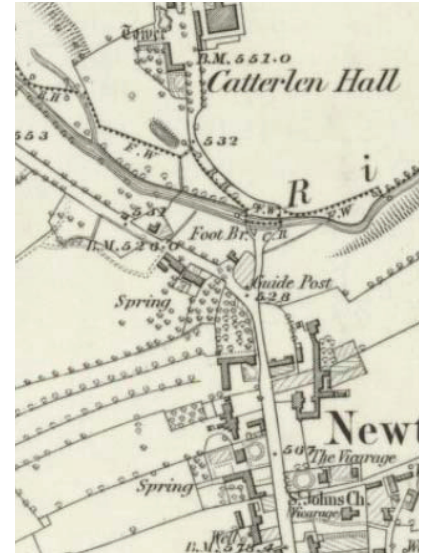


LAND ADJACENT TO BANKFOOT FARM, NEWTON REIGNY, PENRITH, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Evaluation



Client: Eddie Robson

Planning Application Ref.:
17/1095

NGR: 347725 531890 (centre)

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Non-Technical Summary

Following the submission of a planning application for the construction of four dwellings on land adjacent to Bankfoot Farm, Newton Reigny, Penrith, Cumbria, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the site, preceded by a rapid desk-based assessment.

The site is at the north end of the medieval village and maps of the area show that although the site originally comprised two fields which have since been merged into one it has remained largely unchanged since the mid-19th century and remains undeveloped. Lidar imagery showed features of possible archaeological interest within the site boundary comprising a number of earthworks perhaps representing boundaries, terraces or building platforms, which were specifically targeted by the evaluation trenches.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches and was undertaken by Greenlane Archaeology in November 2018. The same sequence of shallow deposits comprising topsoil, subsoil, and natural was encountered in each trench, with finds recovered primarily from the topsoil mainly comprising post-medieval pottery. No features of archaeological interest were encountered although a bank of subsoil containing boulders was found corresponding with one of the earthworks, and it is considered likely that they are all anthropogenic in origin. Dating the earthworks is, however, difficult due to the lack of stratified finds but they are considered likely to be the remains of cultivation terraces and so could date from the late prehistoric period onwards. They are unlikely to be later than the medieval period as they do not correspond to any features shown on the available mapping from the early 19th century onwards.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Eddie Robson for commissioning the project and providing the excavator and driver, his agent Tim Wilson at Planning Branch Ltd, who also provided the topographic survey of the site (produced by D2R Survey), and Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer (Development Control), at Cumbria Country Council (CCC), for his comments on the project. Further thanks are due to Mark Brennand, Lead Historic Environment and Commons at CCC for his comments on the project and information from the HER.

The project was carried out by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace. The illustrations were produced by Tom Mace. The finds were processed by Jo Dawson and assessed by Jo Dawson (post-medieval finds), Tom Mace (clay tobacco pipe), and Dan Elsworth (stone and ceramic building material) at Greenlane Archaeology. The project was managed by Dan Elsworth, and the report was edited by Jo Dawson.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application (ref. 17/1095) for the construction of four dwellings on land adjacent to Bankfoot Farm, Newton Reigny, Penrith, Cumbria (centred on NGR 347725 531890) a condition was placed (No. 5) on the decision notice by Eden District Council, following advice from the Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, requiring that the site be subject to an archaeological evaluation. This was to comprise a desk-based assessment and the excavation of an area totalling 110 square metres prior to the construction of the proposed new buildings on the site to assess whether any below-ground remains of archaeological interest are present. Greenlane Archaeology was subsequently appointed by Eddie Robson (hereafter 'the client'), to carry out the archaeological evaluation. In response to this Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design (*Appendix 1*) and following the acceptance of this by the Historic Environment Officer (HEO) at Cumbria County Council (CCC) the onsite work was undertaken on the 21st and 22nd November 2018.

