

BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT

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REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Compiled for Chandler Coote, Architects by The Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

BRP 10/01b
2010

January

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Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Location of new build

Plate 1: Excavated construction trenches, facing east

Plate 2: Excavated construction trenches facing west

SUMMARY

This report has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project for Chandler Coote, Architects and Warkworth CE 1st School and sets out the results of the archaeological monitoring undertaken in January 2009, during the groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the CE 1st School, Warkworth, Northumberland (NGR NU 2469 0523) (Figures 1 and 2).

The watching brief was undertaken intermittently between Monday 11th and Wednesday 20th January 2010. Depth of excavation varied between 1m, to the base of the foundations, at the north side of the excavation to 1.5m at the south side, where embanked soil was stripped to level the ground prior to the foundations being excavated. The foundations were excavated through an orange-brown clay up to a depth of 0.6m. This was overlaid by the foundations of the car park on the north side of the site and on the south side of the site a light red-brown buried soil, up to 0.8m thick lay beneath a grey-brown topsoil up to 0.3m thick and over the subsoil.

Although the school site lies adjacent to the chapel of St Mary Magdelene, a scheduled ancient monument, no features of archaeological interest were encountered indicating that the boundary of the chapel site lay to the east of the development and that this site was a discrete entity in the environment.

**WARKWORTH FIRST SCHOOL,
WARKWORTH,
NORTHUMBERLAND**

REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This report has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project for Chandler Coote, Architects and Warkworth CE 1st School and sets out the results of the archaeological monitoring undertaken in January 2009, during the groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to the CE 1st School, Warkworth, Northumberland (NGR NU 2469 0523) (Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.0.2 The work was undertaken in compliance with a Written Schedule of Investigation compiled by the Bamburgh Research Project in January 2010 in response to a brief issued by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team. The NCCCT reference number is: A40/2; 10339 and the Planning Reference number is A/2009/0351 The OASIS record number is: bamburgh1-71507.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 Warkworth C of E First School lies in the southern part of Warkworth Village, Northumberland. The school building lies immediately to the east of Guilden Road, which extends south from Morwick Road. It is on the southern edge of the built-up area some 500m to the south of the castle (NGR NU 2469 0523) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological background

- 2.2.1 Although there is evidence for prehistoric activity within the lower Tweed valley area there is no clear evidence that prehistoric features are likely to be present in the development area. Roman activity in the area is indicated by the presence of the Devil's Causeway, Roman Road leading to the mouth of the Tweed. Such activity is likely to be concentrated to the south of the river in the area of a putative Roman fort.
- 2.2.2 Berwick is believed to have originated during the Anglo-Saxon period as a farm/processing centre of a greater estate, possibly part of the monastic estate of Coldingham. The earliest documentary evidence for Berwick's existence is found in a charter of Edgar, King of Scots, dating to 1095. Berwick grew in importance during the 12th century becoming one of the most significant trading centres in Scotland. By the end of the 13th century at least 15 religious houses are known to have held property in Berwick. Alexander II founded a Dominican Friary, probably located near

Northumberland Avenue, around 1240 and a Carmelite Friary, founded in 1270, was located on a site close to, or beneath, the present Governor's House in Palace Street East. The Augustinian Friary was founded in the town in 1296, but its location is not known. The Franciscan Friary may have been located in the area now occupied by Nos.25-31 Low Greens and the grassed area to the north. The House of the Friars of the Sack, present in the mid 13th century, was abolished at the Second Council of Lyons in 1274 and the site subsequently sold to the Dominicans.

