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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY TOPOGRAPHICAL AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



NEIL AINSWORTH

2 SOUTERGATE, ULVERSTON, CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT AND WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

August 2015





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Neil Ainsworth

2 Soutergate, Ulverston, Cumbria

Desk Based Assessment and Watching Brief Report

August 2015

PREPARED BY:

Cat	Peters	

Researcher

Assistant Supervisor

Ric Buckle

APPROVED BY:

Richard Newman

PX Manager

Dun-

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by Neil Ainsworth to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and watching brief on land at 2 Soutergate, Ulverston, Cumbria (NGR SD 28650 78490). The archaeological monitoring was required as a condition of planning permission for the erection of eight apartments and one retail unit (SL/2014/0995). The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval core of the town of Ulverston, No archaeological evidence of any significance was noted during the watching brief.

The desk-based assessment and watching brief were undertaken in August 2015.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thank Neil Ainsworth for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Thanks also go to all onsite staff who undertook the excavations for the development. Thanks also go to staff at Cumbria Archive Centre, Barrow, and at the local studies section of the libraries at Ulverston and Barrow.

The archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken by Cat Peters. The watching brief was undertaken by Cat Peters and Ric Buckle. The report was written by Cat Peters and Ric Buckle with the figures produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA). The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post-Excavation Manager for WAA.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

- 1.1.1 In August 2015 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by Neil Ainsworth, to undertake a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment and watching brief on a plot of land at 2 Soutergate, Ulverston, Cumbria (NGR SD 28650 78490; Figure 1). The archaeological works were undertaken as a result of a condition of planning permission for the erection of eight apartments and one retail unit on the site (SL/2014/0995). This development lies within the medieval and post medieval core of Ulverston, and as such, was identified as having the potential to retain archaeological remains.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment and watching brief were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, submitted to, and approved by, Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Team. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the results of the desk-based research and monitoring works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Written Scheme of Investigation

2.1.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, for an archaeological desk-based assessment and watching brief (Giecco 2015). Following acceptance of the WSI by Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Team, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the work. The WSI was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; CIfA 2014b).

2.2 Desk-based Assessment

2.2.1 Prior to the commencement of groundworks, a rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in order to provide historical information relating to the development site at 2 Soutergate, Ulverston, and its immediate environs. The assessment primarily involved the consultation of the online version of the Historic Environment Record (HER) a database of local heritage assets maintained by Cumbria County Council

(http://maps.cumbria.gov.uk/eggp/eggp.aspx?dept=Environment&scriptname=1%2 OHistoric%20Environment). This dataset was checked against the National Heritage List for England (NHL; <u>http://list.historicengland.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx</u>) and Historic England's Pastscape database (PS; http://www.pastscape.org.uk/).

- 2.2.2 Following the consultation of the HER, historical mapping and documentary sources were assessed for any additional information on the study area around the Soutergate area of Ulverston.
- 2.2.3 The desk-based assessment was undertaken following *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments* (CIfA 2014a).

2.3 The Watching Brief

2.3.1 A watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits revealed during groundworks was required. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or



underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (CIfA 2014b).

- 2.3.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief is summarised as follows:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
 - to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
 - to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
 - to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
 - to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital and 35mm monochrome formats, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;
 - to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) standards.
- 2.3.3 The Watching Brief was maintained on a permanent basis on all areas of excavations occurring as part of this development at 2 Soutergate, Ulverston. This report provides a summary of the results of the archaeological watching brief and initial desk-based research.

2.4 The Archive

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within Cumbria Archive Centre, Barrow, attainable under unique reference WAA15 ULV-A. A copy of the report will be sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Kendal, Cumbria, available upon request.



2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Northumberland County Council support 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. The OASIS reference for the project is wardella2-222094.



3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 Ulverston is a market town, located in South Cumbria, at the centre of the Furness Peninsula, 10 miles north-east of Barrow, and 25 miles south-west of Kendal.
- 3.1.2 Soutergate is located in the northern part of the centre of Ulverston, north of King Street and Market Street (NGR SD 28650 78490). The development site, until very recently, was occupied by 18th or 19th century buildings comprising a shop, with accommodation above.
- 3.1.3 The development site, at 2 Soutergate, lies within the Ulverston Conservation Area, the subject of a character appraisal in 2006 (South Lakeland District Council 2006). This placed the development site within the Character Zone of Soutergate and Fountain Street, an area of "largely continuous frontages... which are generally of good architectural quality" (ibid, 21). Soutergate "creates perhaps one of the most distinguished entrances into the town along a street that possessed a very distinctive and memorable architectural character" (ibid). It also found that although the initial impression of Soutergate is of a Georgian street, with some Victorian infill, but in fact many of the houses "may well be refrontings of earlier buildings" (ibid, 22). "The lower end of the street sits on the commercial and retail edge of the town centre, at what is a highly conspicuous and very critical junction with King Street, Fountain Street and Church Walk. Unfortunately, many of the buildings here have been subject to poorly thought out alterations that have damaged not only the architectural quality of the individual buildings, but, collectively, the exceptional character of the streetscape" (ibid, 23). The buildings on the site itself were seen to provide a neutral contribution to the character area (*ibid*, map 1).
- 3.1.4 The superficial geology of the area consists of glacial deposits of clay and gravel. The bedrock geology comprises Silurian Ludlow grey slates (Coniston Grits) and banded mudstones and siltstones (British Geological Survey website <u>http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</u>).

