

YWCA, 95 STRICKLANDGATE, KENDAL, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Evaluation



Client:
Impact Housing Association

Planning ref.: SL/09/0385

NGR: 351560 492980

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March 2010



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Contents

Illustrations.....	1
Non-Technical Summary	2
Acknowledgements.....	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Methodology	5
3. Desk-Based Assessment.....	7
4. Fieldwork Results.....	15
5. Discussion and Conclusion.....	23
6. Bibliography	24
Appendix 1: Project Brief	27
Appendix 2: Project Design	32
Appendix 3: Summary Context List	40
Appendix 4: Summary Finds List.....	42

Illustrations

List of figures

Figure 1: Site plan.....	4
Figure 2: Trench location plan	19
Figure 3: Trench 1 and 2	20
Figure 4: Trench 3 and 4	21

List of plates

Plate 1: The datestone above Yard 93 (after Curwen 1900, 350).....	8
Plate 2: Todd's map 1787	9
Plate 3: Wood's map 1833.....	9
Plate 4: Hoggarth's map 1853	10
Plate 5: Ordnance Survey c1859.....	10
Plate 6: Ordnance Survey 1912.....	11
Plate 7: Plan of Inland Revenue valuations from 1912 Ordnance Survey map	11
Plate 8: Ordnance Survey 1938.....	12
Plate 9: Planning application 1938 (CRO(K) WSMB/K11/S429).....	12
Plate 10: Plan application 1959 (CRO(K) WSMB/K11/S890).....	13
Plate 11: Trench 1, viewed from the south-west	15
Plate 12: Trench 2, viewed from the south, showing features [20] (left of scale) and [25] (right of scale).....	16
Plate 13 (left): Trench 3, viewed from the south-west	18
Plate 14 (right): Trench 4, viewed from the west.....	18

Non-Technical Summary

Prior to the demolition of the existing buildings and construction of a new accommodation block at the YWCA, 95 Stricklandgate, Cumbria, South Lakeland District Council placed a condition on the planning application requiring an archaeological evaluation of the site due to the high potential for archaeological remains within the area. The site is located on the east side of Stricklandgate, one of the main thoroughfares of medieval Kendal, and it was considered likely therefore that medieval remains would be present within the area of the proposed development. The work was carried out by Greenlane Archaeology Ltd in March 2010.

The work revealed that the rear of the plot had a medieval presence, as indicated by residual pottery sherds recovered from a garden soil that had suffered differential truncation due to the construction of buildings in the 20th century and associated landscaping. The only archaeological features encountered were two possible plot boundaries, one of which was of late 17th or early 18th century date, and a putative garden feature of 19th century date. One particularly interesting find was a piece of pottery kiln furniture of 18th or 19th century date, which potentially indicates the presence of post-medieval pottery making in the local area, although this could also have been otherwise imported to the site.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Impact Housing Association for commissioning and supporting the project. Further thanks are due to the staff of Thomas Armstrong Construction Ltd, whose ground workers facilitated the recording, and Stuart Woodhall of Day Cummins Architects. Additional thanks are also due to the staff at the Cumbria Record Office in Kendal for their assistance in accessing the archives.

The report was written by Sam Whitehead and Tom Mace, the fieldwork was led by Sam Whitehead with the assistance of Tom Mace. The finds were examined by Jo Dawson, who also edited the report along with Dan Elsworth. The project was managed by Dan Elsworth. The illustrations were produced by Sam Whitehead and Tom Mace, the latter of whom also copyedited the text.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 As part of a planning requirement following the submission of a planning application (Ref. SL/09/0385) by Day Cummins on behalf of Impact Housing Association for the demolition of an existing building and construction of a new accommodation block at the YWCA, 95 Stricklandgate, Kendal, Cumbria (NGR SD 5156 9298), a programme of archaeological work was requested by South Lakeland District Council following advice from Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service. The brief for the work (*Appendix 1*) specified an archaeological evaluation of a total of at least 50m² of trenching, which was to be covered by excavating three trenches each approximately 10m long and 1.7m wide. The evaluation is intended to establish, where possible, whether any remains of archaeological significance are present on the site, their nature, and degree of survival, extent, significance, and date. As part of the work on site a desk-based assessment was also to be carried out. This was intended to set the site in its historical and topographical landscape, and establish the location, extent, survival and significance of any known archaeological remains on the site prior to the evaluation. Greenlane Archaeology submitted a project design (*Appendix 2*) which was accepted and the work was conducted in March 2010 in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists guidelines (IfA 2008a, 2008b).

1.1.2 The proposed development site is located on the east side of Stricklandgate, one of the main thoroughfares of medieval Kendal. Archaeological work at several other points along Stricklandgate has revealed extensive remains of medieval activity, principally comprising pits and boundary ditches but also revealing some small-scale industrial remains; the two closest and most substantial sites being 104-112 Stricklandgate (OA North 2004) and 130-136 Stricklandgate (Greenlane Archaeology 2008a; 2008b; 2008c), both of which are on the opposite side of the street. It was considered likely that similar remains will be present on the proposed development site.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The entire development site covers an area of approximately 1.5km² (Figure 1) and is situated amongst a variety of commercial properties towards the north end of Kendal's commercial centre. Stricklandgate is the town's main thoroughfare and runs roughly north/south to the west of site. The proposed development occupies an area to the rear of buildings fronting onto Stricklandgate; the L-shaped building in the north-west corner of the site is No. 95 Stricklandgate, the Yard is No. 93, and the corner of the L-shaped building to the south-east (just outside the development area) is No. 91. The Yard is accessed via a passageway between No. 91 and 95.

1.2.2 The site lies on relatively flat ground and is approximately 50m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2002). The river Kent is located approximately 200m to the east and drains the higher ground to the north-west of Kendal into Morecambe Bay to the south-west. The solid geology comprises Bannisdale slates but is situated on the edge of a large area of Carboniferous limestone (Moseley 1978, plate 1), with overlying drift deposits of glacial gravel (Countryside Commission 1998, 66).

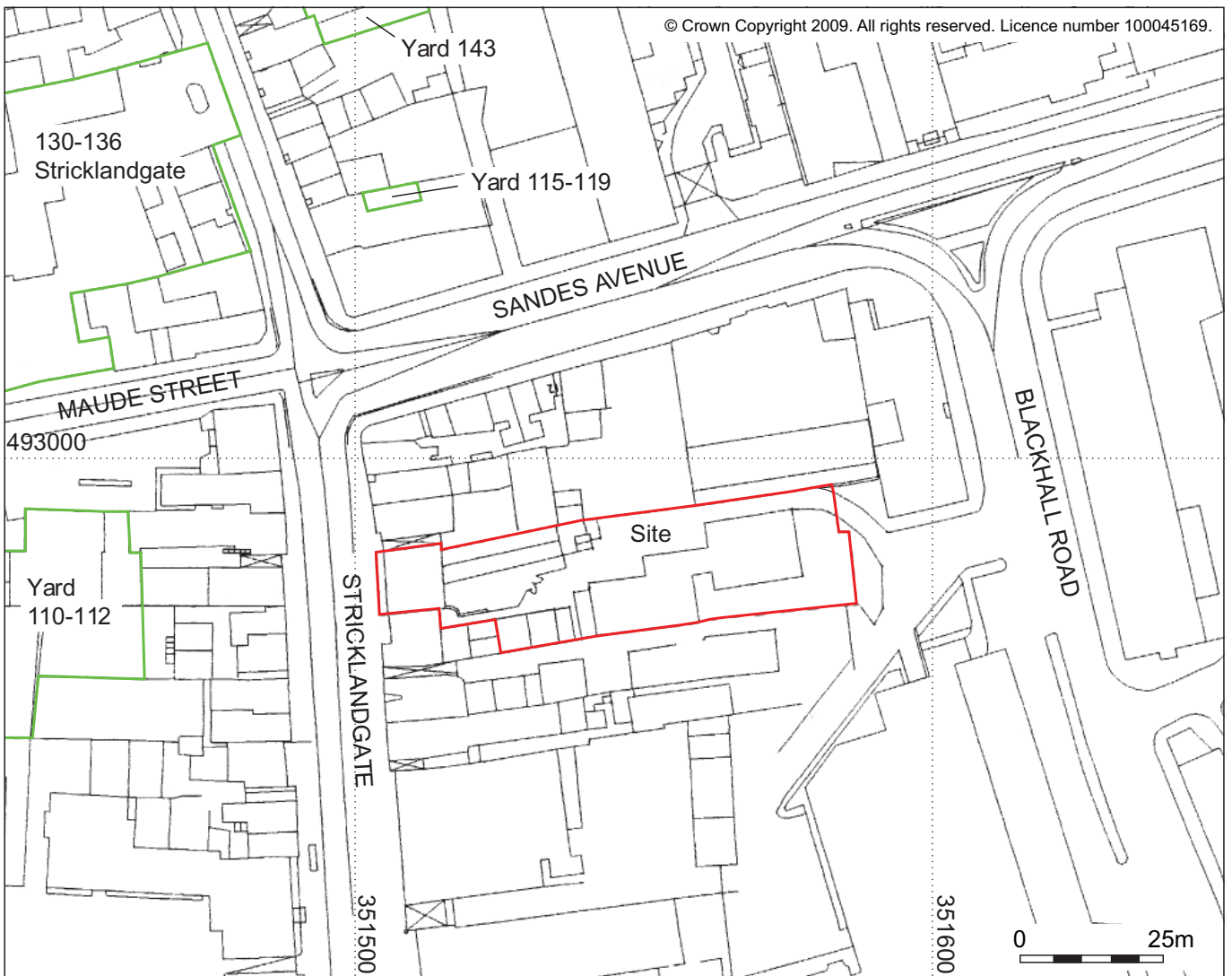
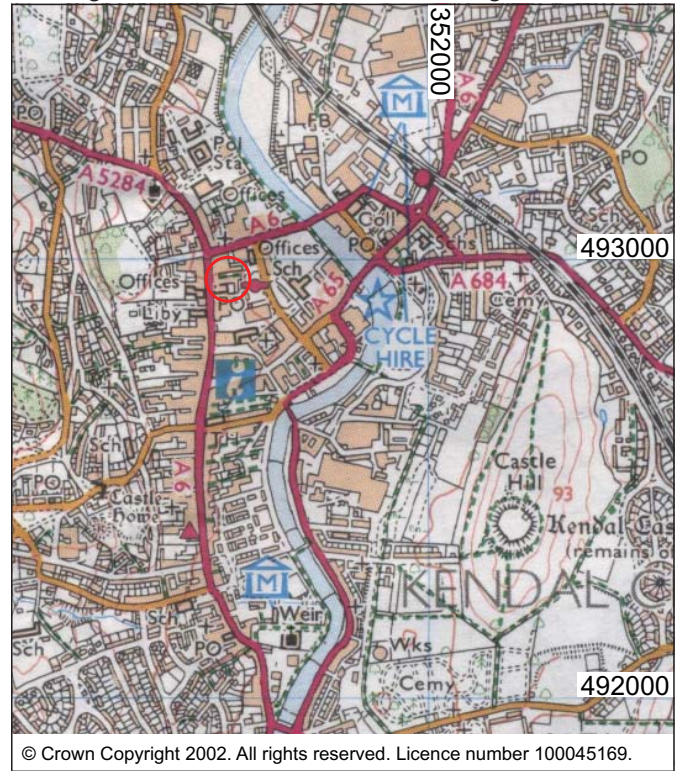
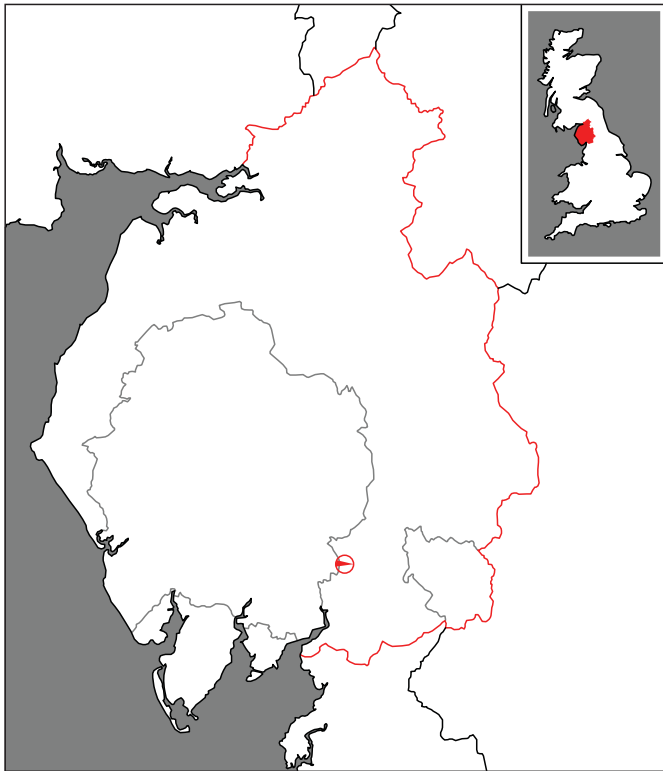


