rim and body fragments	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
501	Animal bone	2	Cattle	Not closely dateable