3.2 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

3.2.1 Introduction: this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and from records held within the Historic Environment Record dataset (HER) and



online datasets (NHL and PS). Asset numbers refer to the gazetteer in Appendix 1, summarizing specific heritage assets within the study area. Other references refer to original documents, held at either Cumbria Archive Centre, Barrow (CAC(B)), Ulverston Library Local Studies Section (ULLSS) or Barrow Library Local Studies Section (BLLSS).

- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric (up to c. AD 72):* there is no evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the development site, though a number of finds of Bronze Age metalwork have been found in the Ulverston area during the 19th and 20th centuries, including a Bronze Age axe from Kirkdale in 1888 and a bronze age socketed spearhead from Ulverston (Railton and Gaskell 2006, 10). A Neolithic polished stone axe was also found in 1923 near Watery Lane and stone implements including three stone and possible slickstone hammer stones. а were found pre-1923 (http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/browser.jsf).
- 3.2.3 Roman (c. AD 72 c. 410): nothing of the Roman period in Ulverston is known, though several pottery sherds and two Roman coins have been discovered prior to 1836 (<u>http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch/browser.jsf</u>).
- 3.2.4 Medieval (c. 410 1540): the first documentary reference for Ulverston appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 (Cumbria County Council nd, 6; Asset 11). In 1127, Stephen bestowed part of the 'Forest of Furness' to a Benedictine order, founded by Furness Abbey, giving the abbot over his tenants, greatly influencing the early development of Dalton and Ulverston (*ibid*). A religious house was established at Conishead between 1155 and 1189 for "decrepid, indigent and leprous persons living in the neighbourhood of Ulverston", quickly becoming a priory (*ibid*).
- 3.2.5 The foundation date of St Mary's is thought to be on the second half of the 12th century, built slightly apart from the town centre (Cumbria County Council nd, 7). The town at this time, according to Gilbert's Charter of 1196, includes his bakehouse, dying house and fulling mill, indicating the significance of the textile industry to the town (*ibid*). As recently as 1851, a field known as '*tenter field*' was incorporated into the graveyard (Barber 1894). Woodburn's Town Mill, now Hopers Public House was a former medieval mill (Asset 5).
- 3.2.6 Throughout the period there were numerous disagreements between the Lords of Ulverston and the monks of Furness, finally brought to an end with the dissolution of



the Abbey in 1537, when Ulverston was surrendered to Henry VIII. At that time Ulverston was in the possession of eleven persons and comprised tenements, mills and gardens (Ashburner 1993, 9). From this period on, Ulverston flourished as the market centre for Furness, in place of Dalton. A medieval cross is known from the study area, though it was removed in the 19th century (Asset 3).

- 3.2.7 Medieval components of Ulverston can still be traced from extensive tenement plots, consisting of regular plot boundaries aligned on the main streets with regular boundaries (Cumbria County Council nd, 11), a plan still visible on John Wood's Plan of 1832 (Figure 4). The present development site occupies one such plot.
- 3.2.8 Soutergate is an important historic route into the town, still retaining Back Lane behind, originally one of a number narrow passageways set to the rear of the linear yards and tofts allowing for the access and servicing of rear yards in the medieval town (South Lakeland District Council 2006, 21).
- 3.2.9 **Post-Medieval (1540 1900):** the town continued to flourish into the post medieval period, with the development of the textile industry, iron mining, and increased trade especially after the construction of a short canal in 1796 linking Ulverston warehouses at Canal Head to Morecambe Bay (Cumbria County Council nd, 9). Many of the assets in the vicinity of the site originate in the post medieval period, relating to trade and industry (Assets 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 26). Many of the other assets from the study area relate to housing for the increasing population, and related services such as inns and entertainment places (Assets 4, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, and 28).
- 3.2.10 The medieval tenement plots noted earlier (*confer* 3.2.7), continued into the post medieval period. Early entries in the Manor Court records refer to either '*messuages and dwelling houses with gardens or crofts on the backside*' or '*dwelling houses with gardens or the backside*' (Cumbria County Council nd, 12). No 2 Soutergate is one such plot. Buildings are shown at the present development site on late 18th and early 19th century mapping (e.g. Yates 1786 and Greenwood 1813), indicating that a building existed, at least at the front of the plot, by at least this date.
- 3.2.11 Wood's plan of Ulverston of 1832 (Figure 4) shows a building fronting 'Souter Gate' and Church Walk, with another building or buildings alongside to the east, fronting Church Walk. An alley east of this leads to the rear yards of the buildings. Overall,



the areas to the north and east are predominantly still rural outliers to the main town. The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 10 foot to the mile scale of 1856 shows a similar picture (Figure 5) though does show the gradual infilling of areas on the street frontages, particularly to the west of the development site on what was the Great George Street, now Mill Street.

