

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Project origins	3
2 METHODOLOGY	3
2.1 Project design	3
2.2 Archive	4
3 BACKGROUND	5
3.1 Location, topography and geology	5
4 HISTORICAL CONTEXT	5
4.1 Desk-based assessment	5
5 RESULTS	8
5.1 Methodology	8
5.2 Results	8
5.3 Discussion	9
6 ARCHIVE	10
7 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	11
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	11

FIGURES

Figure 1	Location of study area	4
Figure 2	Village of Maulds Meaburn showing plots and earthworks	6
Figure 3	Jeffrey's map of 1770	7
Figure 4	Site plan with reference to the village hall	9
Figure 5	Western trench with French drain	10
Figure 6	Removed southern wall	10
Figure 7	Exposed geo-textile membrane	10

SUMMARY

The watching brief revealed that any putative archaeological deposits had been removed during the footprint insertion when the village hall was built.

No finds or other features were present that could enhance this assessment.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Origins

English Heritage was consulted by Eden District Council regarding a planning application for remedial works regarding the foundations for the village hall, Maulds Meaburn. English Heritage confirmed that SMC (Scheduled Monument Consent) will be required for work within this site.

As potential and significant archaeological remains may be encountered, an archaeological watching brief has been requested by English Heritage.

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd has been commissioned by Mr Jon Underwood, acting on behalf of the client, to undertake a Programme of Archaeological Watching Brief relating to the ground works for this development.

The development of the site involved the machine removal of superfluous soil and clay within the proposed building footprint.

In order to ascertain the historical and archaeological merits affected by this development, the brief issued by the curatorial authority required an investigation into the survival of archaeological deposits through an archaeological watching brief. A desk-based assessment was also required prior to the watching brief taking place.

This document describes the results of that archaeological evaluation and its context within the desk-based assessment.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

In response to a request by English Heritage, Gerry Martin Associates Ltd submitted a project design. This document outlined the contractors' professional competence as well as general objectives required of the project, the methodology and the resources needed for the successful expedition of this work.

The study area is close to the green in the centre of the historic Medieval village of Maulds Meaburn and is part of an area legally protected as a Scheduled Monument (Scheduled Monument no. 32844). English Heritage confirmed that SMC will be required for work within this site. The Scheduled Monument comprises extensive earthwork remains of the former tofts and crofts and field systems of the medieval village.

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd has been commissioned to undertake the archaeological fieldwork following approval of the project design by the curatorial body.

The following report has been assembled to the relevant standards and protocols of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief, 2008), combined with accepted best practice and in accordance with the brief prepared by the curatorial authority.

Fieldwork took place on June 21st 2010.

