

Hope's Auction Mart , Wigton, Cumbria: Archaeological Evaluation Report

AOC 21154

11th December 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Hopes Auction Mart , Wigton, Cumbria: Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of:	Goodson Associates 53 Melville Street Edinburgh EH3 7HL
National Grid Reference (NGR):	centred on NY 257 482
AOC Project No:	21154
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Non-Technical Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Goodson Associates (the agent), on behalf of Tesco Ltd (the client), to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Hopes Auction Mart, High Street, Wigton, Cumbria (centred on NGR: NY 257 482) in advance of the redevelopment of the site.

The project aimed to determine if any significant archaeological deposits were present on the proposed development site and, if so, to indicate their nature, extent, date and condition.

Fifteen evaluation trenches were excavated covering a total basal area of 760m². No archaeological features of prehistoric or Roman date were encountered. One potentially medieval feature – a linear boundary ditch was encountered in the western part of the site.

A palaeochannel of the Speet Gill was noted in the eastern part of the site. No anthropogenic material was discovered within the excavated sections of the channel however modern (late 19th or 20th century) material was observed to be concentrated in the soil filling the hollow above the in-filled channel indicating that it may have remained a landscape feature until relatively recent times.

The archaeological significance and potential of the remains encountered are generally considered to be low and it is recommended that further archaeological works be limited to a watching brief on groundworks in the western part of the site where such groundworks involve excavation below existing slab base.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reasons for the project

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Goodson Associates (the agent), on behalf of Tesco Ltd (the client), to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of Hopes Auction Mart, High Street, Wigton, Cumbria (centred on NGR: NY 257 482). The evaluation was requested to assess the potential archaeological impact of redeveloping the site as a supermarket.
- 1.1.2 The evaluation forms part of a wider scheme of archaeological investigation which comprises a desk based assessment of the Auction Mart site (AOC Archaeology 2008a) and a desk based assessment and archaeological evaluation of a site at Syke Rd, to which it is proposed to relocate the auction mart (AOC Archaeology 2008c, 2008d). Both desk based assessment and evaluation were carried out in advance of planning consent.

1.2 Location and topography

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area is located in the centre of Wigton (see Figs 1 and 2). The site is bounded to the west by buildings fronting on to the High Street, to the north by Laurel Terrace, to the east by a footpath running partly beside the Speet Gill and to the south by the grounds of the Nelson Tomlinson School.
- 1.2.2 The western part of the site, nearest to the High Street, is roughly level at an average height AOD of 32.50m. The eastern part of the site however slopes downwards towards the Speet Gill where the average height AOD is 28.50m.
- 1.2.3 The solid geology of the area around Wigton consists of red, grey and green mudstones and siltstones, forming part of the Triassic Mercia mudstone group (Institute of Geographical Sciences 1976). The superficial (drift) deposits consist of glacial till containing rock clasts of pebble to boulder size and irregular bands or lenses of sand and gravel (Pinnacle Consulting Engineers Ltd 2006, 3).

1.3 Project parameters

- 1.3.1 The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1994, rev. 2008). The project has also been informed by the results of an earlier desk based assessment (AOC Archaeology 2008a) and followed a detailed specification (AOC Archaeology 2008b). Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) was consulted before the project began and throughout the archaeological works.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to identify significant archaeological deposits and to determine, if present, their extent, state of preservation, date, type and vulnerability to disturbance. The purpose of this was to determine their significance so as to inform any future planning application relating to the land and any associated archaeological mitigation strategy.

- 2.2 The project also had the following specific aims:

- i) to determine whether settlement and enclosure remains of late prehistoric/ Romano-

- British date similar to that noted on nearby sites and in aerial photographs are present on the site;
- ii) to determine whether the site lies within the urbanised area of the medieval settlement of Wigton;
 - iii) to determine whether any evidence survives of the rope walk and timber yard shown on early maps of the site.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Documentary research

- 3.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk based assessment of the proposed development site by Goodson Associates prior to commencement of the evaluation (AOC Archaeology 2008a). This included a search of the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (Cumbria County Council Offices, Kendal), documentary research at Cumbria Record Office (The Castle, Carlisle) and a map regression exercise.