- 2.2.3 The enclosed area of the town in the 13th century extended to some 125 acres, but only two-thirds of the area is believed to have been intensively developed during the medieval period. Briggate, Marygate and the whole of the Ness are thought to have been quite densely occupied from the medieval to the present.
- 2.2.4 Construction of a town wall was started at Berwick after its capture by Edward I of England in 1296, and completed in the early 14th century. These defences lay well to the west of the later walls, linking with Berwick Castle, in the area of the present railway station. As a consequence of the Border wars the prosperity of the town was greatly reduced. When a new defensive rampart was constructed during the reign of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) only two thirds of the medieval town was included within the new defensive line, which passed 50m to the north west of the development site at its closest.
- 2.2.5 Cartographic evidence shows Ravensdowne as a built up road from the 17th century, supporting the assumption that it has been part of the urban centre of Berwick from the medieval period. As such it represents an area of great archaeological potential. Francis Cowe, a local expert on Berwick has proposed Ravensdowne (medieval Ravensdale) as the possible location of the House of the Friars of the Sack, in existence within Berwick by the mid 13th century (Cowe, 1998).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Monitoring during excavation

- 3.1.1 A suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background to the site, was present to record any items of interest that were revealed. All work was carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and followed the IFA Standards for Watching Briefs. The work undertaken conformed to the methodology listed below.

3.2 General standards

- 3.2.1 All archaeological features identified during the monitoring, would be sample excavated according to their type and form:

50% of all discrete features.

50% of waterlogged deposits.

25% of stratified deposits.

25% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill

10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill

- 3.2.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample would be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 3.2.3 Secure contexts would be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples.
- 3.2.4 Pottery and Animal Bone would be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts would be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds would be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies were in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and IFA Guidelines for Finds Work). Had artefacts of gold or silver been recovered they would be treated in accordance with the 1996 Treasure Act and appropriate procedures would be followed.
- 3.2.5 In the event of Human burials being revealed they would be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. Consultation with the County Archaeological Officer would be sought to determine further action.
- 3.2.6 Any archaeological features encountered would be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:
1. A photographic record of the site was taken using black and white print, colour slide film at 35mm format. In addition a digital photographic record was compiled.
 2. A written description of features was compiled using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.
- 3.2.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Monitoring during excavation

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken intermittently between Monday 11th and Wednesday 20th January 2010. Depth of excavation varied between 1m, to the base of the foundations, at the north side of the excavation to 1.5m at the south side, where embanked soil was stripped to level the ground prior to the foundations being excavated. The foundations were excavated through an orange-brown clay up to a

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depth of 0.6m. In the southern side of the site, the subsoil was overlain by a light red-brown buried soil, up to 0.8m thick which in turn lay beneath a grey-brown topsoil up to 0.3m thick.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.0.1 Although the school site lies adjacent to the chapel of St Mary Magdelene, a scheduled ancient monument, no features of archaeological interest were encountered, indicating that the boundary of the chapel site lay to the east of the development and that this site was a discrete entity in the landscape.

REFERENCES

Published and unpublished sources

- Bede. *Ecclesiastical History of the English People (H.E.)* (eds. B. Colgrave and R. A. B. Mynors), London 1969.
- BRP Finds Manual, 2000
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- Carlton, R. and Ryder, P. *Archaeology in Northumberland*. Volume 18. 2009
- English Heritage *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*, 1991.
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- Hodgson, J.C. . *A History of Northumberland*, vol.5 (Newcastle) 1899, 121-3
- IFA 2000 Code of Conduct
- IFA 2001 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.