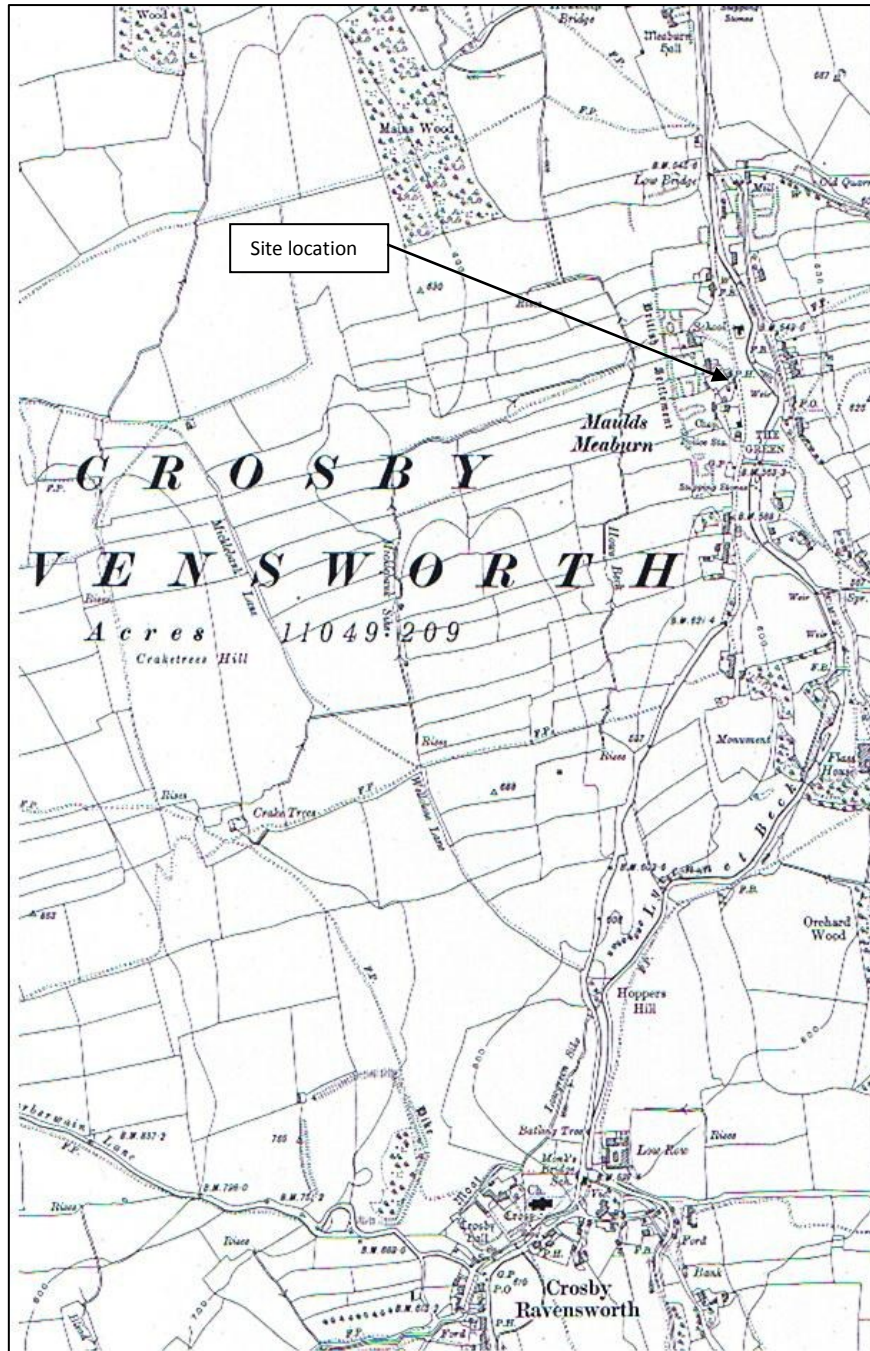


Figure 1. Location of study area. (OS Copyright, Licence no. 100044205)

2.2 Archive

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

The archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, topography and geology

The study area (NY 62492 16173) lies within a landscape associated with the Medieval settlement and field system of Maulds Meaburn.

The village lies within the Lyvennet valley and survives as a simple, functional and largely undeveloped rural settlement. The present buildings tend to occupy rising ground adjacent to flat meadowland which lie on opposite sides of the beck.

The present village buildings occupy rising ground at circa 185m OD adjacent to a flat swathe of meadowland beside the beck. The presence of this flat meadowland in a valley incised below the general level of the surrounding dry limestone plateau was probably the result of meltwaters coursing through the proto-Lyvennet channel during the final stages of the glacial period (Roberts 1997, 45).

The local geology has produced a loam with a clay and gravel sub-soil (Whellan 1860, 794-795).

4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

4.1 Desk-based assessment

The name Meaburn is probably derived from the Anglo-Saxon name for the beck meaning “meadow stream”. However, as a place of settlement there could be Romano-British or prehistoric antecedents.

Maulds Meaburn was a former single manor that was divided into two parts namely Kings Meaburn held by Hugh de Morville and Maulds Meaburn held by Maud de Veterpoint, Hugh’s sister.

Following the murder of Thomas a’Beckett in which Hugh de Morville was complicit, the Crown seized his lands whereas Maud’s portion is distinguished as Maud’s or Maulds Meaburn. Maud de Veteripont was given the estate in *circa* 1174 (Roberts 1997, 49), the land passing to her husband William de Veteripont and thereafter through the Frauncey and Vernon families until it is purchased by Sir John Lowther during the reign of James I.