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 Fifteen linear trenches were excavated using 360° tracked excavators equipped with toothless ditching buckets. The trenches covered a total basal area of m². The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure .
- 3.2.2 The locations of some of the trenches were adjusted from that in the specification (AOC Archaeology 2008b). Trench 18 (see Fig 2) was realigned to examine potential features abutting the southern wall of the auction mart building, trenches 8 and 9 adjacent to Speet Gill were realigned. As a result of these adjustments the proposed trenches 10 and 16 were not excavated. Proposed Trench 7 in the hard standing to the east of the auction mart building was not excavated for health and safety reasons (water ingress into adjacent trenches 8 and 9 indicated that it would not be possible to re-instate the area of the trench for it safely to be returned to use as a public car park).
- 3.2.3 Excavation of the evaluation trenches was conducted in shallow spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural geology was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 3.2.4 Any potential archaeological features were cleaned by hand and a sample was then hand excavated to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual and environmental samples where appropriate. For all investigated features, an adequate proportion was excavated to satisfy the aims of the project.
- 3.2.5 The trenching and recording was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, as outlined in the specification.
- 3.2.6 All trenches were surveyed using a Leica Total Station and related to nearby landscape features. Levels were taken across all trenches and archaeological features and were related to an OS benchmark located on the south-west corner of St Mary's Church with a value of 32.79m AOD. On completion of the evaluation, all trenches were backfilled.

3.3 Structural analysis

- 3.3.1 All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Stratigraphic relationships were also checked once fieldwork was completed and a Harris matrix produced. Structural and artefactual evidence was considered in combination with the results of documentary research. This analysis provides the basis of the narrative in Sections 5 and 6.

3.4 Artefact recovery and methodology

- 3.4.1 The artefact recovery policy conformed to AOC Archaeology's standard operating procedures. In the event, few artefacts were observed and all were, with one exception, clearly late post-medieval or modern in date. Unstratified, post-medieval artefacts were noted but not retained.

3.5 Environmental methodology

- 3.5.1 The environmental sampling methodology conformed to AOC Archaeology's standard operating procedures. In the event, no features were observed that warranted detailed environmental analysis at this stage.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 4.1 A documentary assessment of the site has been produced (AOC Archaeology 2008a). The following represents a brief summary for the purposes of this report.
- 4.2 There have been a number of prehistoric finds in the vicinity of the proposed development area, notably a Neolithic stone axe (HER 673), a Bronze Age stone axe hammer (HER 667), a Bronze Age flanged axe (HER 675), and an Iron Age carved stone head (HER 5085). On the northern boundary of Wigton a cluster of prehistoric sites has been identified, including a field system and possible roundhouse (HER 40840) and enclosures (HER 40841, 40842, 41105). Cropmarks at Kirkland (HER 3327) and Old Carlisle (HER 3741) may also represent prehistoric activity in the area. More significantly, to the south of the proposed development site, at Tiffenthwaite Farm, a palisaded enclosure, probably of Late Iron Age date, has been identified (HER 19091; Giocco 2000).
- 4.3 The Roman fort at Old Carlisle, to the south of the proposed development site, represents the focus of Roman activity in the vicinity of Wigton. It appears to have been occupied during the 2nd-3rd centuries and had an associated *vicus* on its southern side. Many of the numerous Roman finds from the Wigton area (including an altar (HER 670), carved stones (HER 19685; HER 668), a lion plate brooch (HER 19662), coins (HER 13508; HER 19675), glass (HER 19736) and pottery fragments (HER 17954)) appear to derive from the occupation of the fort.
- 4.4 Wigton is first mentioned in documentary sources in 1163 but appears to have earlier medieval origins. The only certain medieval sites in the vicinity of the development area, however, are St Mary's church (possibly of the 12th century but entirely rebuilt in 1788; HER 41802 / 21817)) and a medieval park to the south-east of the town (HER 6833). A manorial hall is documented in 1212 but there are no known surviving remains. The proposed development site lies close to the probable limits of the medieval town.

- 4.5 Early 19th century buildings survive adjacent to the site at Victoria Place, Proctor's Row and The Vicerage indicating that by c 1800 the urbanised area of Wigton had extended to the south of the present site.
- 4.6 A number of late post-medieval industrial sites including a tannery (HER 10249), two Dye Works (HER 10250; HER 10266), a Corn Mill (HER 10251), a Cotton Mill (HER 10265) and a Ropery (HER 10264) are known in the town. However of these only the ropery impinged on the site - Wood's map of 1832 showing a rope walk occupying part of the site as well as the projected alignment of a new street (which in the event was not built). The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 shows a timber yard in the eastern part of the site. The cartographic sources suggest that the bulk of the site remained in agricultural use until the establishment of the Auction Mart on the site before 1900..

