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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
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HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



RICHARD DIXON

**LAND OFF SCOTBY ROAD,
SCOTBY,
CUMBRIA**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

March 2015



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MARCH 2015

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Richard Dixon, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land off Scotby Road, Scotby, Cumbria.

The work was required as there was potential for archaeological remains to survive within the site.

The archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken over four days between the 16th and 19th March 2015 and involved the excavation of 13 trenches, distributed across the study area.

No archaeological features were encountered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thanks Richard Dixon for commissioning the project. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service for his assistance throughout the project.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Kevin Horsley and Ben Moore. The report was written by Ben Moore and the figures were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director, and the report was edited by Richard Newman, Post-excavation Manager at Wardell Armstrong Archaeology.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

- 1.1.1 In March 2015, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by Richard Dixon to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land off Scotby Road, Scotby, Cumbria.
- 1.1.2 It was agreed with Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHEC) that the site was to be subject to an archaeological evaluation executed through a programme of trial trenching. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following approved standards and guidance (ClfA 2014a), and in accordance with an agreed project design (Giecco 2015), which was submitted to, and approved by Jeremy Parsons prior to the fieldwork taking place.
- 1.1.4 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological evaluation.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in response to a request by Richard Dixon, for an archaeological evaluation of the study area (Giecco 2015). Following acceptance of the project design by Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHEC), Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

2.2 The Field Evaluation

2.2.1 The evaluation as described in the Project Design comprised the excavation of 13 trenches across the study area.

2.2.2 The overall aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains, the evaluation trenches being located to provide a representative sample of the area.

2.2.3 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.4 Turf, topsoil and subsoil were removed by a tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and features were investigated and recorded according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2012).

2.2.5 The 13 evaluation trenches were backfilled following excavation and recording.

2.2.6 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and the

Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (CIfA 2014b).

2.3 The Archive

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). Three copies of the final report will be sent to the CCHES, one copy for the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service where viewing will be available on request. A digital copy of the report (in pdf format) will also be made available. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA15 SCO-1, CP11116.

2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The site is located to the west of Scotby Road, Scotby (centred on NGR NY 44005 55640) in an area that was once used as a market garden and rhubarb farm but has since become disused and covered in brambles and other weeds. It has also been used for the dumping of domestic waste and contains a number of ruinous sheds and other buildings.

3.1.2 The site is approximately 125m north to south by 70m east to west and is roughly rectangular in shape. The site slopes down north-east to south-west between 31.80mOD at the north-east end of Trench 1 to 26.44mOD to the south of Trench 7.

3.1.3 The underlying solid geology at the site comprises Kirklington Sandstone Formation which is overlain by Devensian Till.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. The site is located in an area of prehistoric activity. Numerous finds have been recovered from Scotby and a Bronze Age cemetery was located at Garlands in the general vicinity of the site. Although there is little evidence for activity in the later prehistoric and Roman periods, medieval activity is confirmed by the discovery of a 10th century coin hoard in close proximity to the site.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken over 4 days between the 16th and 19th March 2015 and involved the excavation of 13 trenches, distributed across the study area.

4.1.2 The trenches were located to investigate a representative area although their placement was also dictated by the presence of a sewer pipe running roughly north to south across the site. No trenches were positioned in the south-west corner of the site as this area was waterlogged. In total, the trenches covered 385 square metres of the area.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 The trenches were excavated through topsoil, subsoil and occasional modern dumps of soil and rubbish onto the natural substrate using a tracked mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were then cleaned by hand and recorded. The trenches were 1m wide and with one exception (Trench 2) 30m long.

4.2.2 **Trenches 1 and 2** were located at the northern end of the site, to the north of the access track to the site. Trench 2 was 25m long because of the presence of trees at its north-east and south-west ends.

4.2.3 The trenches were aligned north-east to south-west, ran parallel c.5m apart and were excavated through up to 0.38m of topsoil, 0.30m of orange brown silty sand subsoil onto natural orange sand and sandy clay at an elevation at its lowest point of 28.30mOD. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

4.2.4 **Trenches 3 and 4** were also aligned north-east to south-west and were positioned to the south of the entrance track to the site. They ran parallel c.5m apart for 30m.