- 3.2.12 In 1894, a notice states "Notice is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, John Thomas Lamb and Thomas Briggs, carrying on business as Drapers and Fent Dealers at the premises situate at the corner of Soutergate and Church-walk, Ulverston, in the county of Lancaster, under the stule or firm of the Ulverston Remnant Warehouse, has been dissolved, by mutual consent, as from the date hereof... 2nd day of June 1894" (The London Commercial 8th Gazette. June 1894, 3336, online at https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/26520/page/3336/data.pdf). The building on the development site, in the late 19th century, was clearly run by the Ulverston Remnant Warehouse, drapers and fent dealers.
- 3.2.13 *Modern (1900 present):* the building on the development site is depicted in around 1904 (Plate 1). Lowe and Bennett state that "on the corner of Soutergate and Church Walk, Albert Buildings is in use as the Ulverston Remnant Warehouse" (Lowe and Bennett 2004, 37). This may be an error, as the business seems to have been liquidated in 1894 (*confer* 3.2.12), meaning the photograph may be earlier. The reference to the building as Albert Buildings, may relate to the ascension of Queen Victoria to the throne, and Albert as Prince Consort, perhaps indicating a build date of around 1837, or to commemorate him after his death in 1861. No corroboration of this name of buildings was found through trade directory evidence.





Plate 1: The Development Site c. 1904 (after Lowe and Bennett 2006, 37)



Plate 2: The Development Site recently (Google Earth imagery)

3.2.14 Evidence for modern activity from the wider study area comes from the sites of two Second World War air raid shelters (Assets 29 and 30).

3.3 Map Regression

- 3.3.1 Although some plans have been mentioned in the historic outline above, this section will ascertain the developments within the development site and immediate area, noted from cartographic sources.
- 3.3.2 **Wood's Plan of Ulverston, 1832 (Figure 4)**: Wood's plan shows a building fronting 'Souter Gate' and Church Walk, with another building or buildings alongside to the east, fronting Church Walk. An alley is shown to the east of this, leading from Church Walk to the rear yards of the buildings. It appears that this is at least two separate buildings within the development site.
- 3.3.3 *First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping, 1856, 10 foot to 1 mile scale (Figure 5)*: this map shows a very similar layout to the earlier plan of 1832, but in much more detail. Here, the building in the south-west corner of the plot is depicted with steps at the corner of Soutergate and Church Walk, and further steps at the northern extent of the building on Soutergate, indicative of two entrances. The buildings to the east, shown as just a block on Wood's plan, are clearly four separate buildings, all fronting Church Walk, and the eastern one has an angled frontage as the road narrows and then widens. Steps are illustrated to the east of this building, leading to the yard behind this group of buildings. The area to the east is shown as a garden, reached



from a yard to the north, suggesting it was associated with one of the buildings fronting Soutergate to the north of the development site.

- 3.3.4 Second Edition Ordnance Survey mapping, 1891, 25inch to 1 mile scale (Figure 6): although this is at a smaller scale, and therefore shows the development site in less detail, the map shows that the building in the south-west corner of the development site has not changed since 1832. The buildings to the east, fronting Church Walk, seem to have been modified, and perhaps extended, however, but are likely to have retained some of the earlier fabric.
- 3.3.5 *Third Edition Ordnance Survey mapping, 1913, 25 inch to 1 mile scale (Figure 7):* this map shows the same layout for the development site as the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891.
- 3.3.6 Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey mapping, 1938, 25 inch to 1 mile scale (Figure 8): the same layout of the site is retained from that depicted on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891.
- 3.3.7 **Ordnance Survey mapping, 1968 (Figure 9):** on the map of 1968, the small buildings previously shown as comprising the area to the north of the buildings fronting Church Walk, at the western extent, are shown as a single block, but as they are again depicted separately on modern mapping, it is likely that the same buildings survive, they are just shown in less detail on the 1968 map.



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations occurring within the study area. The building that formerly stood on the site had been completely demolished leaving a made up layer containing rubble. The scheme of works required a reduction of the ground level within the footprint of the new building and also the excavation of five foundation trenches.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Phase 1: Phase 1 involved observing a shallow trench being excavated by machine, measuring 3.5 metres in length by 0.70 metres wide and taken to a depth of 0.70 metres. This trench was excavated for the laying of a foundation beam adjacent to the retaining wall of an adjacent property to the north of the study area, aligned east-west. The trench comprised of made ground consisting of redeposited sandy silt with rubble inclusions. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during this phase of work.



Plate 3: Phase 1



4.2.2 Phase 2: Phase 2 involved observing a topsoil strip of approximately 0.15 metres within the footprint of the development. The stripped area measured approximately 5 metres by 7 metres. The strip revealed made ground comprising of a mid brown sandy silt with rubble and brick inclusions (100). No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during this phase of work.



Plate 4: Phase 2

4.2.3 Phase 3: Phase 3 of the project involved observing the excavation of five foundation trenches forming a rectangle creating the footprint of the new building. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.15 metres and was 0.50 metres in width, the overall length of the trench was approximately 8 metres.