Figure 1: Site plan

Client: Impact Housing Association

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2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The project comprised an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, 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. Prior to the evaluation being carried out a rapid desk-based assessment and a site visit were undertaken; the details of how all aspects of the work were carried out are outlined below, with the original scheme presented in the Project Design (*Appendix 2*).

2.1.2 All aspects of the project were carried out according to the standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a, 2008b).

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with IfA guidelines (IfA 2008a). This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site, information from the Cumbria Historic Environment Record, and published secondary sources. The intention of this element of the project was to assess the potential and nature of the deposits and finds likely to be encountered during the evaluation phase by referring to previous archaeological work carried out nearby, as well as stray finds recorded from the vicinity, and by referring to old maps showing different land use at the site. The following sources of information were used during the desk-based assessment:

- **Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER):** this is a list of all the known sites of archaeological interest within the county, which is maintained by Cumbria County Council and is the primary source of information for an investigation of this kind. All of the known sites of archaeological interest within 250m of the centre of the proposed development 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, Kendal (CRO(K)):** this was visited in order to examine early maps and plans of the site, and local and regional histories;
- **Greenlane Archaeology Library:** additional secondary sources were also examined to provide information for the site background.

2.3 Site Visit

2.3.1 A brief visit to the site was carried out prior to the evaluation. This was principally in order to identify any constraints to the evaluation such as issues of health and safety but also the presence of any structures that might have damaged below ground remains or features that might be of archaeological interest. The site visit revealed that the site was covered in overgrowth and some small trees but, there were otherwise no likely impediments to the archaeological work.

2.3.2 In addition, the removal of floor slabs and footings relating to the existing buildings on the site was also monitored in order to ensure that no deposits of archaeological interest were affected and record any that were uncovered. In the event, no archaeological features were recorded but the level below the footings was identified and areas for the evaluation trenches to be placed identified. This was in part restricted because of the need to retain access along the north side of the site, the proximity of the southern boundary wall, and the presence of modern truncation evident along the north side of the available area (Figure 2).

2.4 Archaeological Evaluation

2.4.1 Because of the slightly restricted space and the available plant the evaluation eventually involved the excavation and recording of four 10m long trenches, each 1.20m wide, totalling 51m²; these were recorded in the following manner:

- **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 each trench and 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 presented on the accompanying CD. A written record of all of the photographs was also made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets (Greenlane Archaeology 2007);
- **Drawings:** drawings were produced on site as follows:
 - i. trench plans were produced at a scale of 1:50;
 - ii. trench and feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

2.4.2 Features of interest were recorded relative to the known location of nearby buildings and other structures that were evident on the site plans and Ordnance Survey maps. Heights above Ordnance Datum were recorded utilising a local benchmark and are shown in Figures 3 and 4.

2.5 Finds

2.5.1 **Processing:** artefacts were washed, naturally air-dried, and packaged appropriately in self-seal bags with white write-on panels.

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

2.6 Environmental samples

2.6.1 No samples were deemed necessary as no suitable contexts were encountered.

2.7 Archive

2.7.1 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 Kendal (CRO(K)). A copy of the written report will also be submitted to the client, Greenlane Archaeology will retain a copy, and three copies will be produced for the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service. A digital copy will be provided for the OASIS scheme (English Heritage 2007).

2.7.2 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 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 is 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 will be made of them beforehand.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1.1 **Introduction:** the historical development of Stricklandgate was investigated previously as part of a desk-based assessment which was carried out ahead of an open-area excavation on a nearby site on Stricklandgate in 2008 (Greenlane Archaeology 2008a). Relevant sections of the desk-based assessment report for that project are repeated here, with additional information provided which is pertinent to our understanding of the development of the current site. This section is intended to help put the results of the excavation in their local and regional contexts.

3.1.2 The site is located close to the northern limit of the later medieval and early post-medieval town, as shown by Speed's map of Kendal dated 1611. Archaeological investigations at 110-112 and 130-136 Stricklandgate both revealed remains of activity in the back plots of dwellings fronting Stricklandgate dating between the late 12th to mid 14th centuries and the late 14th to 17th centuries (OA North 2004; Greenlane Archaeology 2008b, 2008c). As any remains present on the site are likely to be principally medieval or post-medieval in date the more general site history focuses on these and other potentially relevant periods.

3.1.3 **Early Medieval period:** as is the case throughout Cumbria, the evidence for early medieval activity is scant. Once the administration of Rome was finally rescinded in c AD 410 it seems likely that Kendal became part of the British Kingdom of Rheged (Kirkby 1962). From the early-mid 7th century onwards the expanding kingdom of Northumbria began to influence the area. A fragment of an Anglian cross discovered in Trinity Church, Kendal is one of the few tangible pieces of evidence relating to this period (Collingwood 1904). This suggests a pre-Norman church existed on the site and that Kirkland was the early medieval focus of what was to become Kendal.

3.1.4 During the 9th and 10th centuries the region was subject to the influence of populations of Hiberno-Norse extraction. Place-name evidence indicates that these people were present throughout Cumbria, hence the proliferation of Norse names in the area (Smith 1967).

3.1.5 **Medieval period:** the settlement of Kirkland, at the southern end of the medieval town, was recorded in the Domesday Book (as *Chechebi*; Faull and Stinson 1986), from which it may be inferred that the mother church of the area was there. The settlement became the centre of a Norman Barony in the later 11th century. The earliest fortification in Kendal, which could potentially have been the seat of the Barony, is Castle Howe (RCHME 1936, 122). The castle is one of a series of early post-conquest motte and bailey fortifications established along the river valleys of the North West and probably dates from the 12th century (Winchester 1979). A later fortification was Kendal Castle to the east of the River Kent which has earthworks and masonry dating from the 13th century onwards (Pevsner 1967, 256-7).

3.1.6 **Early town development:** Richard I granted a Saturday market in 1189, and at some time between 1222 and 1246 William III of Lancaster, the lord of the manor, confirmed borough status to a settlement which seems to have been encouraged to the north of Kirkland (Munby 1985). The earliest map is John Speed's of 1611 and this suggests there was some deliberate town planning. There is a notable contrast between the winding course of Kirkland, round the church, and the long straight streets of Highgate, Stricklandgate, and Stramongate, all of which converge on the market place in Kendal. The streets had narrow burgage plots extending back from the street frontage, and documents dating to 1310 and 1390 suggest that there were around 144 tofts in the town, the width of the tofts being fairly wide allowing further sub-division laterally (CCC and EH c2002, 9). The charter of between 1222 and 1246 has a specific clause relating to fulling and dyeing (Munby 1985, 103), indicating there was an established cloth-based economy in Kendal by this period. Kendal was subject to numerous raids from Scotland in the 14th century, the most notable being the great raid of 1322. There were also outbreaks of sheep murrain from 1280 onwards and poor harvests led to famines between 1315 and 1317 (Winchester 1979, 6).

3.1.7 **Post-medieval period:** above the entrance to Yard 93 is a datestone with the year 1698 and the letters 'T', 'M', and 'I' (Plate 1). It is not known who built the house, but it is suggested that the initials refer to Thomas Middleton who was Mayor of Kendal in 1699 (Curwen 1900, 350).

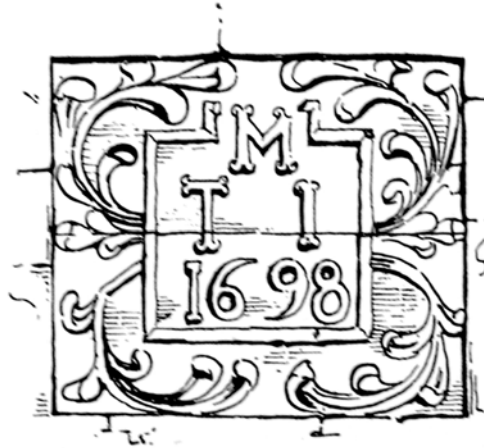


Plate 1: The datestone above Yard 93 (after Curwen 1900, 350)

3.1.8 The house to the north, No. 95 Stricklandgate, is famous for being occupied by 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' when he advanced into England in 1745 (*ibid*). Prince Charles Edward Stewart (1720-1788), the Jacobite claimant to the thrones of Great Britain and Ireland, or 'The Young Pretender' as he was called by his opponents, is commonly known as 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' (Magnusson 1995, 1399). 'Here he held a levee, but history is silent as to whether any of the disaffected Kendalians honoured his court' (Curwen 1900, 350). The Young Pretender's rebellion met with little success and he soon retreated to Scotland; 'The Duke of Cumberland in close pursuit, having enquired where the Prince slept, came and slept himself on the same couch' (*ibid*). Curwen states that the house must have been relatively new when the Prince occupied it as the spout head bears the date 1724 (*ibid*). Justice Thomas Shepherd occupied the house at this time (*op cit*, 351). 'Thomas Holme, who was Mayor in 1741, and again in 1755, subsequently lived here, and after his time it was occupied by the Wakefield family until their removal to Sedgwick' (*ibid*).