APPENDIX I

**WARKWORTH FIRST SCHOOL,
WARKWORTH,
NORTHUMBERLAND**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
WRITTEN SCHEDULE OF INVESTIGATION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This Written Schedule of Investigation has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project, Commercial Section for Chandler Coote Architects. The document sets out the project design for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks associated with the extension of Warkworth C of E First School, Warkworth Village, Northumberland. Planning reference number is: A/2009/0351 and the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team number is: A40/2; 10339.
- 1.0.2 The Written Schedule of Investigation details the proposed scheme of works for the watching brief. The document has been prepared in order to fulfil a requirement for the planning application, as laid out in the brief issued by The Northumberland County Council Conservation Team.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 Warkworth C of E First School lies in the southern part of Warkworth Village, Northumberland. The school building lies immediately to the east of Guilden Road, which extends south from Morwick Road. It is on the southern edge of the built-up area some 500m to the south of the castle (NGR NU 2469 0523) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 Mesolithic activity in the vicinity of Warkworth is demonstrated by the presence of a stone hammerhead from Hartlaw and an axe from South Side. It is not certain though that either is clearly from their find spots as some suspicion remains that they may have been transported as aggregate. Neolithic activity in the area is attested by the cup and ring marked cliff at Morwick. It has been suggested that a promontory fort was present at the site of the medieval castle, but this remains speculative.
- 2.2.2 Early medieval cross fragments recovered from the River Coquet and place name evidence would indicate a settlement of this date, probably in the loop of the river that formed the focus of the later medieval settlement. The religious nature of the cross fragments and the association of the name Verca (from the probable root of Warkworth – Verca's worthig) with an abbess named by Bede as gifting a burial shroud to St Cuthbert has led to the assumption that the settlement could be monastic in nature (Bede. 1969). The similarity of topographical setting of the site at Warkworth with that of the monastery at Old Melrose is likely to have added to this assumption. Proof of the presence of such a monastery will require much more archaeological work however. The identification of masonry at the site of the Church of St Lawrence, believed to be of early medieval date during a watching brief in 2008 represents the first firm evidence of such settlement (Carlton. 2009).
- 2.2.3 Warkworth was an important market town in the later medieval period, with the port and settlement growing up in the vicinity of the castle. The whole of the loop in the river Coquet was settled at this time, accessed via a fortified bridge to the north and through the defensive extension from the castle

site that closed off the river loop to the south.

2.2.4 The chapel of St Mary Magdelene, a scheduled ancient monument, is known to lie to the immediate east of the school site. Gifted by Robert fitz Roger lord of Warkworth to the Prior and convent of Durham in AD 1214, the site was clearly in existence by the beginning of the 13th century. The grant included the chapel, which lay to the north of the present farm, its garden and all land enclosed within a ditch, almost certainly the equivalent of a *valum monasterii* (Hodgeson. 1899). Part of the buildings associated with the chapel were uncovered in 1977 during the construction of the housing estate. The structures, which were part of a hall, solar and latrine, were not fully recorded prior to their destruction. The chapel was dissolved after 1536 and little indication of its presence is provided by the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map c. 1860 which depicts the site as open fields. The present school may lie beyond the chapel boundary, but with the available evidence this is by no means certain.

2.3 Impact of the development

2.3.1 The development comprises the construction of an extension on the west side of the school building and the extension of the present car park to west and east to form a full rectangle from its current L-shaped form. The foundations of the new building will extend to load bearing subsoil. The extension of the current car park will require limited ground reduction to the construction base level for the new tarmac surface some 300mm below the present ground level (Figure 2).

2.3.2 The proposed scheme of works would indicate potential to impact on undisturbed stratigraphy, should it be present, during the excavation of the construction trenches for the building extension and during groundwork associated with the extension of the car park.

2.3.3 The location of the development beyond the historic centre of Warkworth indicates a relatively limited potential for the works undertaken to impact on medieval urban stratigraphy. The presence of the Chapel of St Mary Magdelene in the field immediately to the east of the site does however represent a very real prospect of encountering features, or cultural material, associated with this establishment. In addition the concentration of monuments within the general area also allows for the discovery of an unexpected find.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

3.1 In the light of the potential for the construction works to impact upon preserved archaeological remains it is proposed that a continuous watching brief be conducted during the ground work. Provision will be made for the archaeological consultant to suspend works to allow for the rapid investigation and recording of objects or features encountered. Should archaeological material be encountered the consultant will keep the Assistant County Archaeologist informed.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Watching brief during excavation

4.1.1 During all excavation activity a suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background to the site, will be present to record any items of interest that area revealed by these excavations. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and should follow the IFA Standards for Watching Briefs. This watching brief will conform to the following methodology.

4.1.2 A contingency of up to 50 person days of investigation can be invoked following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist, the client and the monitoring archaeologist.