Plate 5: Phase 3



5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Desk-based Assessment

5.1.1 The desk-based research has found that the development site lies within the medieval core of the town of Ulverston, on one of the important historic routes into the town, and that it retains the medieval tenement plot layout. The buildings on the site were modified between 1856 and 1891, and would have retained much of their earlier fabric, and are known to have dated to at least 1832, and probably earlier. In the late 19th century they were known as Albert Buildings and utilised by the Ulverston Remnant Warehouse, which was liquidated in 1894.

5.2 Watching Brief

5.2.1 The watching brief at 2 Soutergate, Ulverston did not reach natural deposits and only one identifiable archaeological deposit was observed, context (100). Context (100) comprised a make-up layer that is likely to have been a levelling deposit for the building that formerly stood on this location. Archaeological deposits associated with the historical use of the site, as recorded in the desk based assessment are potentially preserved below this levelling deposit. No finds were discovered during the course of the watching brief.



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APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF ASSETS

Asset	Source	Name	Period	Grid Reference
No.				
1	HER 41246	Soutergate Warehouse	Post Medieval	328615,478500
2	HER 41248	King's Arms Hotel	Georgian	328600,478490
3	HER 2246	Site of Little Cross, removed c. 19 th century	Medieval; Post	328620,478470
			Medieval	
4	HER 26512	Brown Cow/ Queen's Hotel	Victorian	328600,478465
5	HER 4163;	Woodbum's Town Mill; now Hoppers Public	Medieval; Post	328580,478490
	NHL 1270208	House, grade II listed building	Medieval	
6	HER 41253	Warehouse, 1 Leather Lane	Post Medieval	328573,478448
7	HER 41227	Rushworth Shoe Repairs Shop	Post Medieval	328630,478440
8	HER 41225	Buxton Mews Warehouse	Post Medieval	328643,478442
9	HER 41224	Warehouse, 1 Butlers Yard	Post Medieval	328650,478445
10	HER 41280	Smith's Court Warehouse	Post Medieval	328627,478415
11	HER 16774	Ulverston Medieval town, road and midden	Plantagenet	328700,478500
12	HER 41211	Church Lane/ Back Lane Warehouse	Post Medieval	328700,478505
13	HER 41902	Well Head Iron Workshop	Stuart	328734,478454
14	HER 41212	Back Lane Warehouse	Post Medieval	328743,478502
15	HER 41210	Back Lane Warehouse	Post Medieval	328655,478545
16	HER 41209	Back Lane Warehouse	Post Medieval	328655,478555
17	HER 19980	Back Lane Barn	Post Medieval	328650,478588
18	HER 40820	The Bugle Horn Inn	Georgian	328570,478570
19	HER 41280	Smith's Court Warehouse	Post Medieval	328627,478415
20	NHL 1270158	22 and 24 Soutergate, two grade II listed	Mid 18 th	328623,478537
		houses	century	
21	NHL 1270209	Former Victoria Concert Hall, now meeting	1850	328576,478477
		room, café and shops. Grade II listed		
22	NHL 1270246	31 King Street. Grade II listed building	Mid 19 th	328588,478459
			century	
23	NHL 1270247	Former Queens Hotel, now restaurant.	Mid 19 th	328591,478464
		Grade II listed building	century	
24	NHL 1270245	27 and 29 King Street. Grade II listed	Early to mid 19 th	328591,478450
		buildings	century	
25	NHL 1270244	25 King Street. Grade II listed building	Possibly mid	328585,478444
			19 th century	
26	NHL 1374970	Warehouse attached to west of No. 1	Late 18 th	328628,478459
		Buxton Place. Grade II listed building	century	
27	NHL 1270242	Rose and Crown Public House. Grade II	17 th century	328630,478431



Asset	Source	Name	Period	Grid Reference
No.				
		listed building		
28	NHL 1374992	7 Fountain Street. Former house, now flats.	Late 18 th	328678,478469
		Grade II listed building	century	
29	PS 1413005	Site of Second World War surface air raid	Mid 20 th	328500,478500
		shelter	century	
30	PS 1413006	Site of Second World War surface air raid	Mid 20 th	328600,478500
		shelter	century	



APPENDIX 2: FIGURES



Figure 1: Site location.