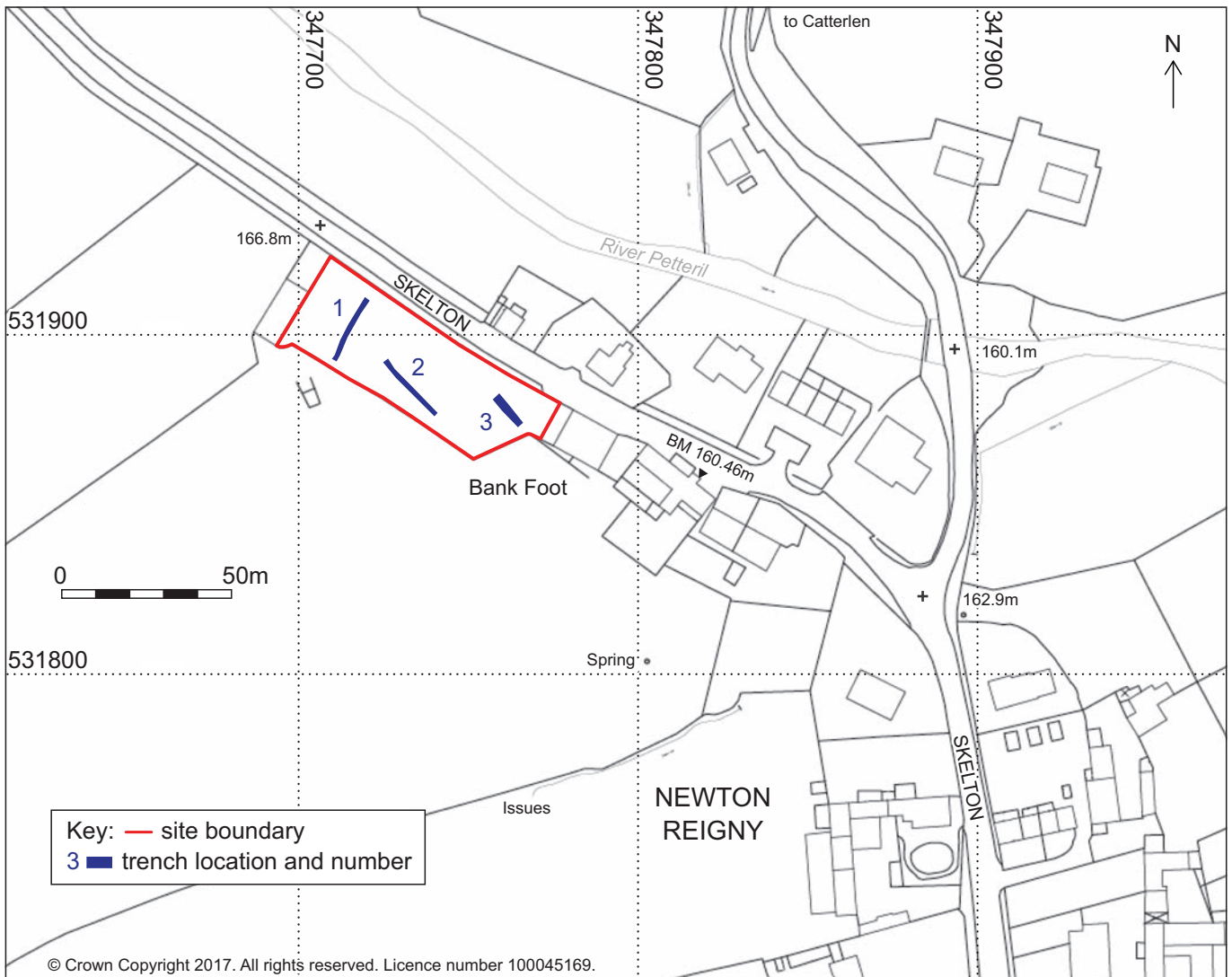
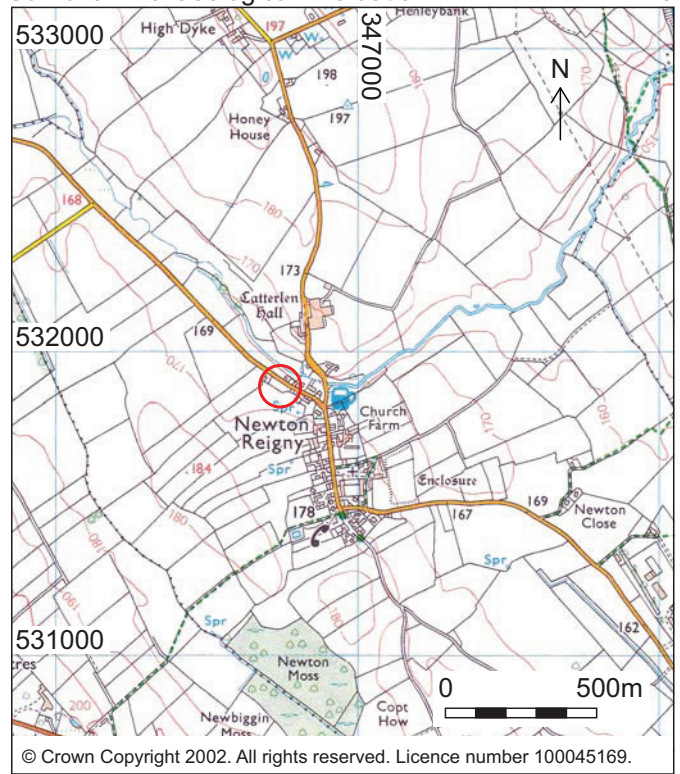
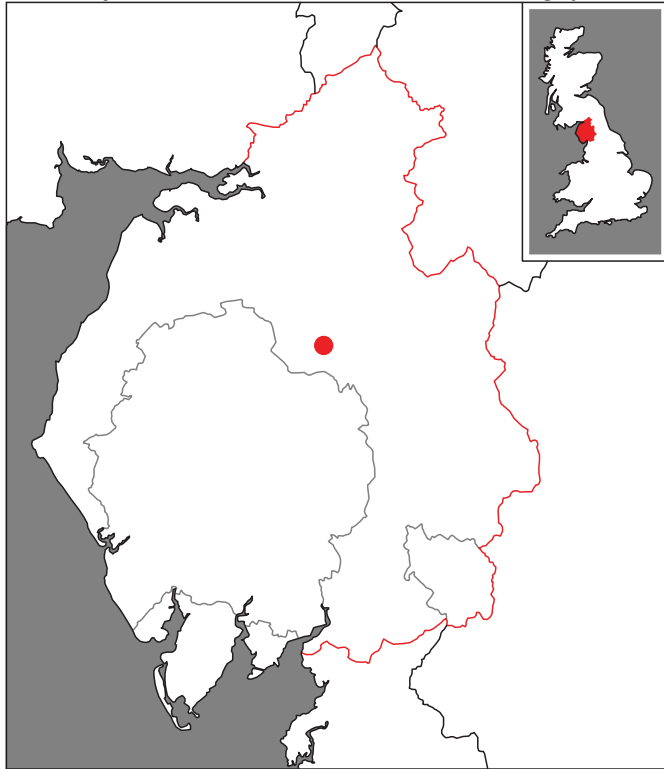
1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located to the west side of the main road at the north end of the village of Newton Reigny, approximately 4.5km north-west of the centre of Penrith in the Eden Valley, between 160m and 170m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2002; Figure 1).