4.2 General standards

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- 4.2.1 All archaeological features identified during the monitoring will be recorded and sample excavated according to their type and form.
- 4.2.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 4.2.3 Secure contexts will be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples. Any concentrations of charcoal or other carbonised material recovered on site will usually be retained.
- 4.2.4 Pottery and Animal Bone will be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds will be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies will be in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and IFA Guidelines for Finds Work). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.
- 4.2.5 In the event of Human burials being revealed they will be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. After consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, if excavation is required, work will comply with the relevant home Office regulations.
- 4.2.6 Any archaeological features encountered will be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:

A photographic record will be taken using black and white print, colour slide film at 35mm format. In addition a digital photographic record will be compiled.

A written description of features will be recorded using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.

All features will be drawn at an appropriate scale using pre-printed permatrace. Plans will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.

- 4.2.7 All archaeological features and horizons will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.2.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

5.0 MONITORING

- 5.0.1 Access will be made available at all reasonable times to the archaeological representatives of the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team to inspect the excavation site.
- 5.0.2 Access to the site will be on the basis of prior notification and subject to any relevant health and safety considerations.

6.0 POST-EXCAVATION WORK, ARCHIVE AND REPORT COMPILATION

- 6.0.1 On completion of the excavation an assessment of the site records and finds will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (1991) guidelines. This will include:

- 1. collation of all site records

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2. compilation of a report
 3. production of context, photographic, finds and illustration databases
 4. analysis of the finds assemblage by relevant specialists
 5. environmental assessment of selected bulk samples
- 6.0.2 The assessment report, with each page and paragraph numbered and with cross referenced illustrations, will include:
1. summary of the project background
 2. site location
 3. methodology
 4. results of the watching brief
 5. site location plans and illustrations of results at appropriate scales
 6. interpretation of the results in an appropriate context
 7. post-excavation assessment of the site archive
 8. catalogue and assessment of the artefactual archive
 9. catalogue and assessment of the faunal remains
 10. catalogue and assessment of the palaeoenvironmental samples recovered
 11. appendix containing a list and summary of each recorded context
- 6.0.3 A copy of the report should be submitted by the archaeologist to the commissioning client, and the County SMR, together with a PDF copy, within 2 months of completion of the work. A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and an article will be submitted to a local or national journal if appropriate.
- 6.0.4 The site archive will be prepared to the standard specified in the Management of Archaeological Projects, appendix 3 (HBMC 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). A summary account of the context record will be included. The archive will be deposited at the specified museum within 6 months of completion of the work on site.
- 6.0.5 An online OASIS form will be completed for the project as part of the post-excavation assessment process.

7.0 PERSONNEL

- 7.0.1 The designated project manager Graeme Young, is one of the five directors of the Bamburgh Research Project. A graduate of Newcastle University, with 21 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham. He is an Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 7.0.2 Additional field staff, with appropriate archaeological experience, will be engaged as required.

8.0 SUB-CONTRACTED SPECIALISTS

- 8.0.1 Although it is not possible to predict the range of artefacts that may be recovered provision has been made for the analysis of the most common artefacts.

Material	Specialist
Medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Post-medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Prehistoric pottery	Blaise Vyner
Roman Pottery	Blaise Vyner
Animal bone	Durham University Archaeological Services
Palaeoenvironmental	Durham University Archaeological Services

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Conservation

Karen Barker

9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.0.1 The Bamburgh Research Project complies with the 1974 Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments in all its operations. The SCAUM manual and the Bamburgh Research Project Health and Safety Policy Document is followed for all site works. A designated and appropriately trained first aider is present at all times during working hours. A First Aid kit, Accident Book and telephone are provided for each project. Safety footwear is mandatory on all excavation sites. Where required safety helmets and reflective jackets are provided. It is policy for a vehicle to be present at an excavation and staff must be appropriately equipped for bad weather.
- 9.0.2 All staff undergo a safety induction prior to commencing work on site. A written risk assessment is undertaken specific for each site. The safety assessment is reviewed on a daily basis and changes to the working conditions monitored continually during adverse weather conditions.