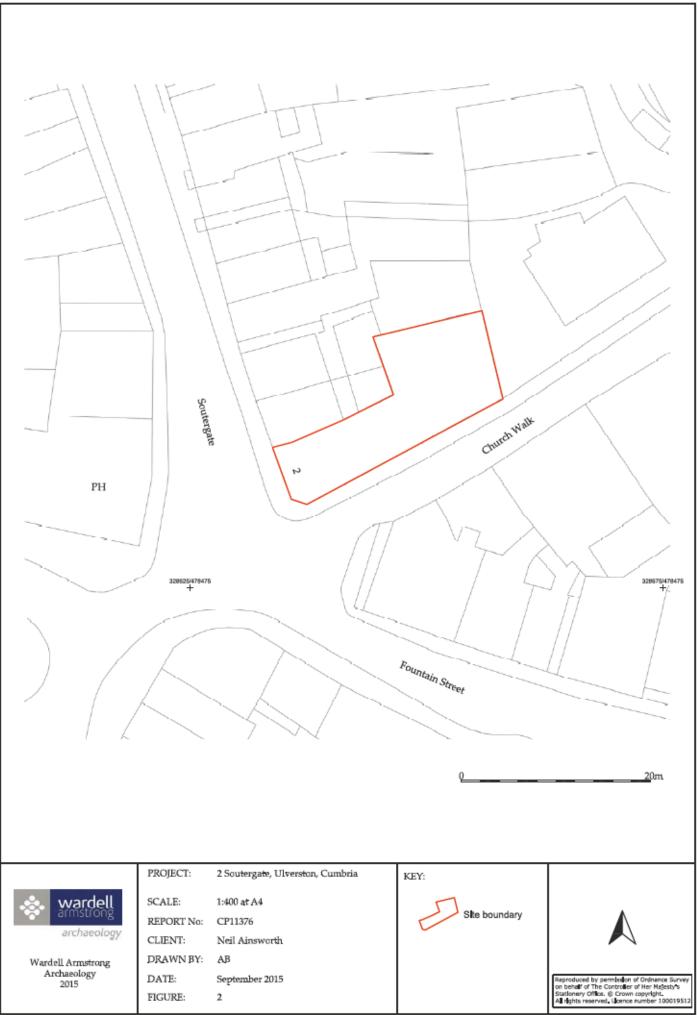


Figure 2: Detailed site location.

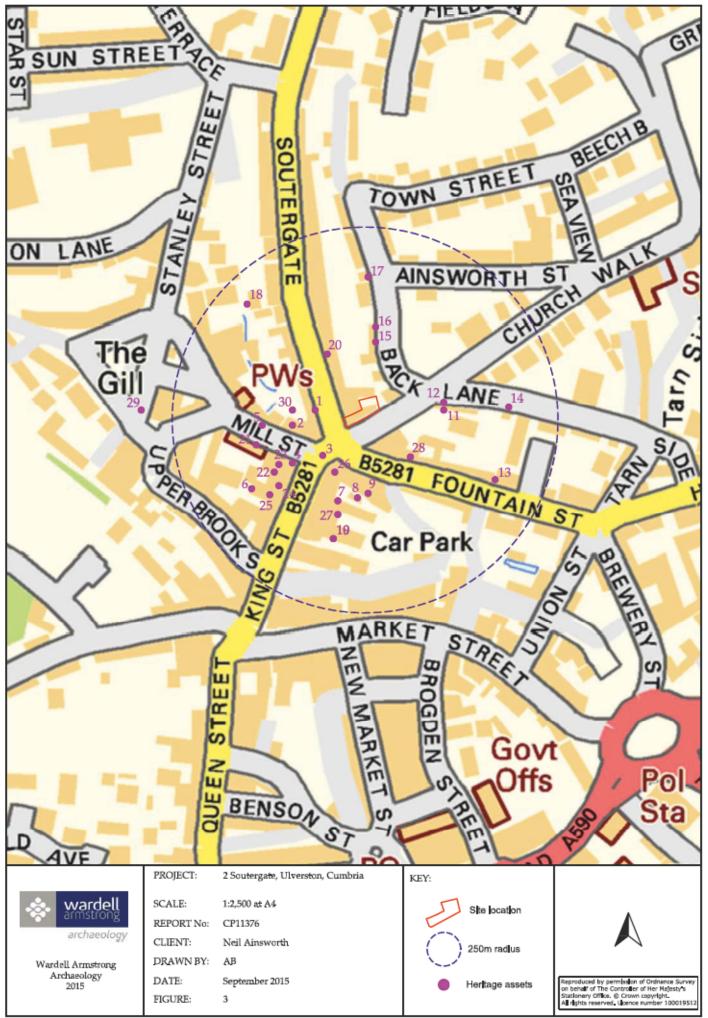


Figure 3: Location of heritage assets within a 250m radius of the site.