5. RESULTS

5.1 Statement of confidence

- 5.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken between Wednesday 22nd October and Wednesday 29th October 2008. The Auction Mart continued in use during the course of the evaluation and as a consequence the trenches were opened in batches of between three and five in order to minimise disruption to the operation of the site. Although groundwater ingress was significant in those trenches located in the lower-lying parts of the site and work in the trenches in the hard-standing (particularly trenches 2,5 and 6) was occasionally impeded by surface water run-off it was nonetheless possible to examine all areas of the site (less those under the existing Auction Mart buildings) with a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.
- 5.1.2 The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figs 2-6 and Plates 1-4 Trench summaries are presented in Appendix 1. The following sections should be read in conjunction with these data.

5.2 Natural deposits

- 5.2.1 Natural soil horizons were represented by variously composed yellow to red-brown sandy clays. In the southern part of the site (Trenches 11-15) the natural deposits were uniformly clayey in nature and lay within 0.50m of the current ground surface. Elsewhere the deposits were sandier in nature and encountered at depths up to 1.85m below current ground level being deepest in the vicinity of Trenches 4 and 5. Where sondages into the natural deposits were excavated these showed a tendency for the sandy deposits to contain more clay at depth.
- 5.2.2 Evidence for a palaeochannel of the Speet Gill was encountered in Trenches 6, 8 and 9 (see Figs 2,4 and 5; Plates 1 and 2). This comprised a gently sloping cut in excess of 7.5m wide (the northern limit was not observed) and 1m deep. The fills comprised interleaved alluvial silts and peaty deposits with a marked peat horizon at the base containing well preserved round wood. None of the round wood examined showed any signs of being worked and may be presumed to have been derived from fallen material accumulating at the base of the channel. The feature was most marked in Trenches 8 and 9 however it is probable that feature (607) in Trench 6, originally identified as a drainage ditch may in fact represent the north-western continuation of the channel.

5.3 Undated deposits

5.3.1 In Trenches 2, 4 and 5 deposits up to 0.90m thick of large rounded cobbles in a coarse sandy matrix were observed. Occasional apparently roughly squared sandstone blocks were noted within the deposits. The water-worn nature of the cobbles initially suggested that the material might have been naturally deposited. However on reflection the localised presence of this material in the deepest part of the site makes it more likely that this material was imported in order raise ground levels at some date prior to the construction of the Auction Mart. No finds were recovered from these deposits however the overlying dark silty 'garden soils' contained material of 19th century date.

5.4 Medieval deposits

5.4.1 One feature of possible medieval date was noted in Trench 1. The feature was an east-west oriented ditch in the southern part of the trench, extending beyond the limits of excavation to both east and west. The feature may be interpreted as a boundary ditch defining property holdings on the east side of the High Street. The ditch was sealed by a soil horizon of silty sand c 0.60m, however the boundary it represented may have been quite long-lived as a subsequent, somewhat slighter, replacement seems to have been cut into the upper surface of the soil horizon.

5.4.2 The ditch fill yielded one fragment of possible medieval pottery (see Appendix 2). No other dateable material was found in either the ditch fill or the overlying soil horizon. Although it is possible that the single sherd was residual the absence of later finds and the substantial soil build-up in the overlying deposit would argue that the ditch was indeed of medieval date.

5.5 Post-medieval deposits

5.5.1 In the northern part of the site (Trenches 1, 2,3, 4, 5 and 6) a distinctive 'garden soil' horizon 0.30m - 0.50m thick was noted. Finds from this material were sparse and where noted were of late-post-medieval date. This horizon directly underlay the tarmac and bedding layers of hard standing associated with the current Auction Mart – in Trenches 1 and 2 the tarmac bedding included quantities of brick and sandstone rubble. It is possible that this horizon represents an unmetalled external surface associated either with the establishment of the Auction Mart or the earlier 19th century use of the site as a ropewalk and timber yard.

