

**Date:** August 2007  
**Client:** Cumbria County Council  
**Project Code:** BSC07

**William Howard School, Brampton, Cumbria:  
Results of an archaeological watching brief.**

Roz Gillis

## PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET (BSC07)

<b>Client</b>	Cumbria County Council
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NY 5240 6130 (site centred)
<b>Project Manager</b>	Simon Stronach
<b>Text</b>	Roz Gillis
<b>Fieldwork</b>	Roz Gillis Jamie Humble Chris Muirhead
<b>Schedule</b>	
Fieldwork	12 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2007
Report	August 2007

## SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at William Howard School, Brampton, Cumbria. The work was commissioned by Cumbria County Council and followed a specification agreed with Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service. The watching brief covered the footprint of a temporary car park and temporary classrooms.*

*No archaeological features were identified during the watching brief.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document contains the results of an archaeological watching brief commissioned by Cumbria County Council in connection with the erection of temporary classrooms and creation of a temporary car parking area at the William Howard School, Brampton (NGR: NY 5240 6130). The project was undertaken in accordance with a specification agreed with Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service. The work was undertaken in two phases; first phase was carried out from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> June and the second phase was carried out from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June.

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

During construction of the school in 1963 several Roman tile kilns were revealed (Cumbria HER No. 283). Eight kilns were discovered and are thought to have been of Hadrianic date (c 100-125 AD). Finds recovered included ironwork, tile and pottery and the assemblage suggested that activity was connected to the military. The kilns lay within the school playing fields.

A watching brief in 2000 (Stronach 2000) on a classroom extension monitored the site strip of an L-shaped area around the corner of the school hockey pitch. One abraded fragment of a Roman tile was found in the topsoil but no other features or finds of Roman date were recovered. A possible ditch and a small pit were found cut into the natural sub-soil. No datable finds were recovered but cereal grain recovered from the possible ditch strongly suggested a medieval date. Further monitoring in 2003 (Masser 2003) recorded a small ditch or gully, which produced no finds.

## 3. METHOD

The excavation of the car park, temporary building footings and associated service trenches was carried out using a JCB mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.60 m wide toothless ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. The ratio of one archaeologist to one machine was maintained. Machine excavation ceased when either subsoil or archaeological deposits were encountered. Any possible archaeological features were cleaned and investigated by hand.

## 4. RESULTS (Figure 1)

### *The car park and access road*

The area of the temporary car park was located to the northwest of the William Howard School on a level grass-covered playing field surrounded by a mature birch hedge that was cut through for access. An area measuring 33m by 40m was stripped of between 0.05-0.10m of dark brown loose sandy clay loam topsoil with frequent inclusions of roots and modern ceramics. Shards of 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from this topsoil and appear from their small sherd size to have been redeposited.

An area measuring 5m by 10m was stripped of 0.05-0.10m of topsoil for the proposed access track to the car park. During the excavation of the track, a 0.50m wide service trench was

encountered. This service trench was 0.30m away from the road and ran parallel to it. This service trench cut through a spread of hardcore from the construction of the road.

There was a small bank formed from topsoil, running under the hedge that bounded the edge of the playing field, this was cut through during the construction of the access from the road to the car park.

No features of archaeological interest were encountered during the course of the watching brief over the construction of the temporary car park. The excavations did not extend below topsoil. The area was then sealed under hardcore with no further disturbance.

#### *The temporary schoolrooms*

An area of 40m by 20m was stripped to a depth of 0.50-0.70m. The topsoil depth was 0.15m, underlying this was dark reddish brown gravel with frequent inclusions of brick, modern tile, pencils and modern detritus. The subsoil was not encountered and no archaeological features were uncovered during the machine strip of this area.

## **5 Conclusions**

In both of the areas monitored the subsoil was not reached. It was apparent that during the watching brief of the classrooms, that this was an area that had been previously disturbed.

No further work is recommended.

## **6. References**

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Masser, P 2003   | William Howard School, Brampton, Cumbria: the results of an archaeological evaluation. (Unpublished client report)         |
| Stronach, S 2000 | Results of an archaeological watching brief at William Howard School, Longtown Road, Brampton. (Unpublished client report) |

## **APPENDIX 1**

Archive contains field notes and plans

## APPENDIX 2.

### FINDS LIST

17/08/07

Julie Franklin

#### Finds Summary

The finds are all modern, possibly all from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, though there are many long lived types present and they may range from the later 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. They represent typical domestic waste of the period. The relatively small sherd size suggests redeposition.

