

LMHL11/001



## LANARK MEMORIAL HALL, LANARK

*Archaeological Watching Brief*

*for Mansell Construction Services Ltd*

*CL/09/0190*

*June 2011*



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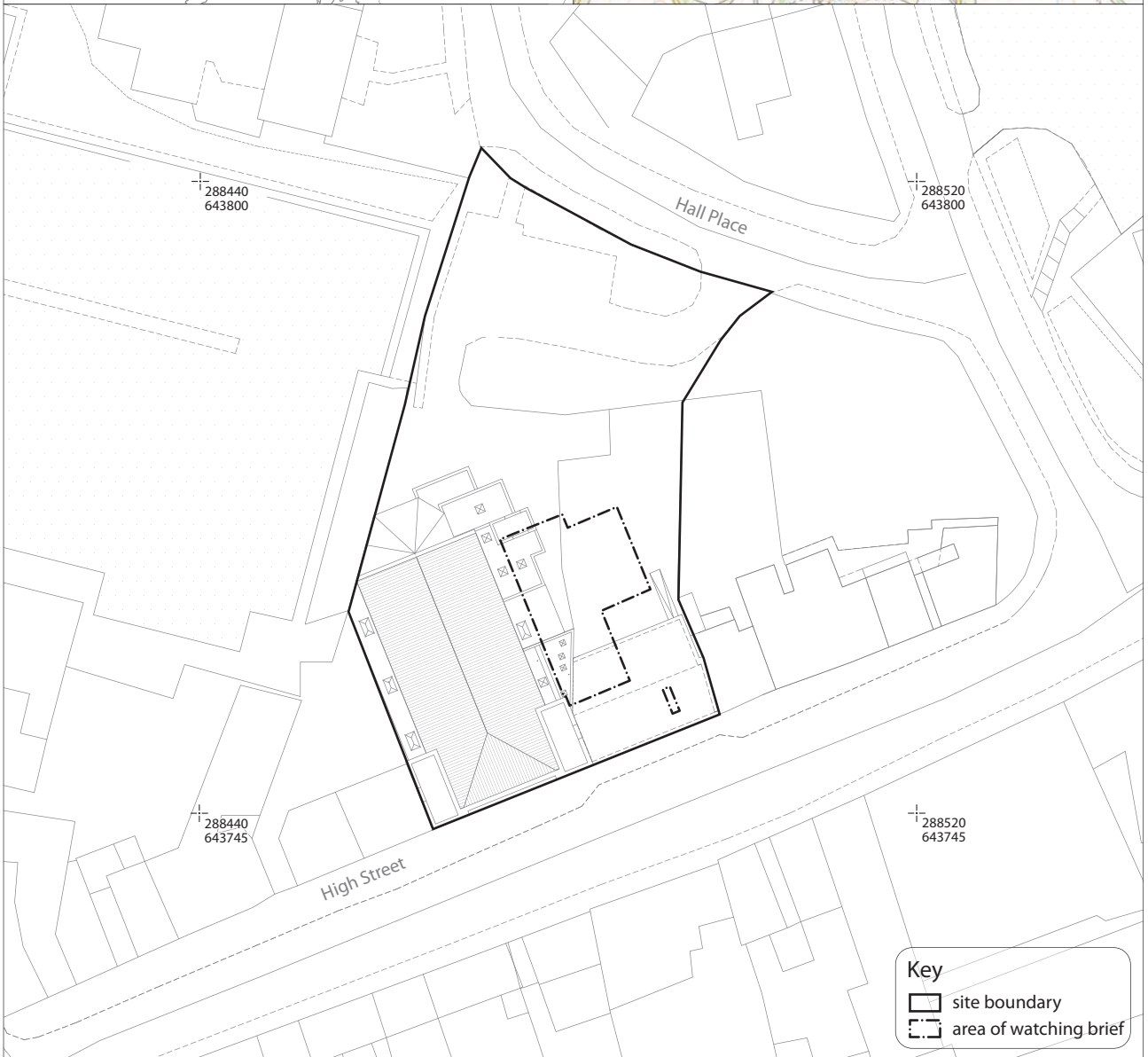
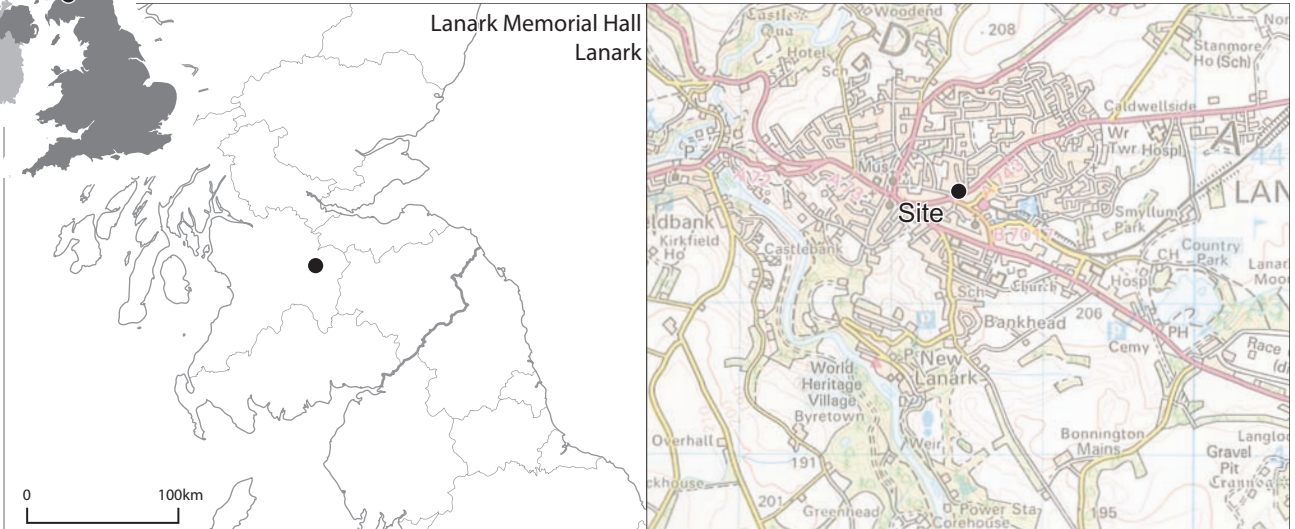
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Scale 1:750 @ A4