5.5.2 In the southern part of the site Trench 18 was relocated to examine potential remains associated with an element of standing structure incorporated into the Auction Mart building (see Figure 6, Plates 3 and 4). The standing remains contained elements which suggested that a lean-to structure had once stood against the wall in the area of Trench 18. The remains discovered confirmed this supposition – the structure was comprised of a short section - c 3.5m long – of brick foundation with a couple of sandstone slabs laid on bed forming what appeared to be a threshold to the west. The brick foundation butt-ended to the east suggesting that the east end of the structure was either open ended or made of wood. The structure would have been roughly 5m long and 1.5m wide. No datable material was recovered however the bricks composing the masonry foundation appeared to have been re-used from an earlier structure and one of the sandstone slabs used in the 'threshold' seemed to have been partially worked (see Plate 4) – possibly originally having been intended as a grave slab. Several small buildings, presumably sheds, byres and similar structures are shown on early maps of the site and the structure exposed in Trench 18 can reasonably be supposed to be one of these. The structure probably does not pre-date the 19th century.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation provided no demonstrable evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity on those parts of the proposed development site that were investigated. Possible evidence of medieval land division was encountered in the form of a boundary ditch in the eastern part of the site. All other deposits and features on the site were either undated or of late post-medieval date. The evidence from the evaluation would suggest that the site remainder peripheral to the urbanised area of Wigton until well into the post-medieval period.
- 6.2 A palaeochannel of the Speet Gill was found in the north-eastern part of the site. No anthropogenic material was found associated with the channel and there was no evidence of the Gill being subject to 'water management' activity prior to the modern period.
- 6.3 The depth of deposits sealing the possible medieval boundary ditch (c 1m) suggest that it is possible that similar features, if originally present, might survive beneath the existing Auction Mart buildings albeit to a partially truncated extent. The intended layout of the redeveloped site is shown in Figure 7 where it will be noted that the main construction is concentrated in the eastern part of the site.
- 6.4 Based on these findings it is noted that whilst the potential exists for survival of medieval landscape features in the form of boundary ditches in the western part of the site the major impacts from the scheme lay elsewhere on the site and are likely to impact only on low grade deposits of late date. It is recommended that consideration be given to the provision of a watching brief within the area of the current Auction Mart buildings in the event that groundworks are proposed which require excavation below existing slab levels. No further archaeological works are recommended for the remainder of the site, although the final decision on such matters rests with the archaeological curator, Jeremy Parsons (CCCHES).

7. RESEARCH FRAMEWORKS

- 7.1 The potential of the site to contribute to the research objectives laid out in the WSI may be summarised as follows:
- i) to determine whether settlement and enclosure remains of late prehistoric/ Romano-British date similar to that noted on nearby sites and in aerial photographs are present on the site; - **NOT PRESENT**
 - ii) to determine whether the site lies within the urbanised area of the medieval settlement of Wigton; - **THE SITE LIES WITHIN AN ORGANISED LANDSCAPE, POSSIBLY OF MEDIEVAL DATE, HOWEVER THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT IT LAYS WITHIN THE URBANISED AREA OF WIGTON**
 - iii) to determine whether any evidence survives of the rope walk and timber yard shown on early maps of the site. – **SOME SURFACES OF POST-MEDIEVAL DATE WERE ENCOUNTERED IN PARTS OF THE SITE WHERE THE ROPE WALK AND**

TIMBER YARD WERE LOCATED; NO STRUCTURAL REMAINS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE ACTIVITIES WERE FOUND

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 AOC Archaeology would like to thank the following for their assistance in the successful conclusion of this project: Euan Dale (Goodson Associates), Ian Ritchie (Land Agent for Hopes' Auction Mart), Bruce Walton (Hopes' Auction Mart), Stephen Lightfoot (Plant contractor), and Jeremy Parsons (CCCHES).
- 7.2 The project was managed and the fieldwork was led by David Lakin. Fieldwork was undertaken by Stephen Potten, Alan Hunter-Blair and Donald Wilson. David Lakin prepared the report and the illustrations were prepared by Clare Watson.