3.1.9 The woollen industry came to dominate the town's economy during the later medieval and post-medieval period and remained the town's major source of wealth for some time (CCC and EH c2002, 10). During the 18th and 19th century the population expanded rapidly and settlement became considerably more dense within the town centre, with the effect that many of the older burgage plots were in-filled with new buildings. This gradually led to the development of the present Yard system, which provided access to properties behind the main streets while retaining some open space (*op cit*, 14-15).

3.2 Map regression

3.2.1 **Introduction:** a range of maps from the earliest of the town to those specifically dealing with the site were examined. The earliest of these, Speed's map of 1611, is relatively vague but the subsequent ones give a detailed view of the development of the site from the late 18th century onwards.

3.2.2 **Speed 1611:** this basic plan shows a continuous line of buildings along Stricklandgate in the area of the site, indicating that the area was developed by this time. Land to the rear of these buildings appears to be open meadow.

3.2.3 **Todd 1787:** this map (Plate 2) shows No. 95 Stricklandgate to the north-east corner of the site, which was probably further sub-divided. The site boundary cuts across an L-shaped building at the south-west corner of the site, the west end of this building relates to No. 91 Stricklandgate and it is likely that the rear of this building was further divided into cottages but this is not shown. There are another two small east/west aligned buildings located at the north-east corner of this large L-shaped building. The east end of the site appears to be occupied by gardens or allotments at this time and possibly sheds or other outbuildings.



Plate 2: Todd's map 1787

3.2.4 **Wood 1833:** this map (Plate 3) appears to show a similar arrangement of buildings on site as Todd's map of 1787. The L-shaped building at the south-west corner of the site appears to have been extended to the north-east corner and appears to butt against the northernmost of the two east/west aligned buildings shown in this area on the 1787 map. No. 95 appears unchanged. The boundaries which previously ran north/south between the allotments are still present although the east/west boundary had been removed and there are no outbuildings shown in the vicinity. The site is labelled 'Misses Thompson'.



Plate 3: Wood's map 1833

3.2.5 **Hoggarth 1853:** again No. 95 to the north-west corner of the site appears unchanged (Plate 4). The layout of buildings has changed slightly to the rear of No. 91 Stricklandgate. The east end of the site still appears to be occupied by gardens. There are three small rectangular buildings shown to the east of No. 95. The whole property is labelled 'Miss Thompson' at this time.



Plate 4: Hoggarth’s map 1853

3.2.6 **Ordnance Survey c1859:** this map shows the gardens to the rear of the properties on Stricklandgate in some detail (Plate 5). More of the internal divisions of the L-shaped building to the south-west corner of the site are shown. It appears the line of buildings to the back of No. 91 Stricklandgate has been extended to the east (probably cottages), though another building appears to have been removed to the north of this line. No. 95 is labelled with the words ‘Prince Charles Edward slept here Dec 13th 1745’. This date relates to the occasion when Prince Charles Edward Stewart (‘Bonnie Prince Charlie’) advanced into England during an unsuccessful Jacobite rebellion in 1745 (see Section 3.1.8).



Plate 5: Ordnance Survey c1859

3.2.7 **Ordnance Survey 1912:** buildings to the east of No. 91 have again seen alteration (Plate 6); the addition to the east end of this line of buildings shown in c1859 appears to have been removed and the small structures to the north have also changed layout. Two square outbuildings are also shown in the centre of the site on the yard side of the division with the north/south gardens, these also featured on the 1898 Ordnance Survey plan which has not been included as it was otherwise identical.



Plate 6: Ordnance Survey 1912

3.2.8 **Inland Revenue Land Valuation Record (CRO(K)WTIDV128)**: the land valuations record by the Inland Revenue c1910 provides some additional information about the properties within the development area (Table 1). Isabella Thompson is listed as owner of the house with the garden to the rear at No. 95 Stricklandgate and the cottage at No. 91, as well as the other cottages surrounding Yard 93.

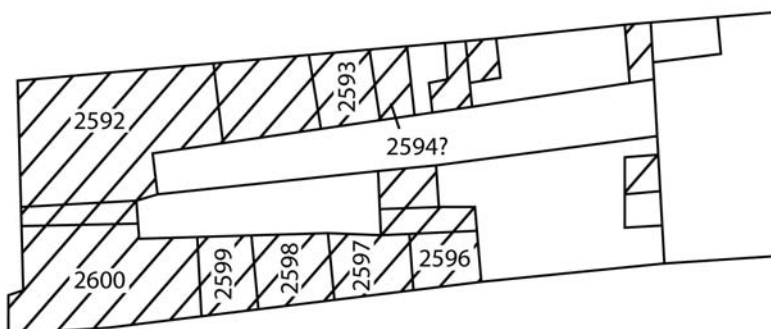


Plate 7: Plan of Inland Revenue valuations from 1912 Ordnance Survey map

Plan no.	Occupier	Owner	Description	No. of house
2592	Isabella Thompson	Isabella Thompson	House & garden	95
2593	Wm B. Thompson Exo For Wall Major	"	Cottage	Y ^d 93
2594	Geo. Rigg	"	"	"
2595	Jos. Bateman	"	"	"
2596	Selina Thomas	"	"	4 "
2597	Geo. V Ward	"	"	3 "
2598	Ro. Dixon	"	"	2 "
2599	Edw ^d . Dixon	"	"	1 "
2600	John Just	"	"	91

Table 1: Record of valuations made by the Inland Revenue c1910

3.2.9 **Ordnance Survey 1938:** properties to the rear of No. 91 Stricklandgate have again seen alteration, and a hall has been built to the east (Plate 8). No. 95 is labelled 'Hostel' at this time. The property boundaries visible to the rear of the properties on earlier maps appear to be no longer extant.

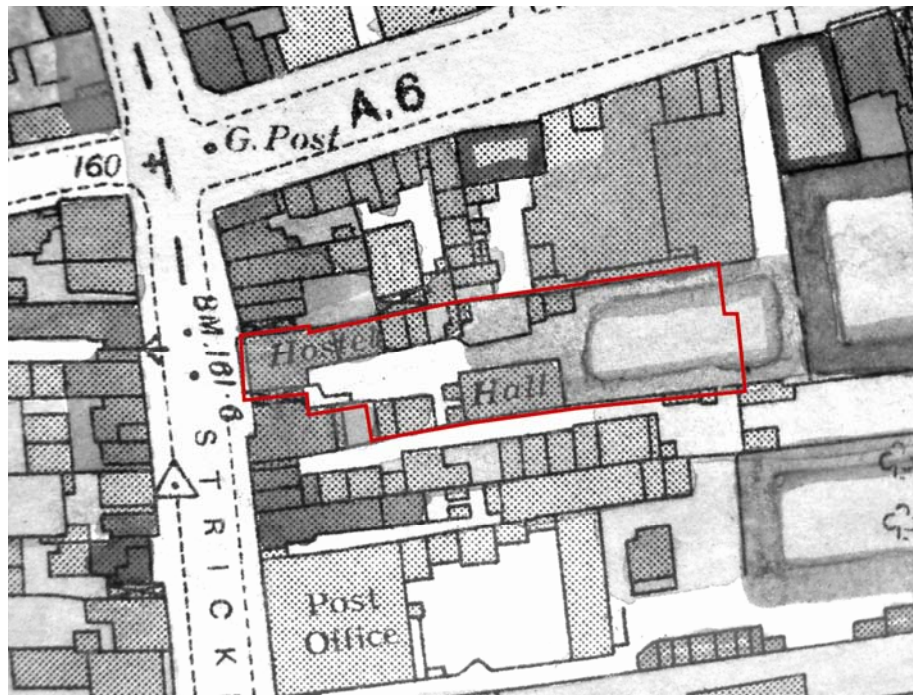


Plate 8: Ordnance Survey 1938

3.2.10 **Planning Application 1938 (CRO(K) WSMB/K11/S429):** planning permission was granted to Mr G. Morland (architect) for alterations to a cottage block at the YWCA in 1938. The end cottage behind No. 91 Stricklandgate was to be remodelled for the installation of water closets and the accompanying plans show the location of drainage for the proposed development (Plate 9).

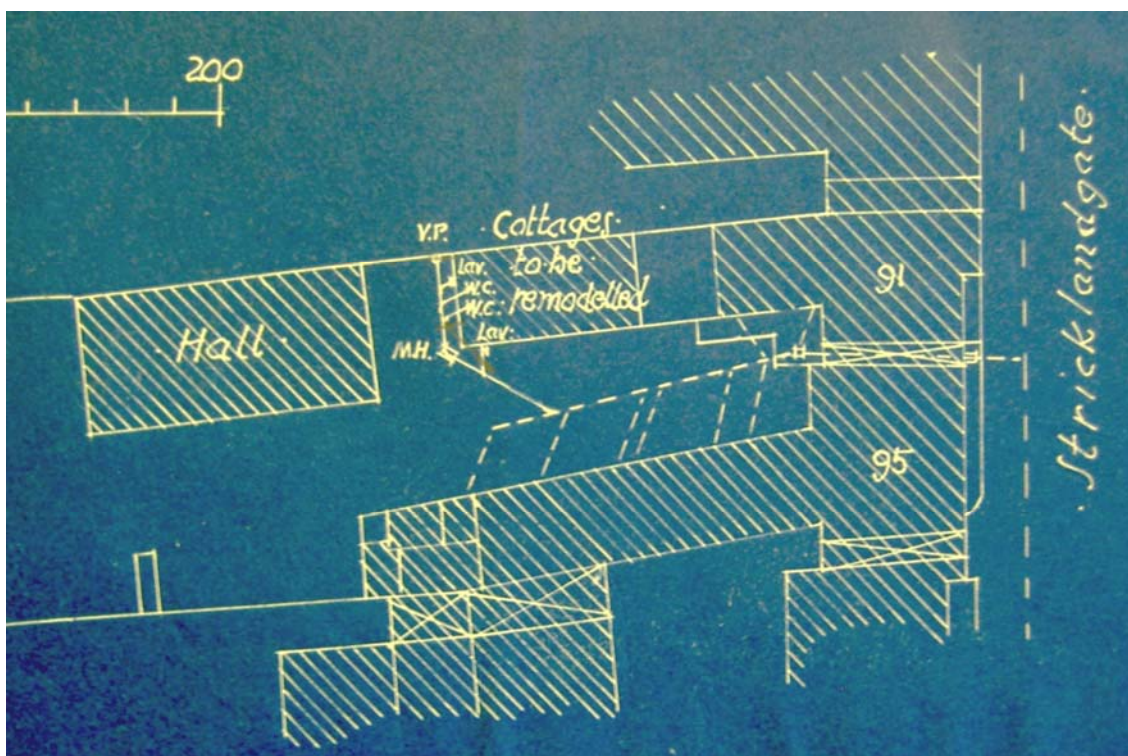


Plate 9: Planning application 1938 (CRO(K) WSMB/K11/S429)

3.2.11 **Planning Application 1959 (CRO(K) WSMB/K11/S890)**: a planning application was submitted in 1959 by E. Donald Haigh (architects based at Lowther Street in Kendal) on behalf of the YWCA for the erection of club premises on what was previously a garden to the rear of 95 Stricklandgate. Buildings shown immediately to the west of the 'Existing Hall' on the 1938 Ordnance Survey map are no longer present on the plan which accompanied this application (Plate 10) and buildings against the north boundary to the north-east corner of this building have also been removed. The new building was proposed to be constructed from brick with roughcast render and green mineralised felt roof.