Meaburn Hall built in 1610 became the Lowther family seat until 1750 when they moved to Lowther Castle. The Earl of Lonsdale however still retains ownership of much of Maulds Meaburn.

The village comprises two narrow lanes of cottages divided by Lyvennet Beck in an area of rich pastureland. In the 1600’s the course of the Lyvennet was altered to flow through the village in order to service a water mill.

Maulds Meaburn is a significant example of a Medieval village and its accompanying agricultural landscape. Bounded by a former back-lane, each narrow allotment was divided ladder-wise into a set of smaller tofts or house plots allowing each tenant family access to the village common land and equal amounts of productive lowland ground that progressively became less productive further from the village centre. On the fringes of the village, the land developed into open moor and common land available to all (figure 2).

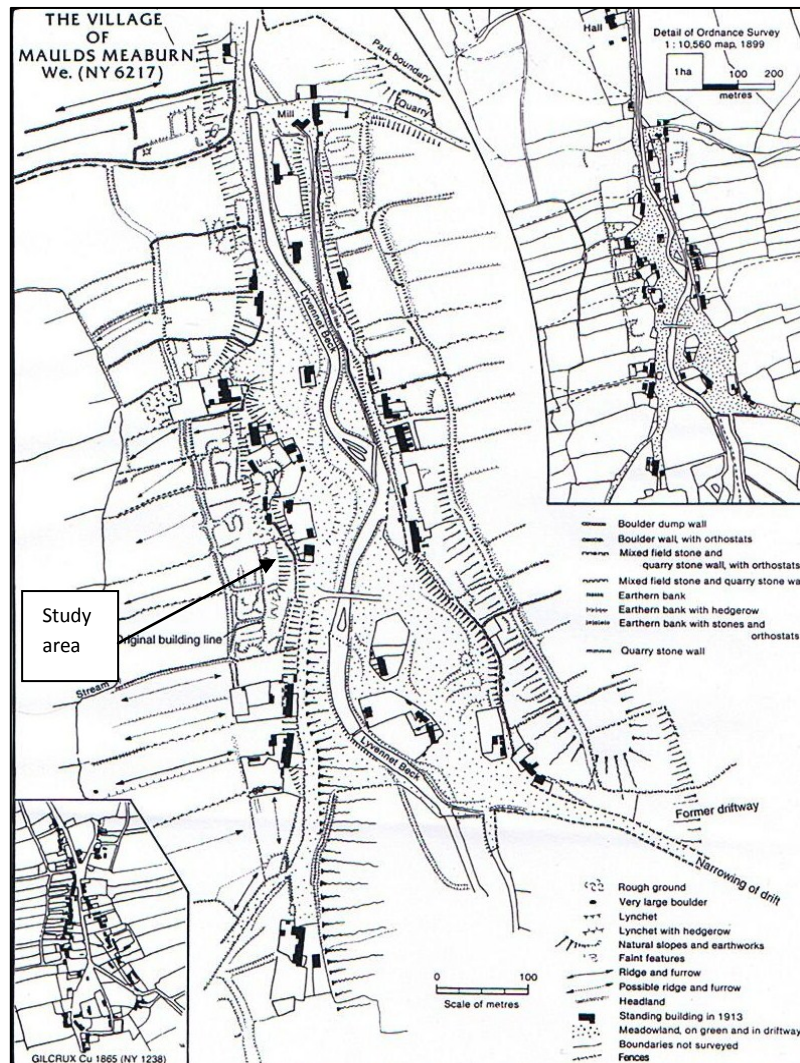


Figure 2. The village of Maulds Meaburn showing plots and earthworks (after Roberts).

Settlement in Maulds Meaburn is illustrated by raised earth platforms or tofts (Figure 2) upon which timber and stone structures were built with probable intervening tracks, streets or cobbled yards demarcating properties. Depending on the level of truncation encountered, structural features such as post-holes may be evident as well as outline features that include eavesdrops and gullies. Buried soils may also indicate the presence of a toft.