9. SITE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

15	Trench record sheets
89	Context sheets
1	Drawing register sheet
2	Photographic register sheets
20	Colour slides
20	Black and white negatives
20	Black and white prints
48	Digital photographs
1	Survey data record sheet
2	Level register sheets
3	Context register sheets
17	Scale drawings
7	Pottery sherds

The project archive is intended to be deposited at:

Tullie House Museum
Castle Street
Carlisle
Cumbria CA3 8TP
Tel: 01228 618718

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Trench summaries

Trench 1

Dimensions: Length:7m Width:4m Depth: 1.30m

Total area: 28m²

Orientation: E-W

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.70m AOD (NE)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.62m AOD (SW)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
101	Fill	Loose, light brown silty sand, freq sub-rounded pebbles. 1 frag pot. Fill of linear cut 102.	1.00m (top)
102	Linear Cut	E-W aligned linear feature, 1.10m wide 0.26m deep running beyond limit of excavation to east and west. Gradual break of slope at top and base, flat base. Filled with 101. Possible property boundary ditch.	1.30m (base)
103	Fill	Mod compact, dark grey clayey silt, occ animal bone and tobacco pipe frags, charcoal CBM frags and creamware ceramics (not retained). Fill of 19thC garden feature/pit 104.	0.40m
104	Pit	Rectilinear feature, 0.50m e-w and min 0.60m n-s running beyond loe to north, 0.45m deep. Sharp break of slope at top and base, flat base. Truncated by modern service to west. Probable 19 th garden rubbish pit.	0.85m (base)
105	Natural	Mid orange brown coarse sand and gravel,nfe	1.00m
106	Layer	Tarmac surface with hard core base, average thickness 0.10m	Forms ground surface
107	Layer	Well compacted light red brown slightly silty sand with freq mortar and CBM frags, occ medium sandstone rubble (some squared). Up to 0.36m thick. Demolition rubble make-up layer	0.10 m
108	Layer	Moderately compact dark brown silty sand occ small rounded pebbles. 0.20m thick. Possible garden soil.	0.46m
109	Layer (subsoil)	Loosely compacted lt brown slightly silty sand, freq sub rounded pebbles. 030m thick	0.66m
110	Fill	Mod compact dark grey brown silty sand occ small rounded pebbles and charcoal. Fill of (111).	0.66m (top)
111	Cut	Seen in section only. 0.26m deep, 0.48m wide. Possible pit OR recut of boundary ditch (102)	0.90m (base)

Trench 2

Dimensions: Length:20m Width:2m Depth 1.65m

Total area: 40m²

Orientation: SW-NE

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 30.89m AOD (SW)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 30.34m AOD (NE)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
200	Layer	Tarmac 0.09m thick	Forms ground surface

201	Layer	Gravel. 0.12m thick	0.10m
202	Layer	Cinders and coal. 0.10m thick	0.20m
203	Layer	Brick and sandstone frags up to 0.20m thick	0.30m
204	Layer	Dark silt soil with mod small rounded and angular pebbles. Possible buried soil. Up to 0.43m thick	0.50m
205	Layer	Med to large rounded stones in coarse sandy matrix. Up to 0.90m thick	0.90m
206	Layer	Orange/red clay. Natural	1.65m

Trench 3

Dimensions: Length: 19.2m Width: 2.15 m Depth: 0.86m (general) 1.90m (deepest)

Total area: 41.2m²

Orientation: E-W

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 31.11m AOD (NE)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 30.74m AOD (SW)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
301	Layer	Tarmac. Up to 0.20m thick.	Forms ground surface
302	Layer	Well compacted brick and cinder make-up layer. Up to 0.18m thick	0.20m
303	Layer	Firm mid-grey brown sandy silt. Occ small rounded pebbles. Subsoil. Up to 0.55m thick	0.40m
304	Layer	Firm mid orange brown slightly silty sand with freq small to large rounded pebbles. Base of deposit not exposed at depth of 1.90m bgl at W end of trench. Natural	0.86m
305	Fill	Mod to loosely compacted dark grey slightly clayey silt, occasional CBM frags, small rounded pebbles; v occ slate frag and med to large rounded cobble. Fill of 306	0.86m
306	Cut	Curving linear feature, kidney shaped. Rounded corners length 1.90m , width 0.60m. Steeply sloping sides gradual break at flat base . probable modern feature function unknown.	1.06m (base)