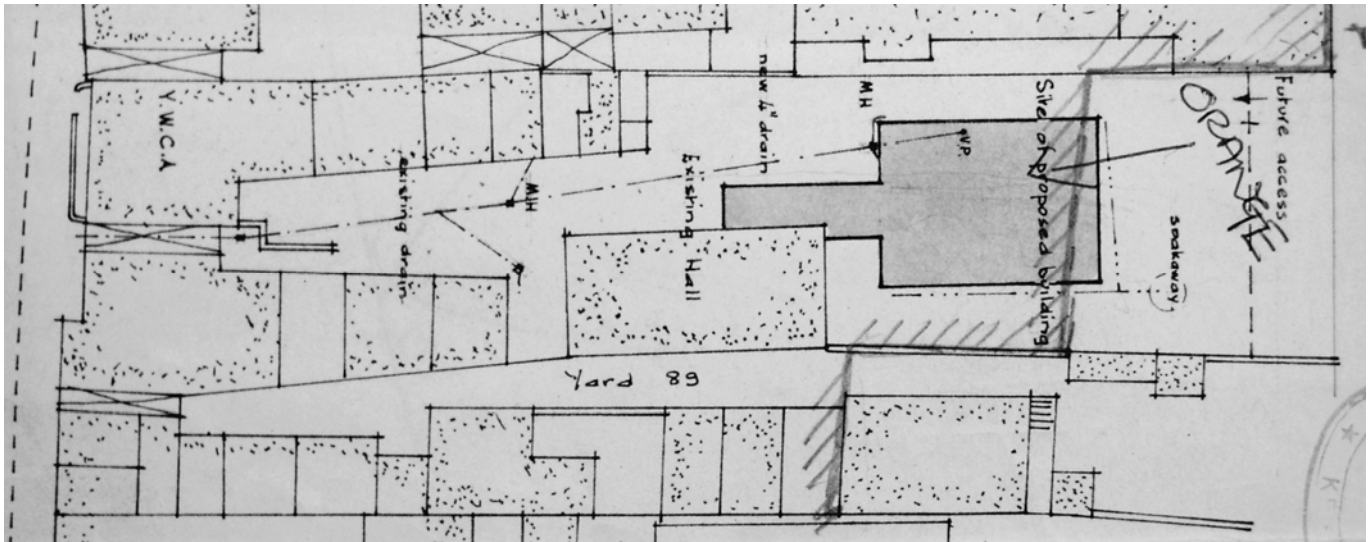


Plate 10: Plan application 1959 (CRO(K) WSMB/K11/S890)

3.3 Previous work

3.3.1 **Introduction**: there have been a considerable number of archaeological investigations along Stricklandgate and in other areas of Kendal's town centre; many of these investigations have revealed evidence for Kendal's development in the 12th and 13th centuries. The location of the closest of these are shown in Figure 1 and the most significant for understanding the development and history of the current site are summarised below in the order in which they were undertaken:

3.3.2 **Excavation at Stricklandgate car park**: in 1987 a small excavation was carried out in a car park 13m from the frontage onto Stricklandgate. This revealed property boundaries and a series of timber buildings dating from the 14th century onwards and evidence that the surviving property boundaries in Kendal have preserved the line of ones laid out in the 13th or 14th century (Newman 1988, 45-47).

3.3.3 **Excavation at 65 Stricklandgate**: in 1988 a small excavation was carried out within the footprint of a building due to be demolished for redevelopment. Despite the presence of 16th or 17th century cellars there were traces of medieval buildings surviving along with a series of pits, hearths, and floor layers dating from the 12th to 14th centuries (Newman 1988, 47-49).

3.3.4 **Excavation at 68 Stricklandgate**: excavation carried out in 1990 revealed traces of a timber building, again probably medieval, set at an oblique angle to the modern road, as well as pits and other features (Newman 1990a; 1990b; 1990c).

3.3.5 **Evaluation and Excavation at Elephant Yard**: an evaluation in 1997 centred on the car park of the Woolpack Hotel revealed domestic and light industrial medieval activity at the rear of the burgage plots fronting Stricklandgate (LUAU 1997; 1998a; 1998b). This was represented by pitting, shallow footings, and two stone kilns. The subsequent excavations centred on the site of the former Woolpack Hotel were carried out in 1998 and revealed dense areas of activity typically associated with the rear of burgage plots including pitting, a well, latrines, and structural evidence that probably related to outbuildings. The associated finds indicated such activity was occurring in the 13th and 14th centuries.

3.3.6 Evaluation and Excavation at Yards 110 to 112 Stricklandgate: the evaluation carried out in 2001 revealed two pits and a vertical sided cut feature. The pits both contained 12th to 14th century pottery, the vertical sided feature was thought to indicate industrial activity and a truncated soil horizon containing medieval pottery was also recorded (LUAU 2001, 1). The subsequent excavation revealed two broad phases of activity dating from the late 12th to mid-14th century, and the later 14th to 16th century. These phases were representative of activity at the rear of plots fronting onto Stricklandgate, and features included stone lined latrines, rubbish pits, and quarry pits (OA North 2004, 4).

3.3.7 Evaluation and watching brief at Halls Pet Stores, 119 Stricklandgate: an evaluation of land 10m to the east of the proposed development site, on the opposite side of Stricklandgate, was carried out in 2004, following an earlier desk-based assessment (OA North 2003). The evaluation revealed two pits that contained medieval pottery (AOC 2004a, 1); a subsequent watching brief did not discover any additional features (AOC 2004b).

3.3.8 Building recording, Yard 143 Stricklandgate: a building recording was undertaken on a group of derelict buildings prior to their redevelopment (Greenlane Archaeology 2008d). The buildings included a coach house and part of a row of cottages; two of the cottages had been combined and converted for use as a pie factory in the 20th century. The coach house was of early 19th century date, while the cottages were late 18th century. The work demonstrated the extensive amount of development and infilling of plots that was taking place during this period.

3.3.9 Desk-Based Assessment, Evaluation, and Excavation at 130-136 Stricklandgate: this site was excavated in 2008 (Greenlane Archaeology 2008c) and the excavation revealed four distinct phases of archaeological activity at the site. Phase 1 was represented by the construction of two burgage plot boundaries in the late 12th or 13th century, associated features included a group of clay extraction pits and two rubbish pits. The site also appeared to have been cleared of vegetation at this stage and a number of features with natural origins were recorded. No structures were recorded from this phase although there is some evidence to suggest that they may have existed at the street front which was not excavated. The second phase of activity spanned the period from 1400 to 1700 and saw clay extraction continue, structural activity is also suggested by a substantial posthole, and the presence of roofing slate, mortar, daub, burnt limestone, along with a well recorded in the evaluation phase (Greenlane Archaeology 2008b). Evidence for lead and iron working, and the processing of cereals, wool and leather working were found in the backfills of earlier extraction pits. Phase 3 saw concerted efforts at ground consolidation in preparation for new buildings further back from the street front. Two structures were excavated; one of which was a metal workshop that represented cottage industry at the site, and evidence for horn working, butchery and possibly tanning was also recovered from features of this date. The last phase was represented by the foundations of 19th century buildings that replaced earlier structures as the plots were developed.

3.4 Summary

3.4.1 The historical background shows that Kendal developed extensively in the medieval period; the map regression shows that the street front part of the site was developed by 1611, although the rear of the plot was apparently not built upon before the 20th century. Work in the vicinity, most notably at 130-136 Stricklandgate (Greenlane Archaeology 2008c), approximately 100m to the north-west, suggested that this part of the town was divided into burgage plots, and archaeological features included plot boundaries, rubbish pits, and evidence for structures and industrial activity. Given the lack of development at the YWCA site and the evidence for preserved medieval archaeology in the vicinity, the desk-based assessment suggests that there is a high potential for well preserved archaeological remains at the site.

4. Fieldwork Results

4.1 Evaluation

4.1.1 **Introduction:** the evaluation comprised the observation of the removal of the footings of the two most recently demolished buildings at the site, as well as the excavation of four trenches totalling 51m². No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the removal of the existing footings, but the exercise was useful in deciding where to locate the trenches ahead of the evaluation phase as some indication of the depth of the natural geology was gained. The location of the trenches was constrained by a need to keep 3m away from the north and south party walls, as well as avoiding an active water pipe that ran east/west across the site (see truncation on Figure 2).

4.1.2 **Trench 1:** two modern features were recorded within this trench (Figure 3), wall footing (02) and a water pipeline [06] (Plate 11); both these features cut a layer of overburden which overlay a disturbed and presumably truncated garden soil (01). As this trench was located in the highest part of the site and was entirely covered by the early 20th century YWCA Hall it seems probable that it has been subjected to a relatively high degree of truncation. The soil layer (01) was a dark brownish-grey, loosely compacted gritty silty-sand that incorporated building rubble, mortar fragments and sub-angular gravels and pebbles. This deposit contained two pottery vessel fragments which both date from between the late 17th and early 20th century (see Appendix 4). Wall footing (02) was constructed from five courses of pale grey frogged bricks, these matched the other footings observed relating to the YWCA club premises that were constructed in 1959 (Plate 10). The pipe trench encountered, [06], contained a ceramic waste water pipe, along with a metal water-in pipe, these presumably date to around the time the YWCA hall was constructed between 1912 and 1938 and might be directly related to that building. No finds were recovered from the backfill, (05), of this cut, and the relationship with the cut and the overburden layer remained unclear.



Plate 11: Trench 1, viewed from the south-west

4.1.3 **Trench 2:** this trench contained three cut features, one of which appeared to be a rudimentary land drain or boundary wall foundation, the others related to wall footings with associated construction cuts and backfills (Figure 3). Only the very eastern tip of this trench lay outside the footprint of the early 20th century YWCA Hall.

4.1.4 **Feature [19]:** this was a shallow dish-shaped cut that appeared in both sections of the trench, and represented a linear feature with a north/south orientation. The cut partially truncated the subsoil/garden soil; its relationship with the overlying overburden was unclear. The cut was filled by a loose collection of un-mortared sub-angular limestone rubble pieces in a dark-brown silty matrix (**18**), no artefacts were obtained from the fill which only appeared in section. The cut was linear and orientated north/south and possibly represents the boundary between the garden areas and the yard to the west side of the plot which is evident on maps from 1853 to 1912 (see Plates 4-6).