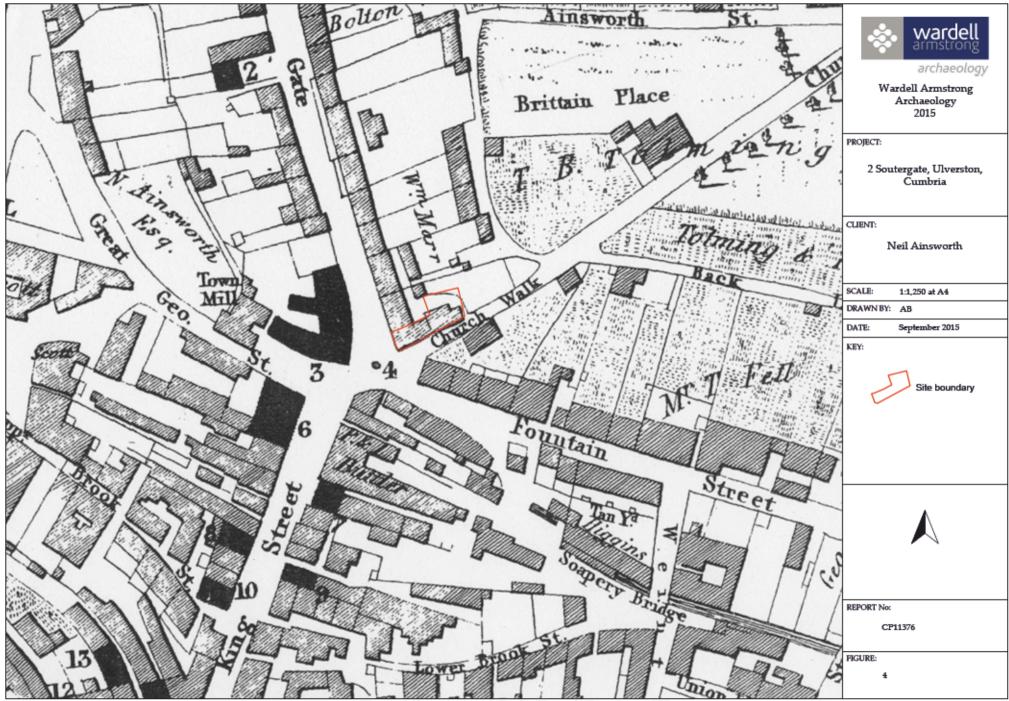


Figure 4: Extract from Wood's Plan of Ulverston, 1832.

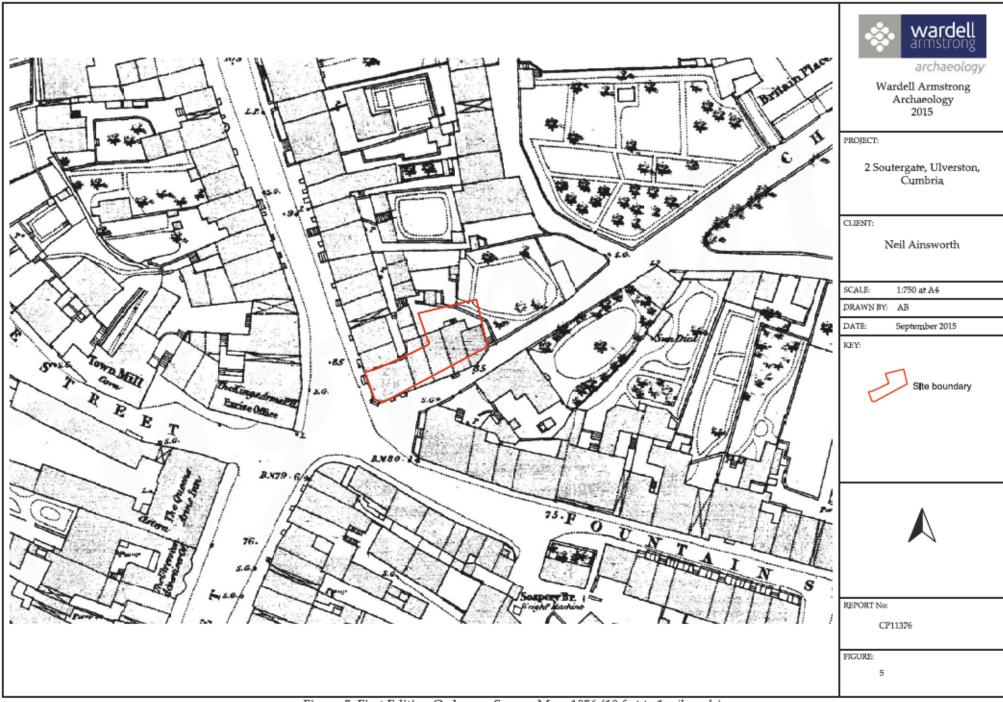


Figure 5: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1856 (10 feet to 1 mile scale).