Trench 4

Dimensions: Length: 24.4 Width: 2m Depth: 1.85m

Total area: 48.8m²

Orientation: N-S

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 30.14m AOD (SE)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 29.84m AOD (NW)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
400	Layer	Tarmac. Up to 0.10m thick.	Forms ground surface
401	Layer	Gravel. 0.11m thick	0.10m
402	Layer	Cinders and coal. 0.10m thick	0.20m
403	Layer	Brick and sandstone frags up to 0.20m thick	0.30m
404	Layer	Dark silt soil with mod small rounded and angular pebbles. Possible buried soil. Up to 0.50m thick	0.50m
405	Layer	Med to large rounded stones in coarse sandy matrix. Up to 0.85m thick	1.00m
406	Layer	Orange/red clay. Natural	1.85m

Trench 5

Dimensions: Length: 20m Width: 2m Depth: 1.84m

Total area: 40m²

Orientation: E-W

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 30.09m AOD (SW)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 28.99m AOD (NE)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
500	Layer	Tarmac. Up to 0.10m thick.	Forms ground surface
501	Layer	Gravel. 0.10m thick	0.10m
502	Layer	Cinders and coal. 0.06m thick	0.20m
503	Layer	Brick and sandstone frags up to 0.22m thick	0.26m
504	Layer	Dark silt soil with mod small rounded and angular pebbles. Possible buried soil. Up to 0.62m thick	0.48m
505	Layer	Med to large rounded stones in coarse sandy matrix. Up to 0.74m thick.	1.10m
506	Layer	Orange/red clay. Natural	1.84m

Trench 6

Dimensions: Length:25.90m Width: 2.20m Depth: max depth=1.70m, average depth=0.60m

Total area: 56.98m²

Orientation: NE-SW

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 30.26m AOD (SW)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 28.93m AOD (NE)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
601	Layer	Moderately compact dark grey clayey silt with occasional small rounded pebbles and CMB frags. Average depth 0.20m. Garden soil.	0.34m
602	Layer	Moderately compact mid-dark grey sandy clayey silt with occasional small-medium rounded pebbles. Average depth 0.40m. Subsoil.	0.54m
603	Fill	Loose to moderately compact light-mid grey sandy silt with occasional to moderate medium rounded cobbles. Fill of 604.	0.94m
604	Cut	Linear in plan aligned N-S, up to 2.00m wide, 0.80m deep. Gently sloping sides, gradual break to base, base not clearly observed by appeared rounded. Filled by 603. Possible field boundary or drainage ditch.	0.94m
605	Layer	Moderately compact light brown silty sand with occasional small rounded pebbles. Becomes more red/orange in colour and more clayey in consistency with depth. Intermittent layer of small-medium cobbles at interface with subsoil. Natural.	0.94m+
606	Fill	Firm light brown silty sand with moderate small-medium sub-rounded stones. Fill of 607.	0.94m
607	Cut	Linear in plan aligned N-S, 0.40m wide, 1.50m deep. Gently sloping sides, base not observed due to flooding. Filled by 606. Possible field boundary or drainage ditch.	0.94m
608	Layer	Modern tarmac and levelling material. 0.34m deep.	Forms ground surface

Trench 8

Dimensions: Length: 24.35m Width: 2.00m Depth: 0.60m – 1.26m

Total area: 48.70m²

Orientation: N-S

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 30.15m AOD (SW)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 28.51m AOD (NE)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
801	Layer	Friable dark blackish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones and rare CBM fragments. 0.25-0.33m thick. Topsoil.	Forms ground surface
802	Layer	Moderately compact light greenish/greyish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Diffuse and thin layer 0.00-0.12m thick. Subsoil.	0.33m
803	Layer	Moderately compact pinkish and yellowish brown silty sand and sandy clay with occasional small-large sub-rounded stones. Natural.	0.45m+
804	Fill	Friable dark blackish brown sandy peat with occasional charcoal flecks and rare fragments of post-med, white-glazed pot (observed but not retained). Possibly a lens of material within (805). 0.19m deep (max). Fill of [808].	0.49m
805	Fill	Friable light brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones, orange degraded sandstone fragments, CBM fragments and charcoal flecks. 0.30m deep (max). Fill of [808]. Same as (904).	0.30m
806	Fill	Moderately compact light grey sandy silt with rare small sub-angular stones. Thin bands / lamina visible within this deposit, including thin bands of peat. 0.40m deep (max). Fill of [808]. Same as (905).	c.0.40m
807	Fill	Friable dark brown peat with occasional roots and organic material. 0.32m deep. Fill of [808]. Same as (906).	0.80m
808	Cut	Linear in plan aligned E-W, 0.80m deep, visible portion 7.10m wide. Gently sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a flat base. Filled by (807), (806), (805) and (804). Same as [907].	c.0.30m