4.1.5 **Feature [20]:** this linear cut also ran north/south, and represented a larger wall footing (Plate 12). The cut was steeper and deeper on the east side, which was where the main rubble foundations (**21**) were located (see Figure 3). These foundations comprised a relatively dense accumulation of angular and sub-angular, un-mortared limestone rubble in a loose, silty-sand matrix. Several pot and bottle fragments were recovered at the base of this deposit, where the cut truncated the natural. The bottles would date from 1780-1820, this date range is narrower than that of the pottery and therefore provides a more accurate indication of the date of this feature. It is quite difficult to match this feature to anything on the earlier maps of the site, and it is evident that there were no buildings in this part of the site until the 20th century (see Figure 2). The division between the yard areas and the gardens to the rear, as evident on Hoggarth's map of 1853 (Plate 4), once again seems the most likely correlation. The line of this boundary appears on all the maps featured in the map regression so it is therefore 18th century in date at the latest.



Plate 12: Trench 2, viewed from the south, showing features [20] (left of scale) and [25] (right of scale)

4.1.6 **Feature [25]:** this feature comprised a wall return (23) and its associated construction cut [25] and the cut backfill (24). The construction cut [25] was visible in the south-east facing trench section and also in plan where it truncated the natural (Plate 12). The sides of the cut were steep and the base was flat; the cut seemed unduly wide on the south side suggesting that it incorporated a secondary feature although no evidence for this was found within the excavated section. The wall (23) comprised the south-east corner of a structure of which at least three courses were visible in the south-east facing trench section. The coursing was constructed from un-mortared roughly squared irregular limestone blocks, which were built into a fairly generous construction cut which was approximately 1m deep. The backfill of the wall cut comprised a loose collection of limestone rubble in a slightly silty-sand matrix which also incorporated moderate quantities of mortar fragments suggesting an earlier phase of demolition. Within this backfill numerous sherds of pottery were recovered, the latest of which dated from the 19th century. Given that there were no buildings in this part of the site shown on any of the maps until the YWCA Hall was constructed in the 20th century, the wall return is something of a mystery. The only structure that is evident is a small square outbuilding with an associated enclosure (see Plate 6); this would have been constructed between 1859 and 1898. If this is the structure encountered then the linear cut [20] cannot be the boundary of the yard and garden areas, as it is to the west and not to the east of feature [25]. It is perhaps more likely then that this wall return represents an unmarked garden feature of 19th century origin.

4.1.7 **Truncation [28]:** this truncation was evident at the extreme east end of the trench, and while more pronounced in the south-east facing section, it was also evident in the opposing section. The truncation ran from west to east, and the angle of the flat slope was fairly shallow at 22 degrees, but the base was not located as it was beyond the limit of the trench. The cut appeared to truncate the overburden layer (16), as well as the underlying subsoil/garden soil layer (17); this suggests that it was quite recent as the overburden layer was present under the 20th century YWCA Hall. There were two fills within the cut, the upper fill contained pieces of tarmac but nothing was recovered from the lower fill. It seems probable that this truncation was the result of landscaping carried out to facilitate the addition of the YWCA Club to the east of the Hall which was at a slightly lower level, and would therefore date from 1959.

4.1.8 **Garden/subsoil [17]:** this deposit was continuous within the lower levels of the trench except where it was truncated by later features. It comprised an orangey mid-brown silty-sand with fairly frequent sub-rounded gravels and occasional charcoal flecks. The deposit was up to 0.40m thick and represented a cultivated medieval garden soil, although pottery recovered from it suggests that it continued to be developed into the post-medieval period. The earliest pottery within this layer was abraded Northern Gritty ware, which dates from the 12th to mid-13th century. The lower levels of this layer were hand excavated down to the natural gravelly sands and no cut features were found, further indicating that the pottery was residual in a garden soil rather than disturbed from lower deposits.

4.1.9 **Trench 3:** this trench was largely located beneath the footprint of the modern YWCA Club building, and as a result of the natural slope of the site this area had seen substantial truncation. The trench sections revealed a layer of overburden, or bedding for the building's concrete slab, which overlay the natural geology (Figure 4). No archaeological finds or features were recorded from this trench (see Plate 13).

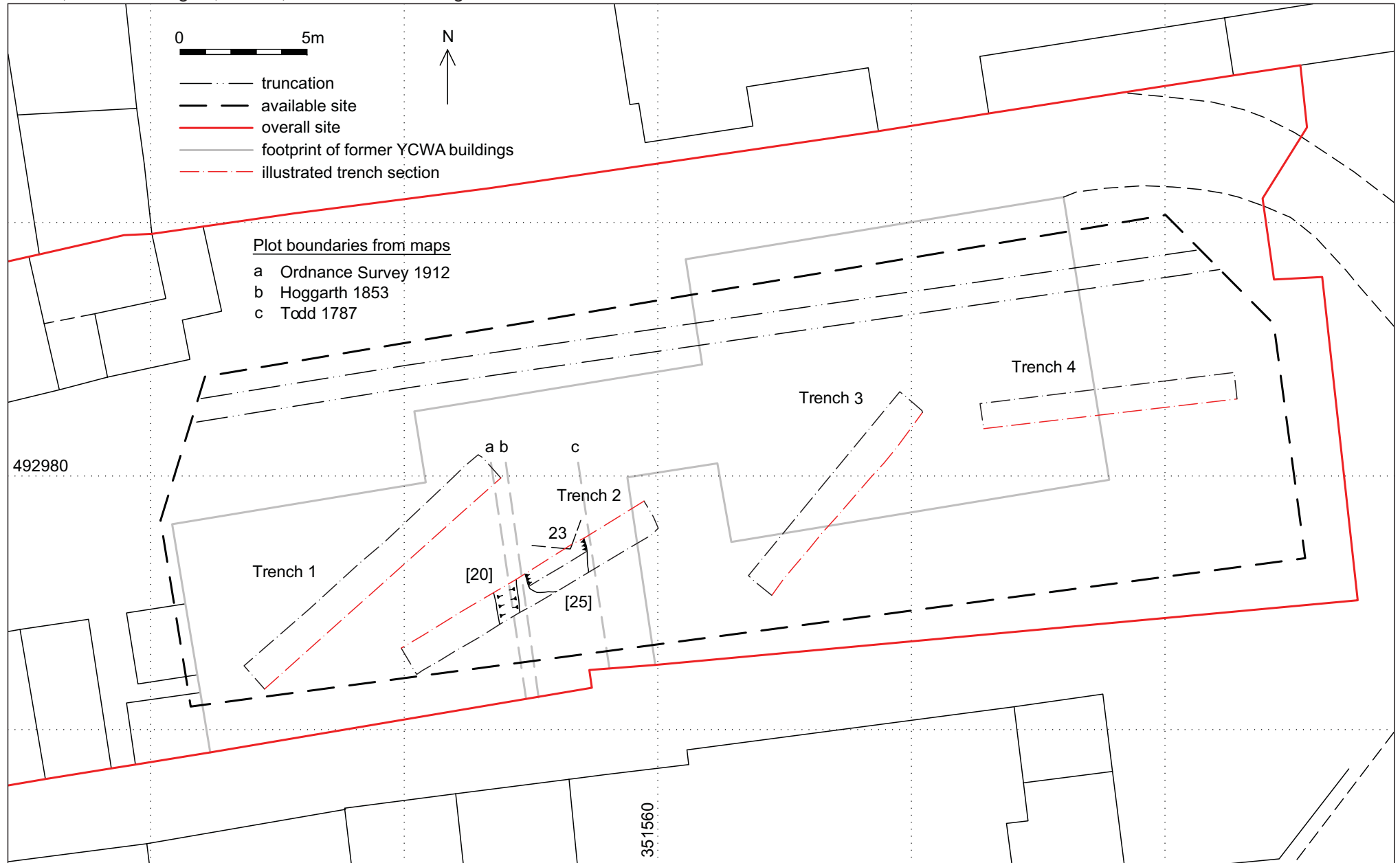
4.1.10 **Trench 4:** this trench also lay partly beneath the demolished club building, however, being nearer the base of the slope it had seen less truncation of the garden/subsoil deposits than Trench 3. The deposits deepened from west to east in conjunction with the natural slope of the site. The footing for the east-most wall of the YWCA club could be seen to truncate the subsoil in the centre of the trench sections (Figure 4). To the east of this wall cut, on the exterior of the building, a thin layer of gritty, silty topsoil overlay the subsoil which was up to 0.40m thick (Plate 14). Two sherds of post-medieval pottery dating from the 17th century onwards were recovered from the subsoil, as well as a turquoise glass fragment of 18th or 19th century date. The west part of the trench which was within the footprint of the building had an upper overburden/bedding layer, below which was up to 0.30m of subsoil (11) which had been partly truncated.

4.1.11 **Garden/subsoil [11]**: this deposit was a brownish dark-grey sandy-silt that contained dispersed mortar fragments, the same as subsoil (08) located on the exterior side of the former Club building. The subsoil varied in character from that found in Trench 2 (see *Section 4.1.8*) and the pottery retrieved was generally later in date, typically 17th or 18th century onwards. A medieval origin was suggested by two abraded Northern Gritty ware fragments recovered from the base of deposit (11).



Plate 13 (left): Trench 3, viewed from the south-west

Plate 14 (right): Trench 4, viewed from the west



Client: Impact Housing Association

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Figure 2: Trench location plan