4.2.5 The trenches were excavated through 0.40m of topsoil, up to 0.30m of mid orange brown silty sand subsoil onto mottled red and orange natural sand at an elevation at its lowest point of 28.49mOD. No archaeological features were recorded.

4.2.6 **Trenches 5 and 6** were excavated running south-east from the south-eastern side of Trench 4, c. 5m apart.

4.2.7 The trenches were excavated through up to 0.35m of topsoil, 0.32m of orange brown silty sand subsoil onto red and orange natural clay and sand at an elevation at

its lowest point of 29.18mOD. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered.

- 4.2.8 **Trench 7** was positioned along the western side of the study area and was aligned north-south. It was excavated through 0.45m of topsoil, 0.35m of mid orange brown silty sand subsoil onto natural red and orange clay at an elevation at its lowest point of 25.92mOD. No archaeological features were recorded but a French drain was noted running north-west to south-east across the centre of the trench.
- 4.2.9 **Trenches 8 and 9** ran east to west across the centre of the site, c.2m apart. They were excavated through up to 0.32m of topsoil, 0.41m of orange brown silty sand subsoil onto red and orange natural sand at an elevation at its lowest point of 27.48mOD.
- 4.2.10 No archaeological features were noted but two modern ceramic land drains ran north-east to south-west across both trenches.
- 4.2.11 **Trenches 10 and 11** ran north north-west to south south south-east towards the southern boundary of the site c.5m apart.
- 4.2.12 The trenches were excavated through up to 0.33m of topsoil, 0.30m of mid orange brown silty sand subsoil onto yellow and grey mottled sand natural. No archaeological features were encountered but a series of land drains were noted running across the trenches. At the north north-western end of Trench 10, a modern cut for a service was recorded that may be associated with the sewer to the west.
- 4.2.13 **Trench 12** ran north-south along the eastern site boundary towards the south-east corner of the study area. It was excavated through 0.24m of topsoil, 0.40m of soft reddish brown silty sand subsoil onto grey and yellow mottled sand at an elevation at its lowest point of 30.25mOD. No archaeological features were recorded.
- 4.2.14 **Trench 13** was ran north-east to south-west along the southern site boundary. It was excavated through 0.35m of topsoil, 0.38m of orange brown silty sand subsoil onto red and orange natural sand at an elevation at its lowest point of 28.05mOD.
- 4.2.15 Three modern land drains and a French drain were recorded running across the trench and the edge of the cut for the sewerage pipe was encountered at the south-western end of the trench but no archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

4.3 Environmental and Finds Analysis

4.3.1 No environmental samples were taken and no archaeological finds were retained during the evaluation.



Plate 1: Trench 1, facing south-west



Plate 2: Trench 2, facing south south-west



Plate 3: Trench 3, facing south-west



Plate 4: Trench 4, facing north-east



Plate 5: Trench 5, facing north-west



Plate 6: Trench 6, facing south-east



Plate 7: Trench 7, facing south



Plate 8: Trench 8, facing west



Plate 9: Trench 9, facing south-east



Plate 10: Trench 10, facing south south-east



Plate 11: Trench 11, facing north-west



Plate 12: Trench 12, facing south south-east



Plate 13: Trench 13, facing north-east

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over four days between the 16th and 19th March 2015 and involved the excavation of 13 trenches, distributed across the study area.
- 5.2 Although archaeological remains of both prehistoric and medieval date have been found within the vicinity of the site, no archaeological remains were observed during the present investigation.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: FIGURES