Based on detailed examination of the 19th Century Ordnance Survey and subsequent field survey, B.K.Roberts identified a long narrow enclosed block of land divided into a series of tofts or house plots. The result of this examination was that the village plan comprised of two long rather narrow compartments of tofts placed on the rising lands to the east and the west of the valley and bounded from the surrounding strip fields by a series of parallel back lanes no longer extant (Roberts 1996, 45-46).

The date for this action is not known though it appears to have been enacted by the 13th Century with its origins in the 12th Century (Roberts 1996, 47-48).

The significance of Maulds Meaburn lies in the visibility of the monument and the opportunity that arises to understand the internal dynamics of a High Medieval village. It indicates a high degree of centralised planning but also singular development that accounts for topography, access to resources and natural impediments.

By 1240, the village was a large one; “a moiety containing four and half ploughlands of land, the demesne with meadows, pasture and woodlands, some twenty-eight bovates and nine acres of tenant land, two cottages and eight holdings” (Roberts 1997, 48).

The planned village probably attracted three types of tenants: movement from an older site, an influx of new colonists and aggregation of existing tenants from outlying farmsteads and hamlets. Such action may have been a generic concept but became a gradual accretive process that formalised the village into a regular, formalised plan whose conceptual origins probably date to the twelfth century (Roberts 1997, 49-50).

In 1332, Maulds Meaburn held 36 tax-paying households and would be classified as a large village (Fraser 1966, 142). By 1787, the population had risen to 55 households totalling 237 inhabitants (Jones 1974, 216) and is a conspicuous settlement on the Jeffrey’s map of 1770 (figure 3).

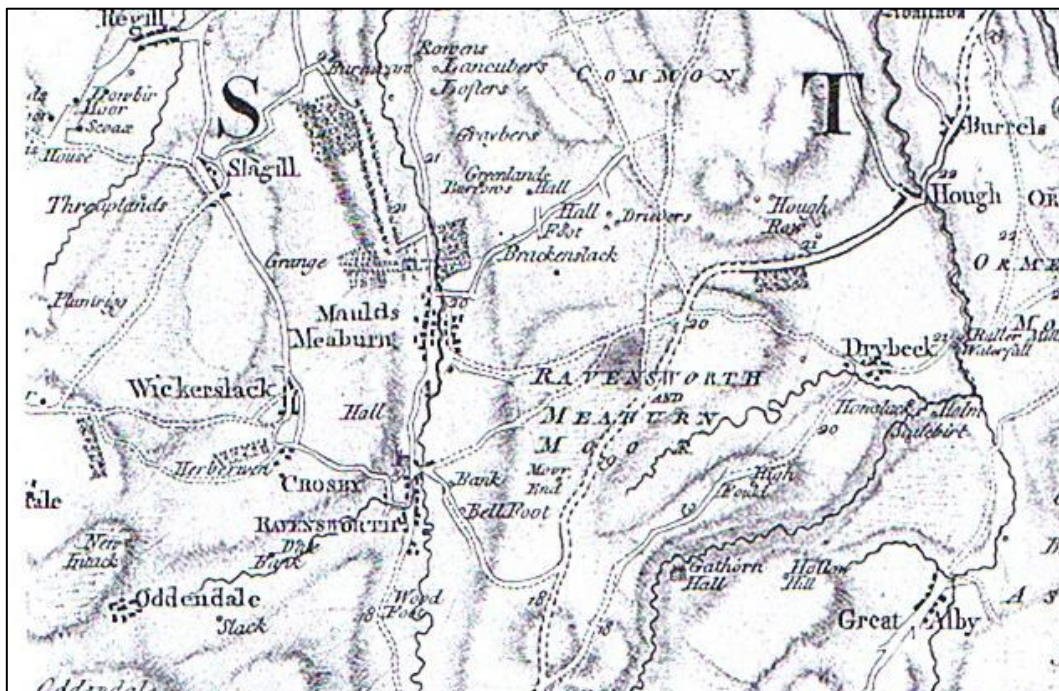


Figure 3. Jeffrey’s map of 1770

A fair was established in 1828 (Whellan 1860, 794-795).