#### Finds List

Ctxt	Material	Qty	Description	Spot Date
U/S	Pottery	18	10 ModRE, bowl sherds, flower pots?, slip trailed, slip lined, green mottled glaze, unglazed 4 ModWE, transfer printed, blue glazed, complete jar base marked 'Strawberry/Davenport' with wreath of strawberry leaves, (mark prob 1815-50, nb. strawberry – name of pattern not of contents) 4 ModSW, jar rim, bottle sherds, various	c.19 <sup>th</sup>
U/S	Clay Pipe	2	Bowl, moulded seam, stamped TW in oval (Thomas White, Edinburgh) Stem, narrow bore	c.1823/82
U/S	Glass	1	Natural coloured glass, base of egg shaped bottle?	e.19 <sup>th</sup> /e.20 <sup>th</sup>
U/S	Fe	1	Object, flat curving strip, too thin for horseshoe	

#### Abbreviations & Notes:

Smpl & SF: sample or small find no. as appropriate

Materials: Fe = iron; Pottery: ModWE = Modern white earthenware, ModRE = Modern red earthenware, ModSW = Modern stoneware; Qty: number of sherds; Spot Dates: 14<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> = a date between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> = material covers whole range of dates

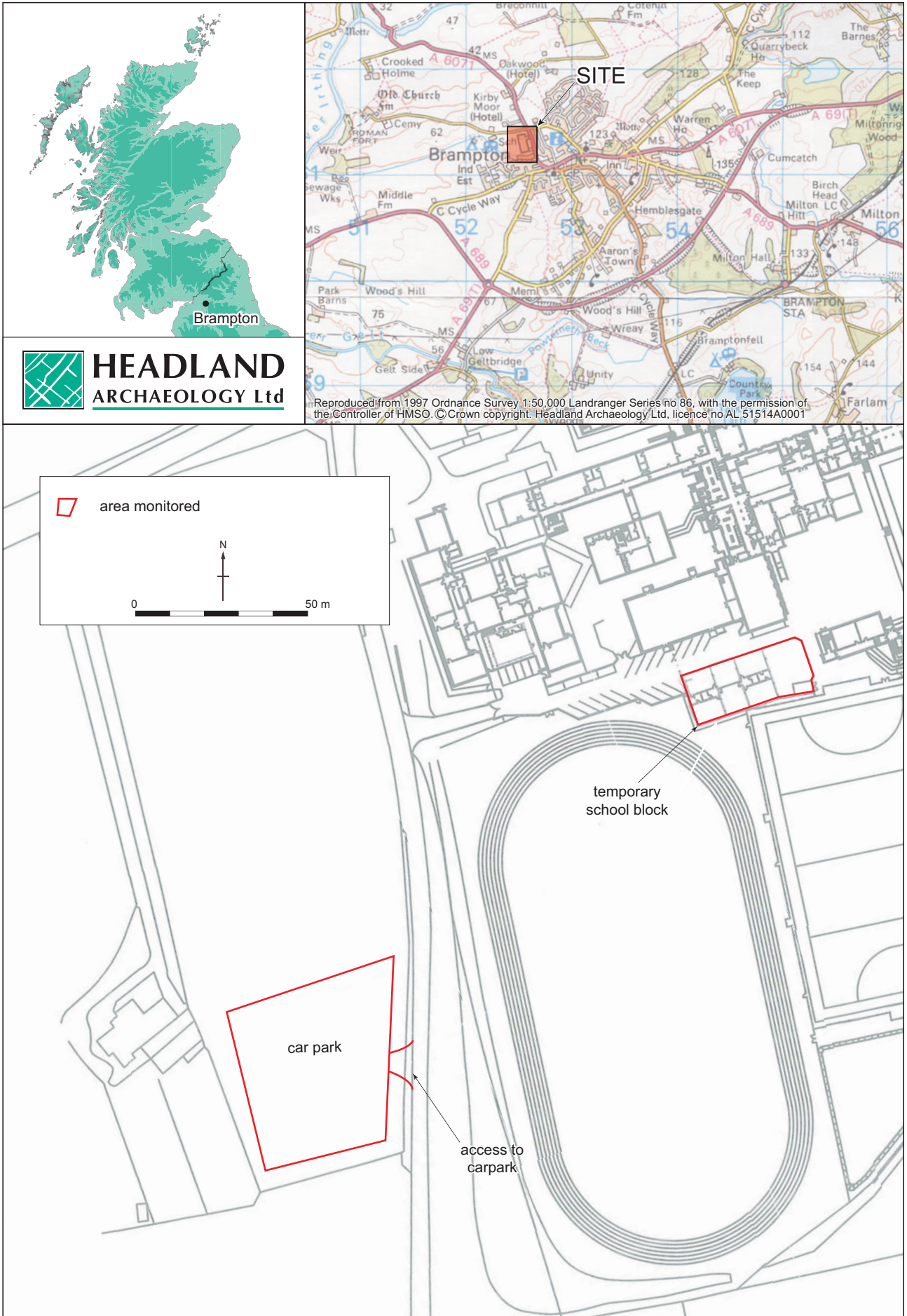


Figure 1: BSC07, William Howard School, Brampton, Cumbria - Site location.