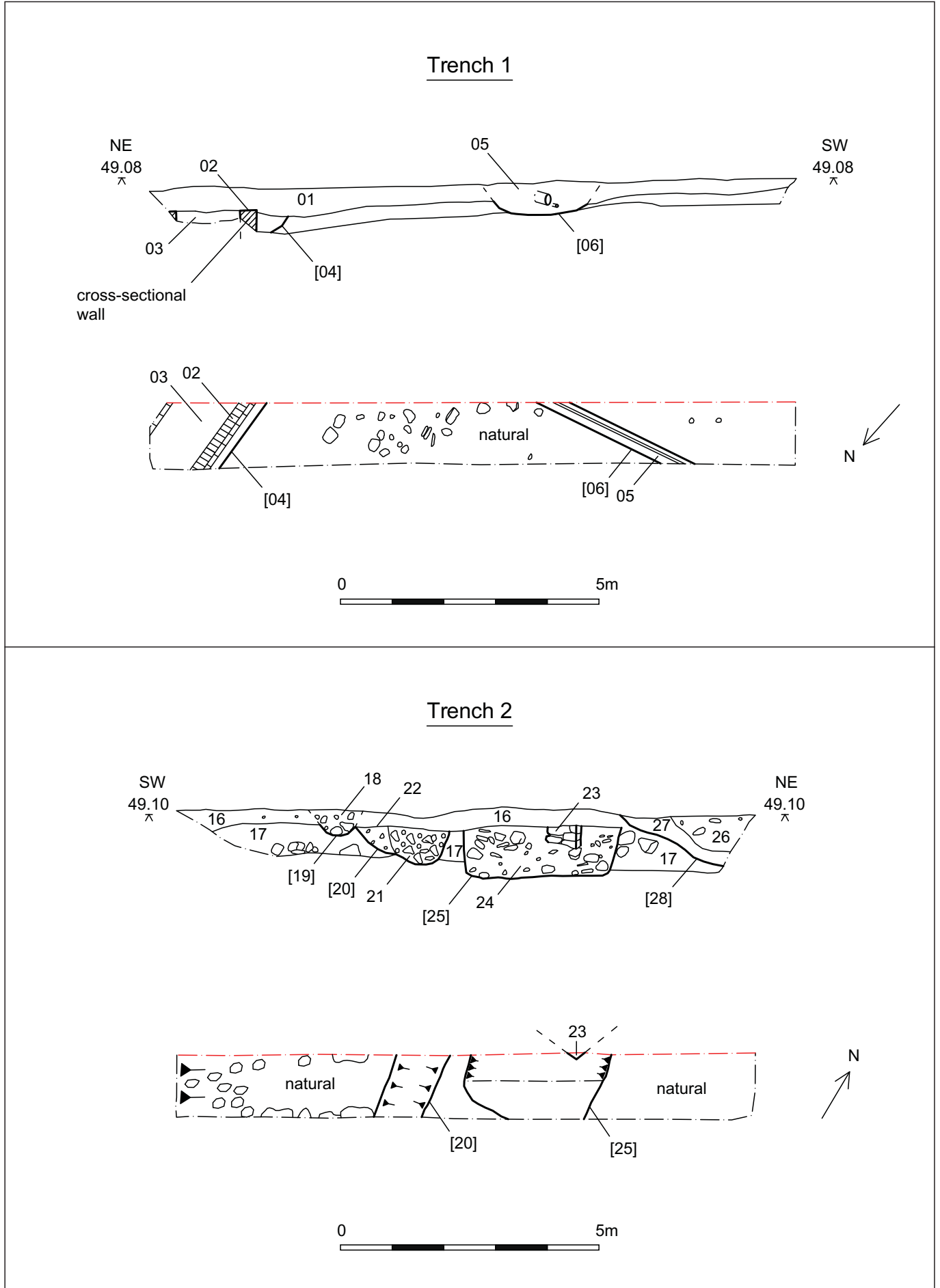
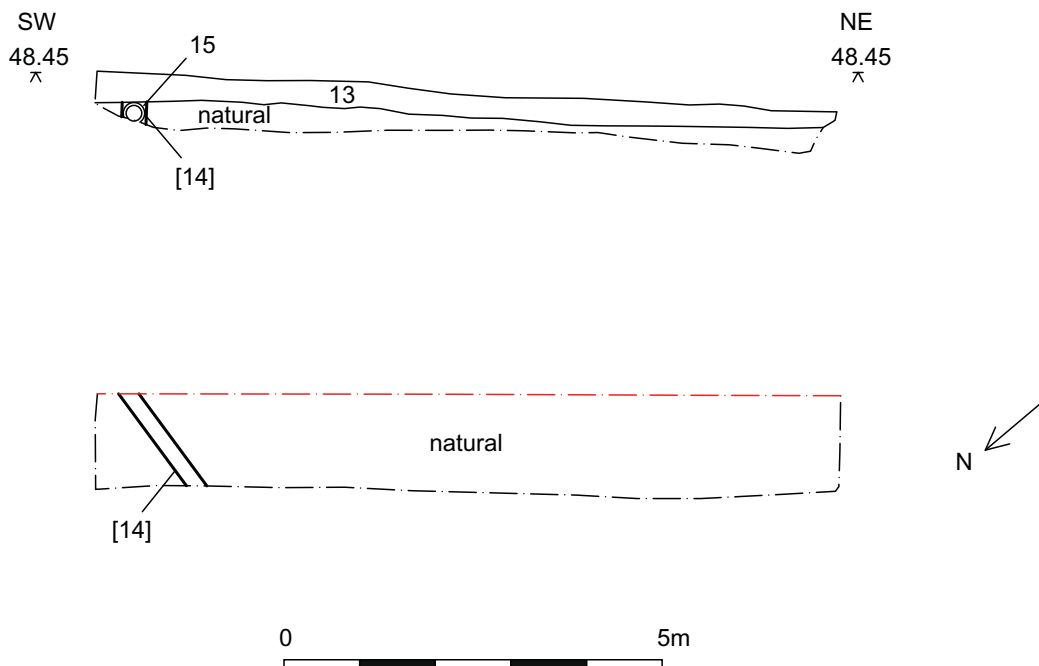


Figure 3: Trench 1 and 2

Trench 3



Trench 4

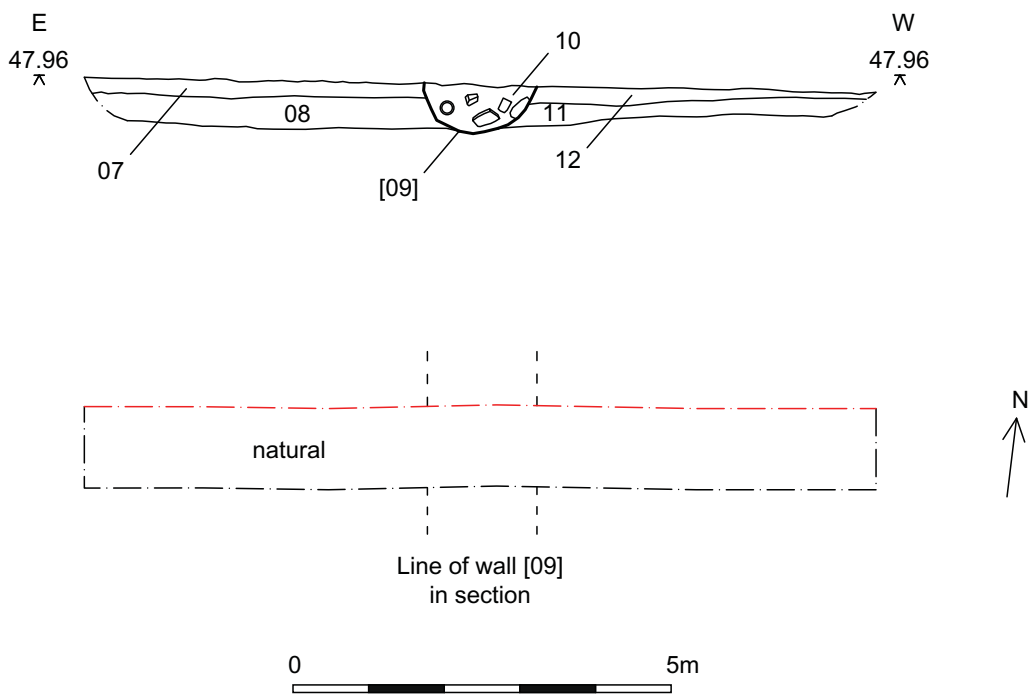


Figure 4: Trench 3 and 4

4.2 Finds

4.2.1 A full list of the finds is presented in *Appendix 4*. The majority of the finds comprised pottery, with a reasonably large proportion of medieval date from sub-soils (**11**) and (**17**), all of which are largely typical of the types found elsewhere in Kendal, and include gritty ware similar to that produced at Docker Moor and Ellel in Lancashire (Gibbon 1986, 45; Lowndes and Edwards 1967, 48-50; White 1993, 10-13). Only a small amount of animal bone and other material was recovered. However, this included a smithing hearth base from context **11**, which may therefore be of medieval date and indicates some industrial activity in the area, and a flint blade of Mesolithic date, which is undoubtedly residual but does suggest that this area along the River Kent was utilised during that period, a fact that is perhaps corroborated by the presence of a single piece of flint debitage from the site at 130-136 Stricklandgate (Greenlane Archaeology 2008c) and microlithic artefacts found during excavations at the Roman fort at Watercrock to the south (Turner 1979).

4.2.2 The post-medieval pottery is largely of little significance apart from a fragment of hand-made red earthenware kiln furniture from context **24**, probably dating to the late 18th to early 19th century (judging by both its fabric and the dates of other finds within the same context). Its presence does not necessarily suggest pottery production on the site or its immediate environs; indeed, factory-produced white pipe clay kiln furniture has been recorded on sites where such pottery factories are known not to have been (Dawson 2000, 160).

4.2.3 It is possible that such items were accidentally taken from pottery production sites within packing material around fragile pots. However, there are records of potters in Kendal around 1800 ((CRO(K) WD RG/405/4 1776; CRO(K) WD RG/405/5 1783; CRO(K) WQ/SR/598B/10 1804; CRO(K) WQ/SR/601/13 1805; CRO(K) WQ/SR/604/3 1805)), although whether these are people engaged in making pottery or simply known by the title potter, meaning an itinerant trader, is uncertain. A piece of land called Potter Close also existed nearby (on the edge of the River Kent at the east end of Stramongate, as shown on early maps of the town), there were earlier attempts to establish factory-scale pottery production in Kendal in the post-medieval period (McNeil and Newman 2006, 157), and a green-glazed stone was recovered from a site on Castle Street, probably a result of pottery production (Greenlane Archaeology 2008e).

4.3 Summary

4.3.1 The archaeological investigation revealed evidence of wall foundations and a small structure within only one trench, Trench 2. These features were all post-medieval in date and can be loosely correlated with plot boundaries shown on the maps included in the map regression (*Section 3.2*). A subsoil/garden soil of medieval origin was found in Trenches 2 and 4, and the heavily truncated remains of this deposit were also present in Trench 1. This subsoil contained pottery dating from the 12th century onwards, which was heavily abraded, and deemed to be residual as no cut features earlier than the late 18th century were recorded.

4.3.2 The finds bear out this picture of low intensity land use, as evidenced by the lack of cut features. The abraded pot is typical of a cultivation horizon, and while the kiln furniture fragment, microlith and hearth base are interesting finds, they were all clearly residual. The paucity of animal bone was also noticeable, and this further suggests that the medieval presence in this part of the site was confined to horticultural activities.

5 Discussion and Conclusion

5.1 Discussion

5.1.1 The desk-based assessment revealed that the street frontage at 95 Stricklandgate had been developed from at least as far back as 1611, while the rear of the plots had not been developed until the 20th century. Work in the vicinity of the site suggested that archaeological features typical of medieval burgage plots should be present at the site, and given the apparent lack of development it was anticipated that these should be well preserved; however, no features of this date were present. The fieldwork revealed a medieval presence in the form of residual pottery sherds in a garden soil that survived to different degrees across the site as a result of landscaping to accommodate the two 20th century YWCA buildings. Other finds of interest included a flint microlith of Mesolithic date, a small piece of kiln furniture (of 18th – 19th century date) and a smithing hearth base; however there was no evidence to suggest that these were related to the site itself and they were clearly residual in the garden soil. The only negative cut features recorded were two wall footings, one of late 17th or early 18th century date might have related to a small outbuilding or garden feature, and a second footing appeared to relate to the boundary wall between the yard area and the garden area in the rear half of the plot.

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 There was no evidence for any archaeological features of a medieval date despite the fairly extensive trenching carried out at the site, it would appear from the fieldwork and finds that the site had a long standing but low intensity usage which was probably confined to horticultural activity. It is, however, possible that features of medieval date cut into the natural are present on the site, particularly in the area of Trench 2, which had the best preserved stratigraphy, and that the evaluation trenches simply missed these. In addition, the two post-medieval features and sub-soil present within Trench 2 are arguably of interest in their own right, especially feature **25**, which clearly related to a structure (**23**) and its backfill contained some, albeit slight, evidence for post-medieval pottery production.