In 2003 a watching brief (Report 3/03/1029) undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North at the village Institute (NY 6250 1618) monitored the insertion of a field drain. No archaeological deposits were encountered and a single sherd of Medieval pottery was recovered (Cumberland and Westmorland Arch Trans 2004, 293).

Previous examination by the author at Croft Ends in 2005 and 2009 (note to Andrew Davison, English Heritage) provided little evidence of any past settlement or cultural activity.

The Historic Environment Record documents the following entries pertinent to this desk-based assessment

- 1682 Addison's Monument; field system and commemorative monument
- 1683 Trainlands, coin find, Antonine
- 1697 Maulds Meaburn Medieval village; shrunken village, Ancient Monument
- 1700 Grayber; spoon find, prehistoric/Iron Age
- 1702 Maulds Meaburn Cross
- 6197 Flans House; ridge and furrow with a quarry
- 9946 Wicker Street; Roman road
- 14994 Maulds Meaburn Edge; quarries, unknown/Post-Medieval
- 14995 Maulds Meaburn Edge; limekilns, Victorian
- 14996 Scattergate Quarries, quarries, Post-Medieval
- 14997 Scattergate Limekilns; Post-Medieval
- 14999 Micklebank Sike; limekiln
- 15031 Micklebank Quarries; quarries, Post-Medieval
- 15038 Maulds Meaburn corn and saw mill; house, watermill, corn mill, mill race and saw mill, Stuart, Ancient Monument
- 15039 Stepping stones, undated
- 15040 Maulds Meaburn weirs; weir, Post-Medieval
- 15292 Maulds Meaburn; Shrunken Medieval Village earthworks, Ancient Monument
- 16985 Cropmarks; unknown
- 42242 Socketed axe find; Bronze Age

5. RESULTS

5.1 Methodology

A machine excavated trench aligned north-south (NY 62492 16173 to NY 62494 16192) measuring 20m x 1.80m was inserted between 0.50-1.00m west of a modern dry-stone wall beside the western limit of the village hall to a depth of 0.50m (figure 4). This trench was monitored for archaeological deposits and then released to the contractors.

A returning wall at the southern end of the site was removed leaving a 45 degree angle of repose for the new groundworks.

5.2 Results

The excavated area (20m x 1.80m) revealed dark brown rich loam to a depth of 0.30m that represented the extant topsoil.

This material rested above light brown clayey silt containing irregular stone fragments to a depth of 0.20m that covered a brown clay sub-soil containing loose stone fragments.

A single, modern French Drain was encountered (figure 4), up to 0.60m in width and filled with loose modern sub-base with at least three spurs advancing westwards