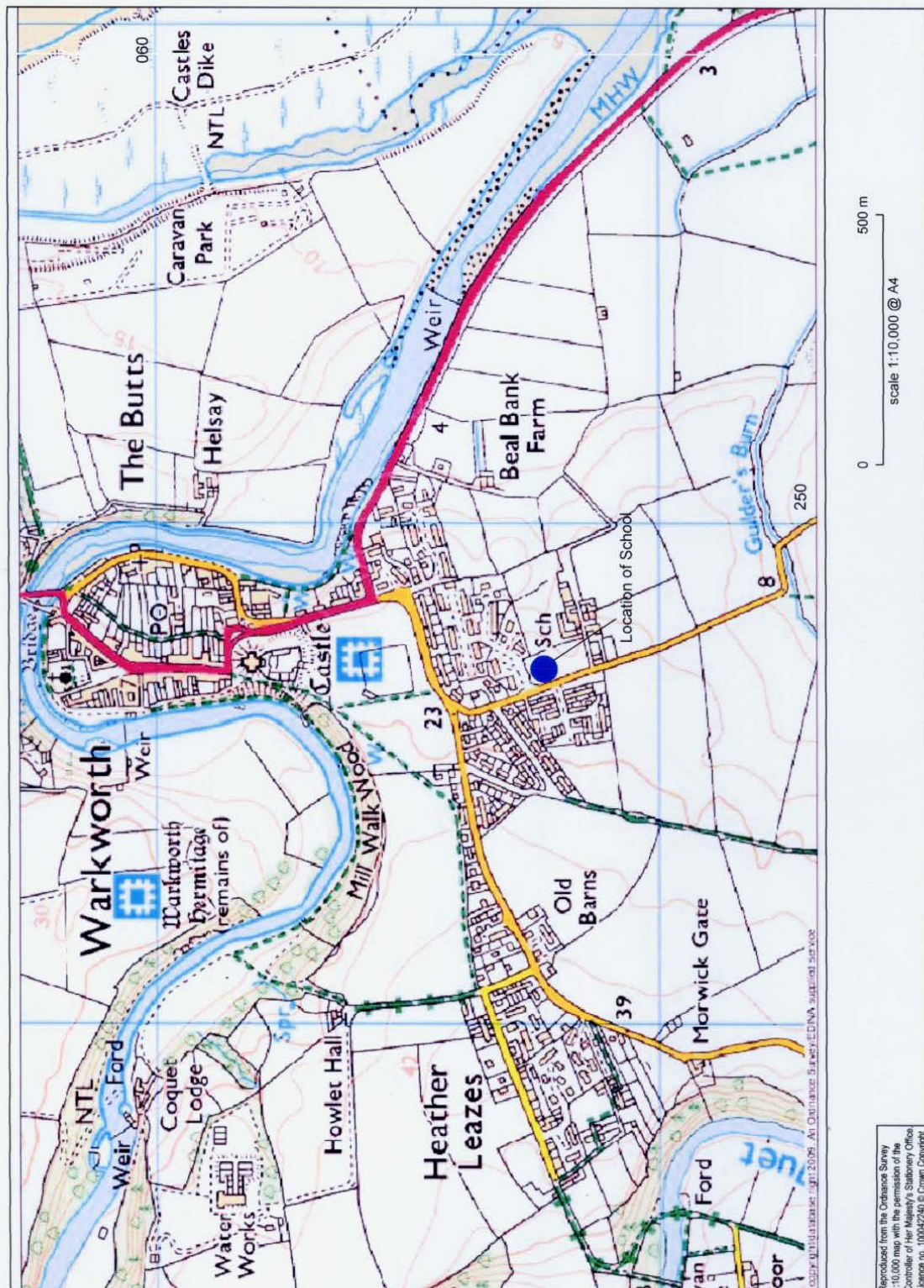


Figure 1 Site location



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Plate 1: Excavated construction trenches, facing east.



Plate 2: Excavated construction trenches facing west.