Trench 9

Dimensions: Length: 40.00m Width: 2.00m Depth: 0.70m

Total area: 80m²

Orientation: E-W

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 28.68m AOD (SW)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 28.39m AOD (NE)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
901	Layer	Friable dark blackish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones and rare CBM fragments. 0.25-0.33m thick. Topsoil.	Forms ground surface
902	Layer	Moderately compact light greenish/greyish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Diffuse and thin layer 0.00-0.12m thick. Subsoil.	0.33m

903	Layer	Firm mid yellowish brown silty sand with moderate small-large sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Natural.	0.42m+
904	Fill	Friable light brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones, orange degraded sandstone fragments and charcoal flecks. 0.42m deep (max). Fill of [907]. Same as (805).	0.42m
905	Fill	Moderately compact light grey sandy silt with rare small sub-angular stones. 0.38m deep (max). Fill of [907]. Same as (806).	0.84m
906	Fill	Friable dark brown peat with occasional roots and organic material. 0.30m deep. Fill of [907]. Same as (807).	1.22m
907	Cut	Linear in plan aligned approx E-W, 1.04m deep, visible portion 20m in length. Gently sloping sides with a gradual break of slope to a flat base. Filled by (906), (905) and (904). Same as [808].	0.42m

Trench 11

Dimensions: Length: 48.00m Width: 2.00m Depth: 0.30m

Total area: 96m²

Orientation: E-W

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 30.49m AOD (NE)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.07m AOD (SW)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
1101	Layer	Friable dark blackish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones and rare CBM fragments. 0.22m deep. Topsoil.	Forms ground surface
1102	Layer	Moderately compact light greenish/greyish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. 0.07m thick. Subsoil.	0.22m
1103	Layer	Firm orange sandy clay which becomes less sandy and more plastic at the west end of the trench. Natural.	0.29m+

Trench 12

Dimensions: Length: 19.00m Width: 2.00m Depth: m

Total area: 38m²

Orientation: N-S

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.30m AOD (SE)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 31.47m AOD (NW)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
1201	Layer	Friable dark blackish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones and rare CBM fragments. 0.23m deep. Topsoil.	Forms ground surface
1202	Layer	Friable mid greyish brown silty sand. 0.37m deep. Subsoil.	0.23m
1203	Layer	Firm light reddish brown sandy clay. Natural.	0.60m+

Trench 13

Dimensions: Length: 40.00m Width: 2.00m Depth: 0.45m

Total area: 80m²

Orientation: SW-NE

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.91m AOD (SW)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 31.60m AOD (NE)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
1300	Fill	Firm greyish brown sandy clay with orange mottling and occasional small rounded and angular stones and rare coal fragments. 0.23m deep. Fill of [1302].	0.45m
1301	Fill	Firm light grey silty clay with rare small rounded stones. 0.11m deep. Fill of [1302].	0.53m
1302	Cut	Linear in plan aligned E-W, 0.25m deep and 0.68m wide. Moderately steep sides with an abrupt break of slope to a flat base. Filled by (1300) and (1301).	0.45m
1303	Layer	Friable dark blackish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones and rare CBM fragments. 0.23m deep. Topsoil.	Forms ground surface
1304	Layer	Light brown sandy clay. 0.22m deep. Subsoil.	0.23m
1305	Layer	Firm light reddish brown sandy clay. Natural.	0.45m+

Trench 14

Dimensions: Length: 20.00m Width: 2.00m Depth: 0.43m

Total area: 40m²

Orientation: N-S

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.90m AOD (SE)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.32m AOD (NW)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
1400	Fill	Firm greyish brown sandy clay with orange mottling and occasional inclusions of small rounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of [1401].	0.43m
1401	Cut	Linear in plan aligned E-W, 0.67m wide and 0.11m deep. Gently sloping sides which break gradually to a shallow, irregular base. Filled by (1400).	0.43m
1402	Layer	Friable dark blackish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones and rare CBM fragments. 0.22m deep. Topsoil.	Forms ground surface
1403	Layer	Moderately compact light brown sandy clay. 0.21m deep. Subsoil.	0.22m
1404	Layer	Firm light reddish brown sandy clay. Natural.	0.43m+