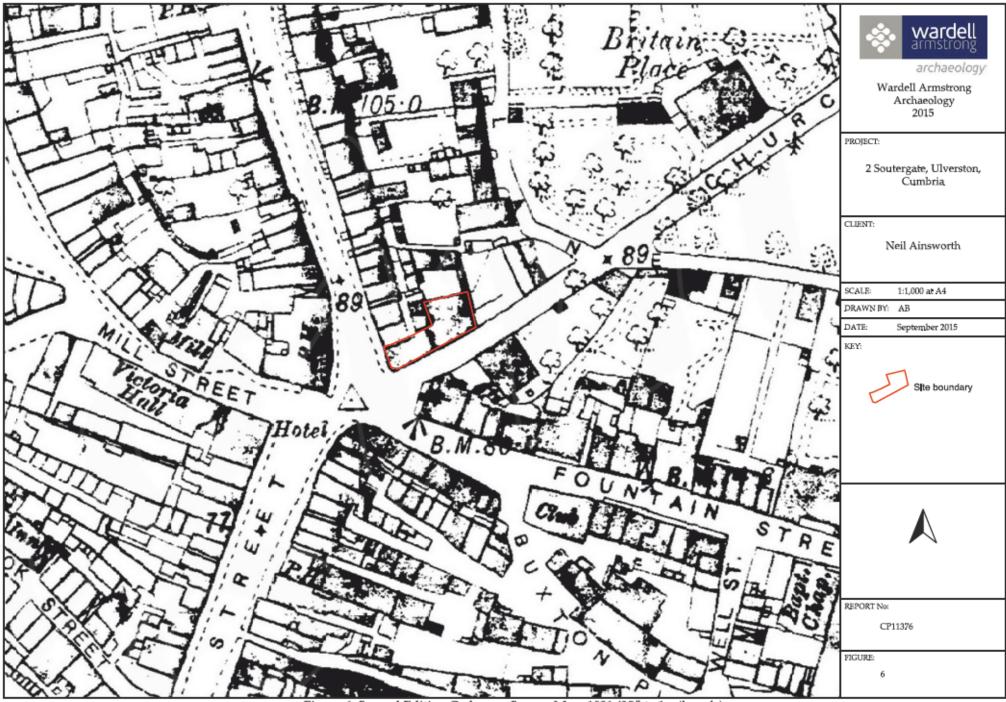


Figure 6: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1891 (25" to 1 mile scale).

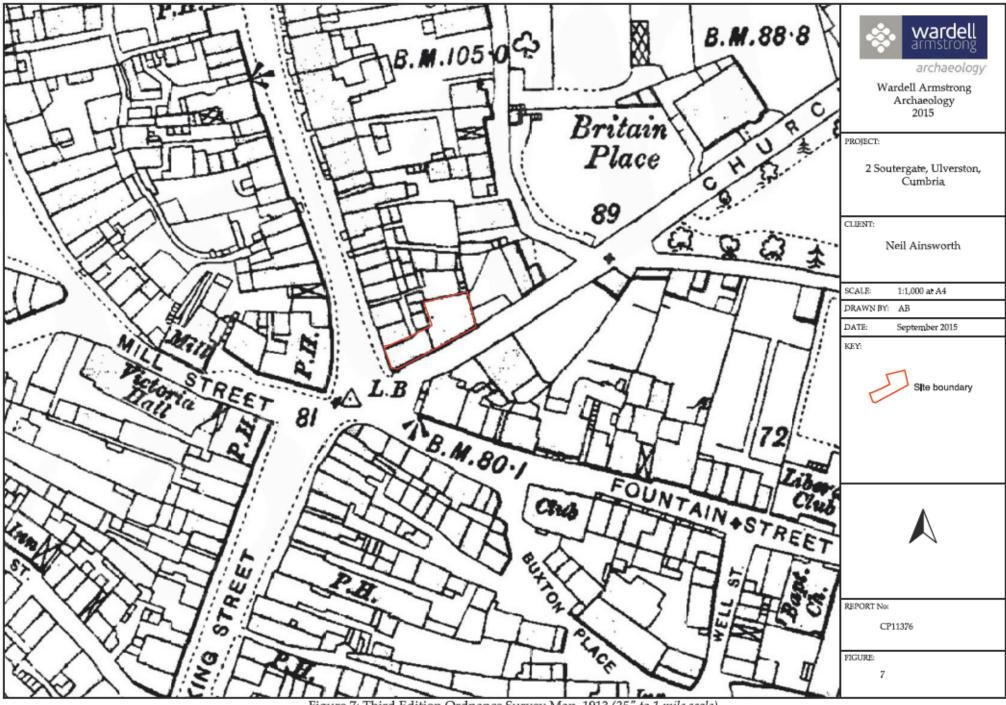


Figure 7: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1913 (25" to 1 mile scale).