0 30m

**Illus 1**  
Site location



# LANARK MEMORIAL HALL, LANARK

## Archaeological Watching Brief

*An archaeological watching brief and desk-based assessment was undertaken at Lanark Memorial Hall and recently demolished Cargill Club, 17–21 St Leonard Street, Lanark, of ground works for the construction of a new Hall extension. The work was undertaken by Headland Archaeology on behalf of Mansell Construction Services Ltd following a planning condition on the development set by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and South Lanarkshire Council. The area of the new basement, the garden area immediately adjacent and a test pit were machine excavated under archaeological supervision. No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and watching brief undertaken on behalf of Mansell Construction Services Ltd at Lanark Memorial Hall and recently demolished Cargill Club, 17–21 St Leonard Street, Lanark, of ground works for the construction of a new Hall extension. The work was undertaken to meet a planning condition placed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) on application CL/09/0190. The works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Headland Archaeology Ltd, agreed by WoSAS and approved by South Lanarkshire Council. The work took place between 14th and 16th June 2011.

- National Monuments Records and local Sites and Monuments Records,
- readily available published sources.

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The Lanark Memorial Hall is situated in Lanark on the eastern edge of the town centre (NS 8848 4374, Illus 1). Bounded by Hall Place to the north, the A743 to the south, and retail and domestic properties to the east and west including a large Tesco's immediately to the northwest. The underlying drift geology consisted of Devensian Tills overlying early Devonian to Ludlow age Swanshaw Sandstone formation bedrock.

### 2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the archaeological works are:

- to identify and record any archaeological remains exposed by the ground works,
- to report on the results of the work.

### 3. DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

A summary desk-based assessment of the archaeological background to the area was prepared in order to inform the watching brief. This included the following sources:

- historic maps held at the National Library of Scotland,

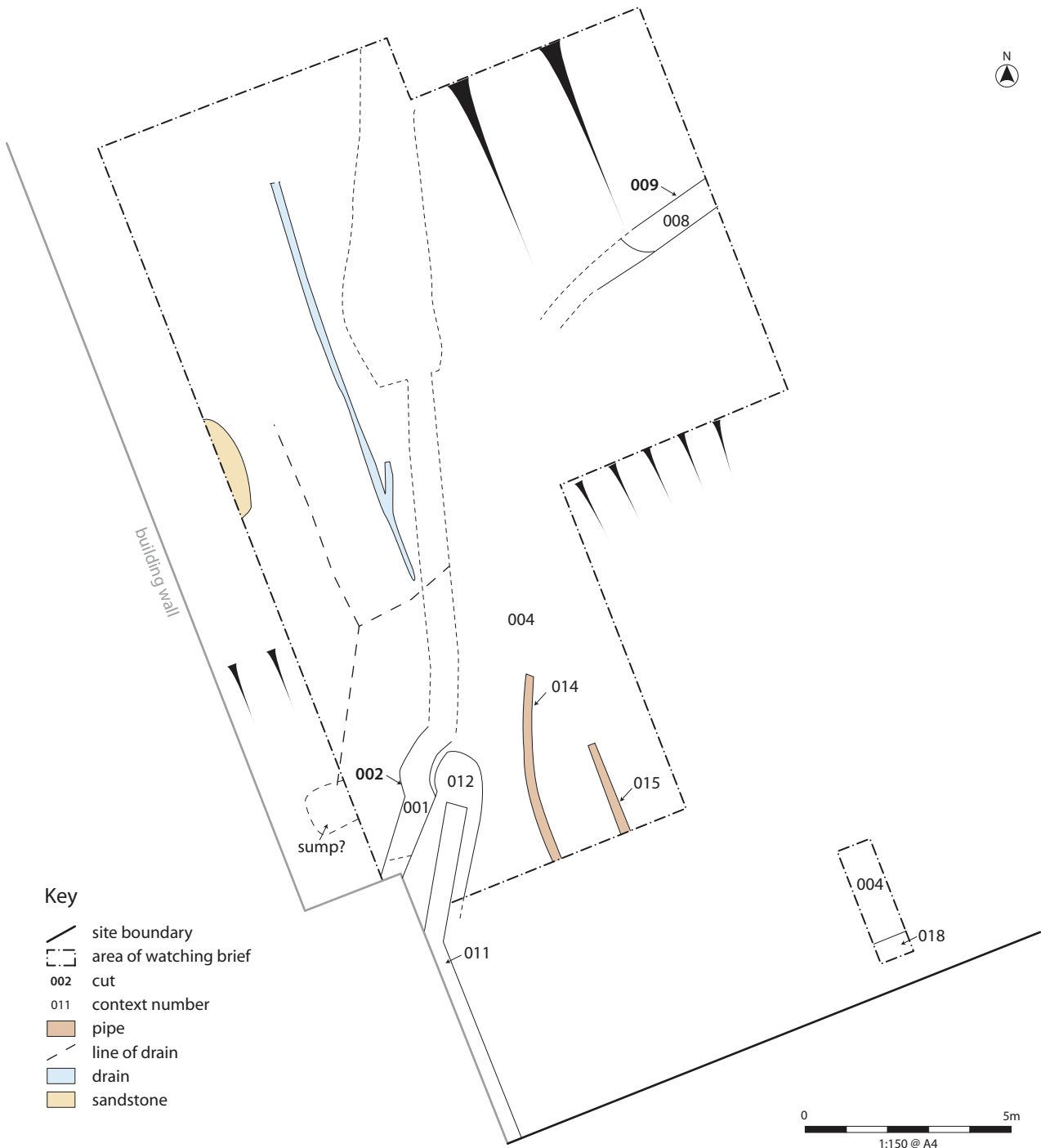
The site of the Memorial hall and recently demolished Cargill Club lay in an area of the town that was undeveloped until the late 18th century at the earliest, judging from the cartographic evidence (Wood 1825). No archaeological deposits of significance were known to have existed.

By the time Wood was publishing his town plan, there was a row of buildings along the frontage of the street, most likely to have been domestic in nature. The demolition of the Cargill Club in 2010 was however monitored by Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (Rennie 2010). The only sub-surface archaeological deposits this work revealed was two rough sandstone 'slabs' in one of the four test pits.

Due to the proximity of the Memorial Halls to the centre of a Medieval Royal Burgh there are a large number of entries in local and national sites and monuments records



2



**Illus 2**  
Area of watching brief

(WoSAS SMR and NMRS). These attest to the town being granted Royal Burgh status sometime between 1159 and 1214. Much of the existing town dates to this early period, and some structural evidence survives including evidence in the town-plan, which has been used to suggest that the medieval burgh incorporated an earlier settlement (H McB WoSAS SMR entry 10266).