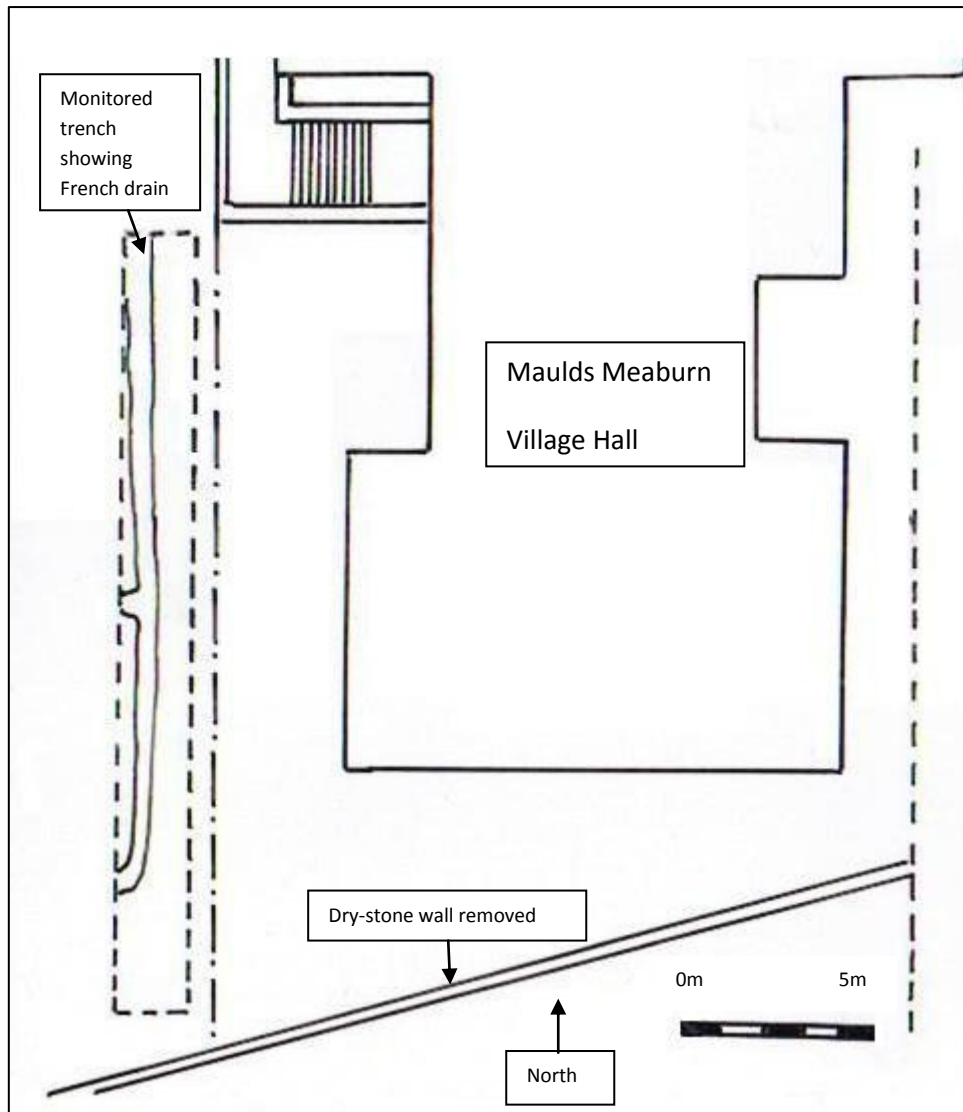


Figure 4. Site plan with reference to the village hall

Within the 10m long trench (figure 6) formed from the removal of a dry-stone wall, only clean brown clay was observed that represented natural drift geology.

No cultural artefacts were present and no deposit warranted environmental sampling.

5.3 Discussion

Previous excavation for the footprint of the village hall had eradicated any traces of surviving archaeological deposits. Current works were within the former building footprint proven by the discovery of a geo-textile membrane (figure 7).



Figure 5. Western trench with french drain



Figure 6. Removed southern wall



Figure 7. Exposed geo-textile membrane

6. ARCHIVE

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, 2001 and 2007).

The archive will be deposited with Kendal Museum and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Mr Jon Underwood, acting on behalf of the client for his collaboration on this project.

I would also like to thank Andrew Davison (English Heritage) for his guidance with the archaeological brief, the staff of Carlisle Library with my research into the local history of the area and the staff of Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle with the map regression and other documentary research.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Andrews, G. | Management of Archaeological Projects, English Heritage 2nd edition 1991, London |
| Fraser, C.M. | <i>Cumberland and Westmorland lay subsidies for 1322</i> . Cumberland and Westmorland Arch Trans 1966 (131-158), Kendal |
| IFA | Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds) Reading, 2001 and 2008. |
| Jones, B.K. | <i>A Field Survey of Maulds Meaburn, Westmorland</i> . Cumberland and Westmorland Arch Trans 1997 (45-50), Kendal |
| Jones, G.P. | Size of Households and Family in some Northern Parishes. Cumberland and Westmorland Arch Trans 1974 (214-217), Kendal |
| Martin, G.M.T. | An Archaeological Evaluation at Crofts End. GMA Ltd Report 53, 2009, Carlisle |
| Whellan, W. | History and Topography of Cumberland 1860, Pontefract |
| Wiseman, W.G. | <i>Recent Archaeological Work in Cumbria</i> . Cumberland and Westmorland Arch Trans, 2004, Kendal |