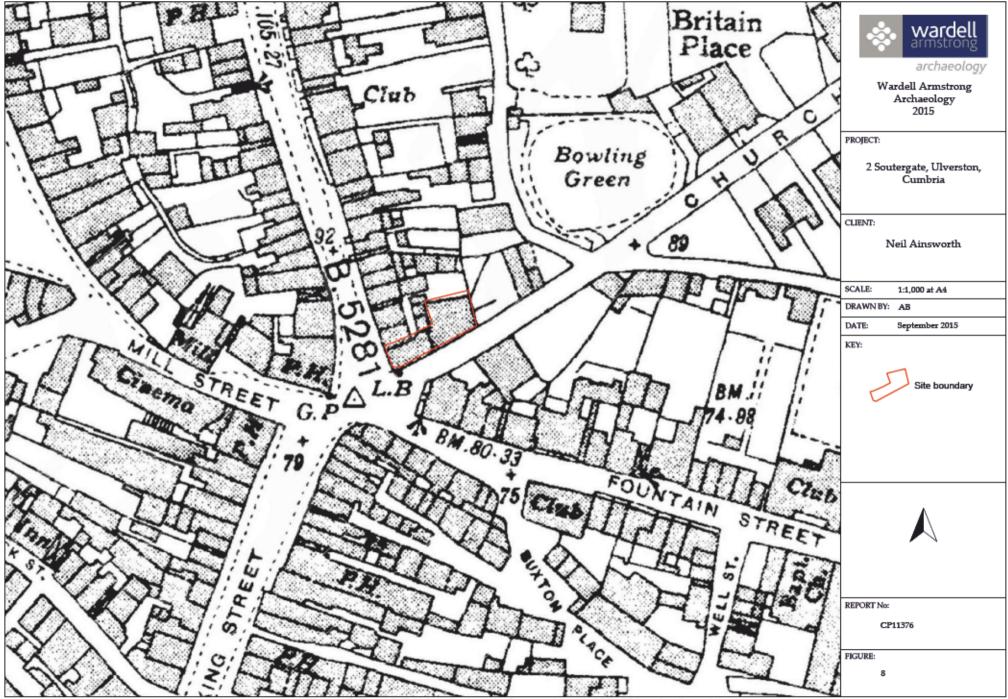


Figure 8: Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1938 (25" to 1 mile scale).

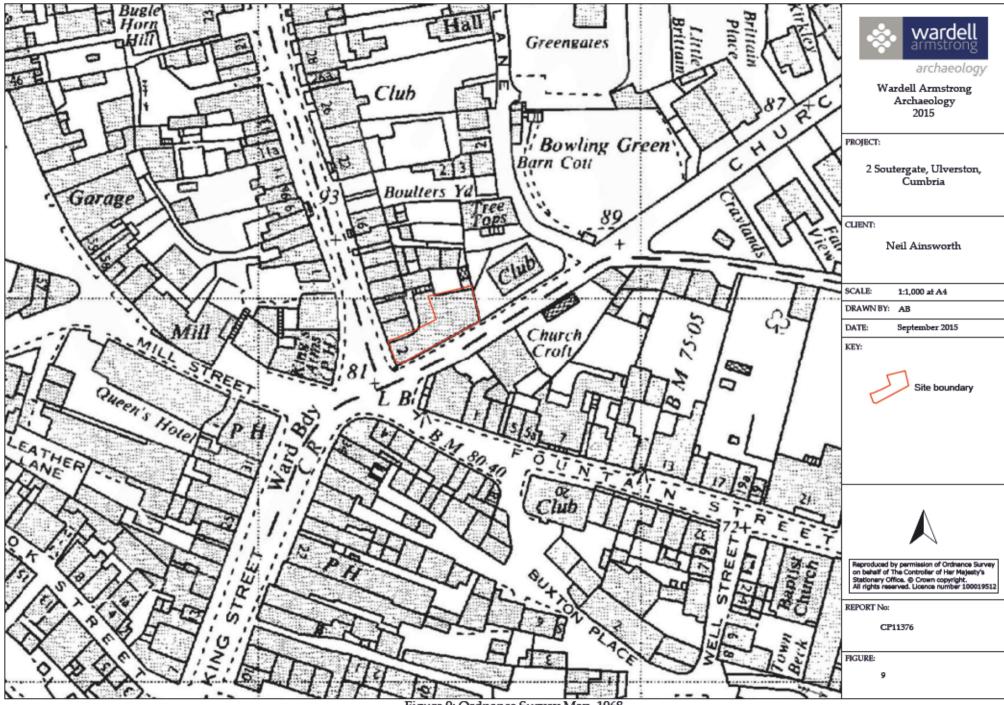


Figure 9: Ordnance Survey Map, 1968.

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STOKE-ON-TRENT Sir Henry Doulton House Forge Lane Etruria Stoke-on-Trent ST1 5BD Tel: +44 (0)845 111 7777

CARDIFF 22 Windsor Place Cardiff CF10 3BY Tel: +44 (0)29 2072 9191

EDINBURGH Suite 2/3, Great Michael House 14 Links Place Edinburgh EH6 7EZ Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GREATER MANCHESTER 2 The Avenue Leigh Greater Manchester WN7 1ES Tel: +44 (0)1942 260101

LONDON Third Floor 46 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1JE Tel: +44 (0)20 7242 3243

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE City Quadrant 11 Waterloo Square Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4DP Tel: +44 (0)191 232 0943 PENRYN Tremough Innovation Centre Tremough Campus Penryn Cornwall TR10 9TA Tel: +44 (0)1872 560738

SHEFFIELD Unit 5 Newton Business Centre Newton Chambers Road Thorncliffe Park Chapeltown Sheffield S35 2PH Tel: +44 (0)114 245 6244

TRURO Wheal Jane Baldhu Truro Cornwall TR3 6EH Tel: +44 (0)1872 560738

WEST BROMWICH Thynne Court Thynne Street West Bromwich West Midlands B70 6PH Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909 International offices:

ALMATY 29/6 Satpaev Avenue Rakhat Palace Hotel Office Tower, 7th Floor Almaty 050040 Kazakhstan Tel: +7-727-3341310

MOSCOW Suite 2, Block 10, Letnikovskaya St. Moscow, Russia 115114 Tel: +7(495) 980 07 67

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology:

CUMBRIA Cocklakes Yard Carlisle Cumbria CA4 0BQ Tel: +44 (0)1228 564820



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