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Appendix 1: Project Brief

BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT THE YMCA, 95 STRICKLANDGATE, KENDAL, CUMBRIA

Issued by the

County Historic Environment Service

Environment Unit



Date of Brief: 16 September 2009

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

SITE DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY

Site: YMCA, 95 Stricklandgate, Kendal

Grid Reference: SD 5156 9298

Planning Application No.: SL/09/0385

Scope of Evaluation: 50 square metres of trial trenching

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 Field Archaeologists, or equivalent. Any response to this Brief should follow IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 2001. No fieldwork may commence until approval of a specification has been issued by the County Historic Environment Service.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) has been consulted by South Lakeland District Council regarding a planning application for the demolition of the existing YMCA building and the erection of a supported accommodation block at 95 Stricklandgate, Kendal.
- 2.3 The scheme affects an area of high archaeological potential within the centre of Kendal and so a condition has been placed on planning consent requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken at the site. The first phase of this work will be an archaeological evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site. This Brief deals solely with this phase. The results of the evaluation will inform the necessity and scope of any further archaeological investigation of the site to record significant archaeological remains that will be disturbed by the development.
- 2.4 This advice is in accordance with guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (Archaeology and Planning) and with local, sub-regional and regional planning policy.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site is located to the rear of one of the medieval thoroughfares through Kendal. Archaeological investigations on the opposite side of Stricklandgate, to the rear of numbers 104 – 112, revealed remains of activity in the backplots of dwellings fronting the street dating between the late 12th to mid 14th centuries and the late 14th to 17th centuries. These remains are broadly mirrored in investigations at 130 – 136 Stricklandgate and on the site of Booths, although the former site also contained evidence for metal, wool and leather working.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

- 4.1 *Objectives*
 - 4.1.1 The evaluation should aim to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied.

4.2 *Work Required*

- 4.2.1 A desk-based assessment of the existing resource, to be undertaken before any work commences on site. This should include an assessment of primary and secondary maps and documents relating to the site, to set the evaluation results in their geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context. Records held by the County Historic Environment Record and County Records Office in Kendal should be consulted.
- 4.2.2 A visual inspection of the site to note areas of potentially significant disturbance, and hazards and constraints to undertaking further archaeological work on site (including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths).
- 4.2.3 The excavation of a series of linear trial trenches and/or test-pits to adequately sample the threatened available area, and the investigation and recording of deposits and features of archaeological interest identified within those trenches. All features must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the County Historic Environment Service. Modern overburden can be removed by machine, but subsequent cleaning and investigation must be by hand. A minimum sample of 50 square metres of trial trenching should be investigated and it is expected that a representative sample of the site will be easiest to achieve once the existing YMCA building has been demolished.
- 4.2.4 The evaluation should provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals. An impact assessment should also be provided, wherever possible.
- 4.2.5 The following analyses should form part of the evaluation, as appropriate. If any of these areas of analysis are not considered viable or appropriate, their exclusion should be justified in the subsequent report.
- A suitably qualified specialist should assess the environmental potential of the site through the examination of suitable deposits, including: (1) soil pollen analysis and the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features, and; (2) the retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits.
 - Advice is to be sought from a suitably qualified specialist in faunal remains on the potential of sites for producing bones of fish and small mammals. If there is potential, a sieving programme should be undertaken. Faunal remains, collected by hand and sieved, are to be assessed and analysed, if appropriate.
 - The advice from a suitably qualified soil scientist should be sought on whether a soil micromorphological study or any other analytical techniques will enhance understanding site formation processes of the site, including the amount of truncation to buried deposits and the preservation of deposits within negative features. If so, analysis should be undertaken.

SPECIFICATION

- 5.1 Before the project commences a project proposal must be submitted to, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Service.
- 5.2 Proposals to meet this Brief should take the form of a detailed specification prepared in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed. 1991, and must include:
- ❖ A description of the excavation sampling strategy and recording system to be used
 - ❖ A description of the finds and environmental sampling strategies to be used
 - ❖ A description of the post excavation and reporting work that will be undertaken
 - ❖ Details of key project staff, including the names of the project manager, site supervisor, finds and environmental specialists and any other specialist sub-contractors to be employed
 - ❖ Details of on site staffing, expressed in terms of person days
 - ❖ A projected timetable for all site work and post excavation work
 - ❖ The proposed locations of the trial trenches.
- 5.3 Any significant variations to the proposal must be agreed by the County Historic Environment Service in advance.

REPORTING AND PUBLICATION

- 6.1 The archaeological work should result in a report, this should include as a minimum:
- ❖ A site location plan, related to the national grid
 - ❖ A front cover/frontispiece which includes the planning application number and the national grid reference of the site
 - ❖ The dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken
 - ❖ A concise, non-technical summary of the results
 - ❖ An explanation of any agreed variations to the brief, including justification for any analyses not undertaken (see 4.2.5)
 - ❖ A description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and the results obtained
 - ❖ Plans and sections at an appropriate scale, showing the location and position of deposits and finds located, and absolute heights above Ordnance Datum.
 - ❖ A list of, and dates for, any finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified
 - ❖ A description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained
- 6.2 Three copies of the report should be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within two months of completion of fieldwork. This will be on the understanding that the report will be made available as a public document through the County Historic Environment Record.
- 6.3 The results of the evaluation will need to be made available for inclusion in a summary report to a suitable regional or national archaeological publication if further archaeological fieldwork is expected.
- 6.4 Recommendations concerning any subsequent mitigation strategies and/or further archaeological work following the results of the field evaluation should **not** be included in the report. Such recommendations are welcomed by the County Historic Environment Service, and may be outlined in a separate communication.
- 6.5 Cumbria HER is taking part in the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis> must therefore also be completed as part of the project. Information on projects undertaken in Cumbria will be made available through the above website, unless otherwise agreed.

THE ARCHIVE

- 7.1 An archive must be prepared in accordance with the recommendations in Brown, DH, 2007, *Archaeological Archives A Guide To Best Practice In Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum. Arrangements must be made for its long term storage and deposition with an appropriate repository. A copy shall also be offered to the National Monuments Record.
- 7.2 The landowner should be encouraged to transfer the ownership of finds to a local or relevant specialist museum. The museum's requirements for the transfer and storage of finds should be discussed before the project commences.
- 7.3 The County Historic Environment Service must be notified of the arrangements made.

PROJECT MONITORING

- 8.1 One weeks notice must be given to the County Historic Environment Service prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 8.2 Fieldwork will be monitored by the Historic Environment Officer on behalf of the local planning authority.

FURTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to establish safe working practices in terms of current health and safety legislation, to ensure site access and to obtain notification of hazards (eg. services, contaminated ground, etc.). **The County Historic Environment Service bears no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this Brief or subsequent specification.**
- 9.2 All aspects of the evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct* and the IFA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.
- 9.3 Human remains must be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation should normally be permitted beyond that necessary to establish the date and character of the burial, and the County Historic Environment Service and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. If removal is essential, it can only take place under appropriate Department for Constitutional Affairs and environmental health regulations.
- 9.4 The involvement of the County Historic Environment Service should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding this brief, contact

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Appendix 2: Project Design

YWCA, 95 STRICKLANDGATE, KENDAL, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Evaluation Project Design



Client: Impact Housing Association

Planning application number: SL/09/0385

November 2009

Client: Impact Housing Association

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Following consultation relating to the submission of a planning application (Ref. SL/09/0385) by Day Cummins on behalf of Impact Housing Association (hereafter 'the client') for the demolition of the existing building and construction of a new accommodation block at the YWCA, 95 Stricklandgate, Cumbria (NGR SD 5156 9298) a recommendation was made that an archaeological assessment be carried out prior to the work taking place. The Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), after consultation with South Lakeland District Council provided a brief for the work, which was to comprise an archaeological evaluation of part of the site (CHES 2009). The evaluation is intended to establish, where possible, whether any remains of archaeological significance are present on the site, their nature, and degree of survival, extent, significance, and date. As part of the work on site a desk-based assessment was also to be carried out. This was intended to set the site in its historical and topographical landscape, establish the location, extent, survival and significance of any known archaeological remains on the site prior to the evaluation.

1.1.2 The proposed development site is located on the east side of Stricklandgate, one of the main thoroughfares of medieval Kendal. Archaeological work at several other points along Stricklandgate has revealed extensive remains of medieval activity, principally comprising pits and boundary ditches but also revealing some small-scale industrial remains; the two closest and most substantial sites being 104-112 Stricklandgate (OA North 2004) and 130-136 Stricklandgate (Greenlane Archaeology 2008a; 2008b; 2008c). It is likely therefore that similar remains will be present on the proposed development site.

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 17 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 of Field Archaeologists (IfA 2008a; 2008b).

1.3 Project Staffing

1.3.1 The project will be managed by **Dan Elsworth (MA (Hons), AIfA)**. 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 archaeological excavation projects in the region including an evaluation in Milnthorpe (Greenlane Archaeology 2008d), and a watching brief in Kendal (Greenlane Archaeology 2008e), and most recently a series of assessments at 130-136 Stricklandgate, Kendal (Greenlane Archaeology 2008a; 2008b; 2008c).

1.3.2 The desk-based assessment will be supervised by **Dan Elsworth**. The archaeological evaluation will be supervised by **Sam Whitehead (BSc (Hons), MA)**, with assistance from a suitably qualified individual. Sam graduated from the University of Liverpool in 1994 with an honours degree in Archaeology, and has more than 10 years professional experience in commercial archaeology, much of which was in a supervisory capacity. He has extensive experience of excavations, evaluations, and watching briefs, as well as report writing and illustration production. Recent relevant projects include evaluations at Upper Brook Street, Ulverston (Greenlane Archaeology 2007b), Collin Croft, Kendal

(Greenlane Archaeology 2007c), and a large evaluation and excavation at 130-136 Stricklandgate, Kendal (Greenlane Archaeology 2008a; 2008b; 2008c).

1.3.3 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. Finds of earlier date will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate, and in this case it is envisaged that these may include Ian Miller or Jeremy Bradley, both of Oxford Archaeology North, for medieval pottery. CHES will be notified of any other specialists, other than those named, who Greenlane Archaeology wishes to engage, before any specialist contracts are awarded, and the approval of CHES will be sought.

1.3.4 Environmental samples, and faunal or human remains will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology. It is envisaged that they will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors at Headland Archaeology or Oxford Archaeology North depending on their timetabling constraints. CHES 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 Cumbria 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 Site Visit

2.2.1 To examine the site and identify suitable locations for the evaluation trenches and any constraints on their excavation.

2.3 Archaeological Evaluation

2.3.1 To excavate a series of evaluation trenches or test pits covering an area of at least 50m². These will assess the presence or absence of features of archaeological interest within the area, their extent, date, and significance.

2.4 Report

2.4.1 To produce a report detailing the results of the desk-based assessment and evaluation, that will outline the historic development of the site, list the known sites of archaeological interest, present the results of the evaluation, and assess the potential of the site and significance of the remains.