Trench 15

Dimensions: Length: 20.00m Width: 2.00m Depth: 0.60m

Total area: 40m²

Orientation: SW-NE

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.66m AOD (SW)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.35m AOD (NE)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
1500	Layer	Friable dark blackish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-angular stones and rare CBM fragments. 0.35m deep. Topsoil.	Forms ground surface
1501	Layer	Moderately compact light greyish brown sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded pebbles. 0.25m deep. Subsoil.	0.35m

1502	Layer	Moderately compact, mottled yellowish and orangey brown sandy clay. Natural.	0.60m+
1503	Fill	Loose light greyish brown silty sand with abundant small-large sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. Fill of [1504].	0.60m
1504	Cut	Oval in plan with very gently sloping sides and a flat base. Width 1.60m, length 3.00m, depth 0.20m. Filled by (1503).	0.60m

Trench 17

Dimensions: Length: 20.70m Width: 2.20m Depth: 0.77m

Total area: 45.54m²

Orientation: E-W

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.43m AOD (E)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.38m AOD (W)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
1701	Layer	Firm but friable dark blackish brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. 0.45m deep. Topsoil.	Forms ground surface
1702	Layer	Firm light greenish/greyish brown silty sand with moderate small sub-rounded and sub-angular stones. 0.30m deep. Subsoil.	0.45m
1703	Layer	Firm mid orangey brown and greenish grey silty sand with abundant small-large sub-rounded stones. Natural.	0.75m+

Trench 18

Dimensions: Length: 19.00m Width: 2.00m Depth: 0.85m

Total area: 38m²

Orientation: E-W

Max OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.62m AOD (N)

Min OD Height of Current Ground Level: 32.44m AOD (S)

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface
1801	Layer	Moderately compact but friable dark blackish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones. 0.50m deep. Topsoil.	Forms ground surface
1802	Layer	Moderately compact but friable light greenish brown silty sand with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones. 0.35m. Subsoil.	0.50m
1803	Layer	Compact mid orangey brown silty sand with abundant small-large sub-rounded stones. Natural.	0.85m+
1804	Structure	Brick wall with stone threshold, aligned E-W and surviving to 4 courses. Bricks: 230mm x 120mm x 70mm with off-white friable lime mortar. Within possible construction cut [1805].	0.35m
1805	Cut	Possible construction cut for wall (1804). Linear in plan aligned E-W with vertical sides and a flat base. Filled by wall (1804).	0.35m

APPENDIX 2

Pottery Assessment

Seven sherds of pottery were collected from 3 contexts on site.

Context (101) yielded what appears to be the earliest sherd, a pale pink- orange earthenware fabric with fine sand grain inclusion. This sherd is possibly medieval in date and is likely to be residual.

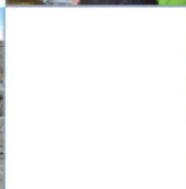
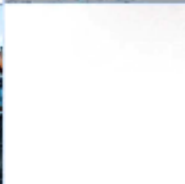
Context (104) has 3 sherds, plain white glazed earthenware (possibly from a transfer- printed ware vessel), a copper lustre sherd and a dark brown glazed redware piece. Using the lustre ware, a provisional date of 1800-1920 is likely.

Context (108) also has 3 sherds. A transfer-printed ware, a mocha or cane ware and a slip ware piece < cream band on a dark brown glaze> which may be slightly earlier in origin than the other 2 sherds which can be dated to 1780-1900.

This small assemblage has been used as a rough spot dating guide for the contexts and has no research value local or national.

Auction Mart, Wigton Quantification and identification – Spot-dating table

Context No	Sherd	Wt (g)	Description of pottery (i.e. ware & diagnostic features)	Abrasion	Date of pot	date of context
101	1	5	Medieval coarse ware?	-	Medieval	'Medieval'
104	1	20	Post medieval redware	-		1800-1900
104	1	3	Lustre ware	-	1800-1900+	
104	1	2	Transfer-printed ware		1780-1900+	
108	1	12	Post medieval slipware	-	1650-1800	1780-1900
108	1	2	Mocha or cane ware	-	1770-1900	
108	1	1	Transfer-printed ware	-	1780-1900+	



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