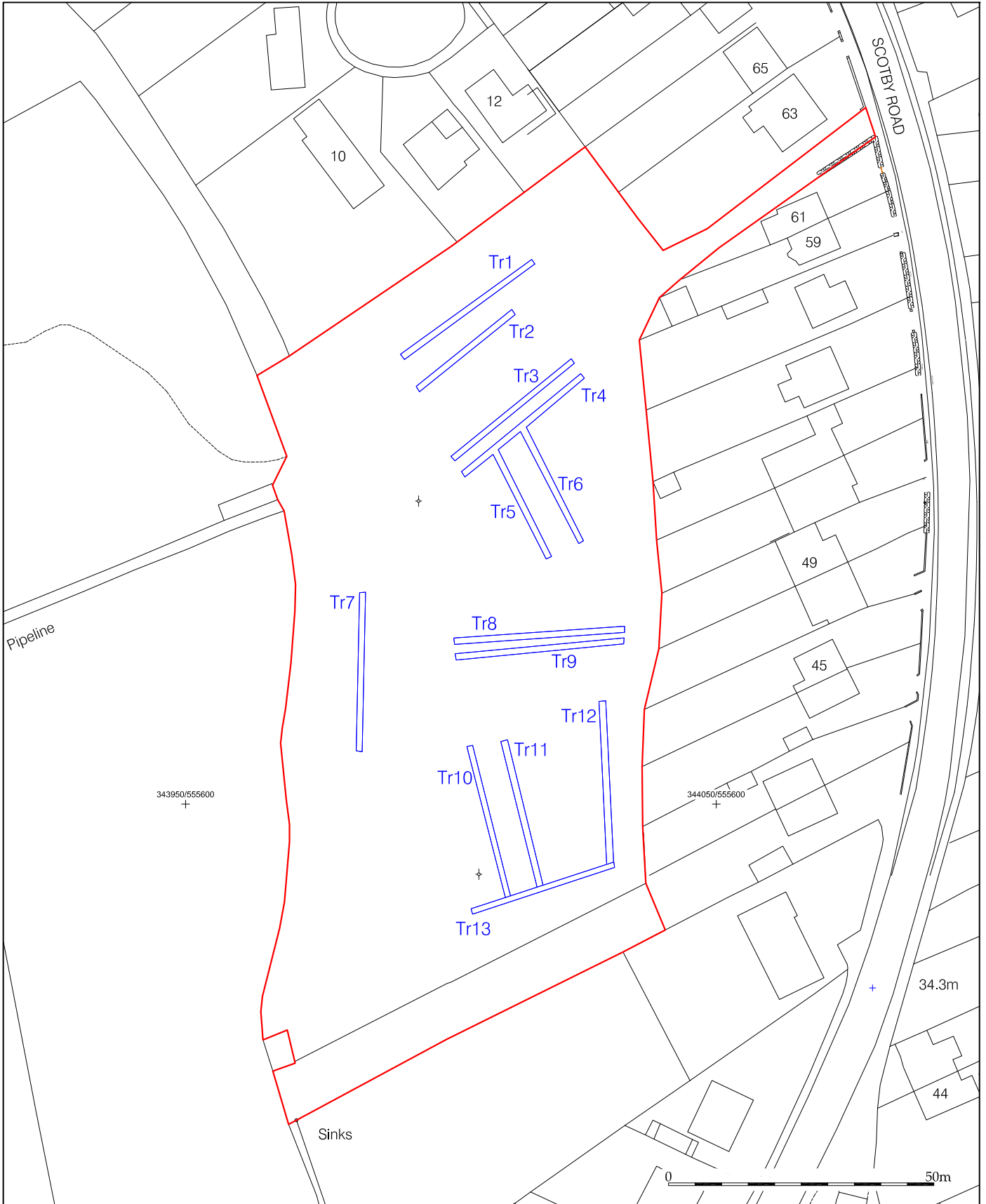
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2015</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land at Scotby, Carlisle, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11116</p> <p>CLIENT: Richard Dixon</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: April 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.








 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2015</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land at Scotby, Carlisle, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11116</p> <p>CLIENT: Richard Dixon</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: April 2015</p> <p>FIGURE: 2</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site boundary</p> <p> Evaluation trenches</p> <p> Manhole cover</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 2: Trench location plan.

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