

CARLISLE NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT ROUTE, CUMBRIA

**Archaeological Works
Specific to the Hadrian's Wall
SAM.
Addendum to Project Design
004**

December 2008

NGR: NY 3725 5685



1 BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This document is an addendum to *Project Design 004* that covers all Identified Archaeological Works specific to the area of the Hadrian's Wall Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no. 26110). The site is located adjacent to the River Eden, north-west of Knockupworth Farm, at NGR NY 3725 5685, for the Carlisle Northern Development Route (CNDR). This addendum has been produced by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) at the request of English Heritage (EH) following discussions held on site and by telephone. The purpose of this addendum is to propose a methodology for the excavation of the North Vallum Mound, in order to mitigate the impact of an underpass for an accommodation track.
- 1.1.2 The Wall itself, together with all its associated features, has been designated as a World Heritage Site since 1987 (English Heritage 2002), and is statutorily protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM; Scheduled Ancient Monument No 26110). The proposed work will be undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) for Birse Civils Ltd, acting on behalf of Connect CNDR who have been employed by Cumbria County Council (CCC) to build the road. Planning consent for the road construction was granted in April 2006 (application ref. 1/04/9032), with further consent for a minor amendment to the original application being granted in November 2007 (application ref. 1/07/9020). Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) to undertake this work was sought by Geoff Holden of CCC and was granted by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in March 2003 (ref. HSD 9/2/4981); subsequently, consent for a variation to the original application was granted in April 2006.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

- 1.2.1 It was originally intended to preserve the surviving deposits of the North Mound *in situ*, as is reflected in the wording of *Project Design 004*. However, following the provision by Birse Civils Ltd of detailed design information, including the relative depths of impact of the underpass for the accommodation track, it has been determined that preservation *in situ* of the North Mound within the footprint of the underpass will not be possible.
- 1.2.2 OA North have already stripped the agricultural topsoil from the entire application area and have hand-cleaned the exposed deposits. The surviving North Mound has been sectioned, recorded and palaeoenvironmental samples retrieved in the north and south of the site, and a detailed contour survey of the mound deposits has taken place using a Differentiated Global Positioning System.
- 1.2.3 In order to excavate the North Mound in advance of construction, OA North intend to track a 360° tracked excavator along the turf-covered drainage easement in the field adjacent and to the south-east of the fenced SM area, entering the site

via its north-eastern corner. The machine will then be tracked over the site to where the North Mound survives, keeping to areas that have either been made archaeologically sterile or which are devoid of archaeology.

- 1.2.4 The mound will be removed by means of careful mechanical excavation under archaeological supervision. Attention will be paid to stratigraphic succession, with each layer being removed in sequence. Machining will progress in controlled spits *c* 0.02m - 0.05m with any finds thus exposed being collected and their location/context measured and recorded. Any features or complex deposits exposed during the machining will be hand-excavated and recorded in the manner set out in *Project Design 004*. Any changes in the mound construction will be noted. Machining will stop at the level of the undisturbed natural. Any arisings will be stored in spoil heaps in the north-east of the site, away from the surviving stone wall, in areas which are either archaeologically sterile or which are devoid of archaeology.
- 1.2.5 The section through the mound deposits exposed in the eastern edge of the site will be recorded in accordance with the original design (paper record, scale section drawing and photographs). Samples (monolith and bulk) will be retrieved as required following consultation with EH.