2.5 Archive

2.5.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the desk-based assessment and 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:

- **Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER):** this is a list of all of the recorded sites of archaeological interest recorded in the county, and is the primary source of information for a study of this kind. 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;

- **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 to 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.

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

3.1.3 Recommendations for areas to be targeted by evaluation trenching will be presented based on the results of the desk-based assessment. This will take into consideration the areas in which there is evidence for the presence of archaeological remains, the significance of known remains, areas of high potential, or areas which are likely to be disturbed by subsequent activity on the site.

3.2 Site Visit

3.2.1 A rapid inspection of the site will be carried out primarily in order to identify suitable areas to position the evaluation trenches, but also to reveal the presence of anything that could constrain their excavation. This would particularly include issues relating to matters of health and safety such as the presence of live service or overhead cables, but also adjoining structures and the presence of trees. Any factors that would prevent or make difficult access to the site will also be identified. Brief notes will be made on the nature of the site and photographs taken as necessary.

3.2.2 The recommendations for areas to be targeted by evaluation trenching will be reconsidered based on the results of the site visit, taking into account any obvious constraints or areas of extensive modern disturbance.

3.3 Archaeological Evaluation

3.3.1 A total of at least 50m² of evaluation trenching is required by the brief (*Appendix 1*). Depending on the results of the desk-based assessment, it is envisaged that this will be covered by excavating three trenches each approximately 10m long and 1.7m wide (a standard excavator bucket width), until significant archaeological deposits or the natural geology are reached, or to a depth of 1.2m. These trenches will target areas identified during the desk-based assessment and site visit as having the greatest archaeological potential and the least likelihood of constraints (see *Sections 3.13* and *3.2.2* above), and following consultation with CHES. It is anticipated that the evaluation will take two days on site with two archaeologists (totalling four person days).

3.3.2 The evaluation methodology, which is based on Greenlane Archaeology's excavation manual (Greenlane Archaeology 2007a), 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 will also be consulted in order to identify the presence of other services;

- The trenches 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 relatively modern make-up deposits) 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 CHES, with the intension 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 preserved environmental remains will be sampled. Bulk samples of between 10 and 40 litres in volume, depending on the size and potential of the deposit, will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits, and ditches) and occupation deposits such as hearths and floors. An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of suitable deposits by specialist sub-contractors (see *Section 1.3.5* 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. CHES will be immediately informed as will the local coroner. Should it be considered necessary to remove the remains this will require a Home Office licence, under Section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857, which will be applied for should the need arise;
- Any objects defined as 'treasure' by the Treasure Act of 1996 (HMSO 1996) will be immediately reported to the local coroner and secured stored off-site, or covered and protected on site if immediate removal is not possible;
- 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.

3.3.3 Should any significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the evaluation these will immediately be brought to the attention of CHES so that the need for further work can be confirmed. Any additional work and ensuing costs will be agreed with the client and according to the requirements of CHES, and subject to a variation to this project design.

3.4 Report

3.4.1 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 including historical background, map regression and appropriate details relating to any sites of archaeological interest identified within the study area or areas of archaeological potential;
- 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, areas of further archaeological potential, areas in which further work is recommended, and appropriate types of further work;
- 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 study area in relation to nearby structures and the local landscape;
 - copies of early maps, plans, drawings, photographs and other illustrations of elements of the site, annotated with the extent of the proposed development area where appropriate;
 - 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 trenches;
 - illustrations of individual artefacts as appropriate.

3.5 Archive

3.5.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the desk-based assessment and 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.

3.5.2 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, three copies will be provided for the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition, Greenlane Archaeology will retain one copy, and digital copies will be deposited with the NMR and OASIS scheme as required.

3.5.3 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 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.

4. Work timetable

4.1 Greenlane Archaeology will be available to commence the project on **23rd November 2009**, or at another date convenient to the client. The project will comprise the following tasks:

- **Task 1:** desk-based assessment, including compilation of this element of the report;
- **Task 2:** site visit;
- **Task 3:** submission of proposed evaluation trench location plan to Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service for approval;
- **Task 4:** archaeological evaluation;
- **Task 5:** post-excavation work on archaeological evaluation, including processing of finds and production of draft report and illustrations;
- **Task 6:** 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 **£250,000**. Details of this can be supplied if requested.

5.4 Environmental and Ethical Policy

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

6. Bibliography

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- OA North, 2004 *Yards 110 and 112 Stricklandgate, Kendal, Cumbria: Archaeological Excavation Assessment Report*, unpubl rep

Appendix 3: Summary Context List

Context	Type	Trench	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	1	Dark brownish-grey gritty sandy silt with flecks of building rubble and mortar	Demolition bedding layer
02	Wall	1	North/south frogged grey brick wall footing	Modern, relating to 1959 YWCA Club building
03	Deposit	1	Brownish-grey gritty sandy silt with flacks of mortar. Fill of construction cut [04] for wall 02	Backfill between parallel wall footings/foundations
04	Cut	1	Linear cut, assumed steep sides and flat base	Modern construction cut for foundation wall footings
05	Deposit	1	Black, loose gritty sandy-silt	Fill of pipe trench cut [06]
06	Cut	1	Linear cut for water pipe trench	Modern pipe trench
07	Layer	4	Brownish dark grey clay-silt, occasional mortar and sub-angular pebble	Demolition/construction deposit
08	Layer	4	Brownish mid-grey slightly gritty silt, occasional pebble and gravel	Garden soil
09	Cut	4	Linear north/south cut for east wall of YWCA club building	Modern wall trench
10	Deposit	4	Greyish mid-brown loose sandy silt, with frogged brick, limestone rubble, ceramic pipe fragments	Modern trench backfill
11	Layer	4	Brownish dark-grey sandy silt, occasional mortar fragments	Garden soil
12	Layer	4	Brownish dark-grey sandy silt, occasional pebble or cobble	Demolition/construction deposit
13	Layer	3	Brownish dark-grey sandy silt, occasional pebble or cobble	Demolition/construction deposit
14	Deposit	3	Black, loose gritty sandy-silt	Modern backfill
15	Cut	3	East/west orientated linear, steep sides	Modern pipe trench
16	Layer	2	Brownish dark-grey sandy silt, occasional pebble or cobble	Demolition/construction deposit
17	Layer	2	Orange mid-brown silty sand, with fairly frequent sub-rounded gravels	Garden soil
18	Deposit	2	Dark greyish brown slightly sandy silt, frequent sub-angular cobbles	Foundation fill
19	Cut	2	Narrow linear cut, shallow, u-shaped base	Boundary wall foundation

Context	Type	Trench	Description	Interpretation
20	Cut	2	Linear north/south cut, sloping on west side and steep on east with sloping base	Wall footing trench
21	Deposit	2	Loose angular and sub-angular limestone rubble in dark grey loose silty-sand	Wall foundation deposit
22	Deposit	2	Secondary fill of construction cut [20], loose sub-angular cobbles in dark grey silty-sand	Foundation trench backfill
23	Wall	2	Three courses of roughly squared limestone block walling, un-mortared	19 th century garden feature or outbuilding?
24	Deposit	2	Loose limestone rubble backfill of construction cut	Backfill of [25] for structure 23
25	Cut	2	Sub-rectangular construction cut with steep sides and flat base	Footings for 19 th century garden feature or outbuilding?
26	Deposit	2	Upper fill of modern truncation [28]	Landscaping relating to addition of YWCA building - 1959
27	Deposit	2	Lower fill of [28]	Landscaping
28	Cut	2	Truncation due to landscaping	Landscaping

Appendix 4: Summary Finds List

Context	Fabric	Qty	Description	Date range
01	Pottery	1	Brown-glazed red earthenware with some spots of black glaze, bowl rim	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
01	Pottery	1	Self-glazed red earthenware strap handle	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
08	Pottery	3	Red earthenware flower pot fragments, including 2 refitting	18 th – 20 th century
08	Pottery	1	Fine brown-glazed red earthenware fragment	Late 17 th – early 20 th century (probably earlier end of this range)
08	Glass	1	Flat, very light turquoise, from window pane?	18 th – 20 th century
11	Pottery	2	Refitting fragments of high-fired fine brown glazed red earthenware	15 th – mid 18 th century
11	Pottery	1	Northern gritty ware	12 th – mid-13 th century
11	Pottery	1	Northern gritty ware, soft fabric	12 th – mid-13 th century
11	Pottery	2	Reduced green ware, refitting	15 th – 17 th century
11	Pottery	1	Partially reduced grey ware	13 th – 14 th century
11	Fe	1	Smithing hearth base	Not closely dateable
17	Stone	1	Semi-translucent grey flint bladelet, snapped at both ends so no bulb of percussion visible, some use wear flakes along edges	Late Mesolithic
17	Stone	1	Broken piece of roofing slate	Medieval – modern
17	Fe	1	Corroded nail	Not closely dateable
17	Pottery	1	Self-glazed buff coloured earthenware with slip decoration	Late 17 th – early 18 th century
17	Pottery	1	Smooth oxidised fabric with pale-orange and black surface, some glaze spotting on black surface, very abraded	Romano-British – medieval
17	Pottery	6	Northern gritty ware, buff coloured fabric, including 1 rim and two base sherds	12 th – mid-13 th century
17	Pottery	5	Northern gritty ware, pink fabric, including 1 rim sherd	12 th – mid-13 th century
17	Pottery	7	Sandy ware, various fabrics, including 1 strap handle fragment, and body sherd with handle and combed decoration	13 th – 14 th century

Context	Fabric	Qty	Description	Date range
17	Pottery	2	Reduced green ware	15 th – 17 th century
17	Pottery	2	Partially reduced greyware	13 th – 14 th century
17	Pottery	2	Red earthenware with some glaze splashes, including 1 base sherd	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
21	Pottery	3	Refitting base fragments of brown-glazed red earthenware plate with white slip decoration	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
21	Glass	3	Dark green bottle bases (2) and side fragment	1780-1820 (Morgan n.d., 24-25)
24	Animal bone	2	Large mammal long bone fragment, and foot bone	Not closely dateable
24	Marine shell	1	Oyster	Not closely dateable
24	Pottery	1	Coarse black-glazed red earthenware, abraded, with mortar attached – wall inclusion?	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
24	Pottery	1	Fine brown-glazed red earthenware hollow ware everted rim with two white slip stripes	Late 17 th – 19 th century
24	Pottery	1	Fine self-glazed red earthenware with black glaze dripped down	Late 17 th – 19 th century
24	Pottery	1	Brown-glazed red earthenware dish rim, indented along edge and with white slip strip	Late 17 th – 18 th century
24	Pottery	1	Fine red earthenware with white slip stripe, unglazed. Flower?	Late 17 th – 19 th century
24	Pottery	1	White earthenware saucer fragment with 'Broseley' transfer print	19 th century
24	Pottery	1	White earthenware chinoiserie transfer print, cup(?) fragment	19 th century
24	Glass	1	Dark green bottle neck	1700-1800 (Morgan n.d., 24-25)
24	Pottery	1	Lump of red earthenware, snapped off of a larger hand-made rod with fragments of black glaze attached – probable kiln furniture prop or packer (Haggarty 2006, 12-14)	Late 18 th – early 19 th century