Notable sites within the vicinity of the Memorial Hall include the ruinous remains of St Kentigern's Church, approximately 500m to the south west of the Memorial

Hall, thought to date from the 13th century although a church is known to have stood on the site from at least 1150. Further to the west, stands Castle Hill over looking the River Clyde, which is the location of the 12th or 13th century Lanark Castle. Excavations at Castle Hill in the 1970s uncovered burnt material, a possible path and some medieval pottery – but no structural evidence for the castle itself.

In addition to the standing remains of St Kentigern's, there are several other sites relating to the medieval



**Illus 3**

North facing section of basement area

history and development of the town in the environs of the Memorial Hall. Three of the four ports or gates, controlling access to the town, lie within 500m of the development site as do several wells that may have their origins in the early burgh period. The Market Cross, the Tron and the Tolbooth, forming essential elements of the administrative structure of the town, also lay within close proximity to the Memorial Hall but date to the later part of the medieval period.

Although not within the direct catchment of the medieval burgh, the New Lanark Mills approximately 1 km to the south do represent a significant heritage site in terms of its high profile and World Heritage status. The mills, associated buildings and village, largely constructed in 1785, were considered to be a model for an industrial village.

There have been a number of excavations, evaluations and stray finds that demonstrate the character of the medieval deposits within the area. Pits containing medieval midden deposits were uncovered on the High Street, along with wall foundations and 14th–15th century pottery. A 15th century seal was also recovered during demolition of a structure on the high street.

Various excavations and watching briefs have also taken place, across the town that illustrate a contrasting absence of medieval deposits in areas where they should also be expected. Trial trenching on Wellgate, at St Kentigern’s Cemetery and on the High Street all failed to locate any archaeologically significant deposits, despite their respective proximity to the core of the medieval burgh.

Further work on Castlegate in advance of development identified only 19th century deposits.

Consistent with this latter trend, an archaeological watching brief in November 2004 at 11 St Leonard’s Street (WoSAS site 61650/event 3194) undertaken by AOC (Scotland) Ltd revealed no archaeological deposits, although the construction ground works was already complete when the archaeological inspection took place.

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#### 4. METHOD

A 360° tracked excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket was used to remove demolition rubble or topsoil under direct archaeological supervision. Excavation continued until subsoil or significant archaeological deposits were encountered, below which a toothed bucket was used when excavating the natural.

All recording followed Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd standard procedures and was in accordance with the codes of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). Colour and Monochrome print photographs, supplemented by digital photographs were taken to record archaeological deposits and to illustrate the progress of the excavations, each being given unique numbers and recorded in a register. Metric scales were clearly visible in record photographs.

An overall site plan was recorded and related to the National Grid. All recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards.



## 5. RESULTS

An area approximately 30m x 8m was excavated under archaeological supervision abutting the Memorial Halls eastern elevation. This trench, which was excavated for the proposed basement was 0.7m to 1.5m in depth due to its orientation on the slope of the hill. Against the eastern limit of the site adjacent to the basement area the ground was reduced to approximately the same level as the halls internal floor. A small test pit 0.8m x 3m was also excavated against the front of the site.

No significant archaeological deposits were encountered. The basement area was characterized by a simple profile of a mixed deposit of topsoil/demolition rubble [003] 0.3m to 0.5m deep overlying reddish brown clay sand natural [004]. This was cut by numerous modern service trenches and wall foundations associated with the construction of the Memorial Hall and Cargill Club: [002], [006], [005], [013], [014] and [015].

Reduction of the eastern part of the site revealed a simple soil profile more typical of deep cultivated garden soils, very dark greyish brown sandy silt 0.4m to 0.75m deep overlying reddish brown sandy silt 0.6m to 1m in deep, in turn on light yellowish brown natural sand [004]. The remains of a small revetment wall [007], [008] and [009] was identified running across the southern end of this area.

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The front of the site was covered in a 0.25m to 0.5m layer of red brick demolition rubble, or 'red blaes' [016]. This was seen to lie on yellowish brown boulder clay natural [004] in the southern limit of the basement trench and in the test pit excavated at the frontage of the site.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The watching brief demonstrated that no archaeological remains were disturbed by the proposed construction. The sandstone slabs encountered by the previous watching brief are likely to have been part of the background geology as a significant amount of greyish sandstone fragments were present throughout the varied natural [004].

The deposits that were recorded as part of this investigation suggest that the site was subject to intensive clearance at some stage – most likely for the construction of the Memorial Hall and the Cargill Club in the 1920s and as result any medieval or post medieval deposits were removed.

## 7. REFERENCES

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