Plate 1: The site viewed from the north-west prior to the evaluation

1.2.2 The solid geology of the area comprises Namurian Millstone Grit to the east edge of an area of carboniferous limestone (Moseley 1978, plate 1), typically overlain by a thick mantle of glacially-derived boulder clay and some sand and gravel (Countryside Commission 1998, 40). The landscape outside the centre of Penrith is typically dominated by improved pasture and arable land divided by narrow minor roads and tall hedgerows (Countryside Commission 1998, 38).



Client: Eddie Robson

Figure 1: Site location

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2. Methodology

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a). This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

- **Historic Environment Record:** this was consulted in order to establish whether there were any sites of known archaeological interest within the proposed development area. The closest remains were some earthworks to the north associated with Catterlen Hall.
- **Cumbria Archive Centre (Carlisle):** since the relevant maps could be obtained online and the published sources were already held in Greenlane Archaeology's library the CAC(C) was not visited;
- **Online resources:** a copy of the tithe map held in the National Archives (NA) was obtained from online resources, as were copies of relevant early Ordnance Survey maps;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** additional primary and secondary sources held in Greenlane Archaeology's library and online resources were also examined to provide information for the site background and map regression.

2.2 Archaeological Evaluation

2.2.1 The evaluation was carried out according to the standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b) and comprised the excavation of three evaluation trenches totalling almost 110m². Excavation was discontinued once the natural geology was reached, which was typically at a height of between 162.4m and 166.9m above sea level.

2.2.2 The topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. Underlying deposits were cleaned and further investigated by hand. All finds were collected from all deposits, as far as was practical. The following recording techniques were used during the evaluation:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all deposits and features (see *Appendix 2*) were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets, specifically trench record sheets;
- **Photographs:** photographs in both 35mm colour print and colour digital format (jpeg and RAW) were taken of all archaeological features uncovered during the evaluation, as well as general views of the site, the surrounding landscape, and working shots. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report and the remainder are included in the archive. A written record of all of the photographs was also made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets (Greenlane Archaeology 2007);
- **Instrument survey:** the trenches were surveyed using a Leica reflectorless total station coupled to a portable computer running AutoCAD 2018 LT and TheoLT, which captures the survey data in AutoCAD in real-time at a scale of 1:1. This enabled the location of each trench to be positioned and allowed levels above Ordnance Datum to be provided through reference to a nearby bench mark;
- **Drawings:** no features of archaeological interest suitable for producing more detailed drawings were encountered so all of the drawings were produced using the total station, although sketches were made on the trench record sheets.

2.3 Finds and Samples

2.3.1 **Collection:** all of the finds were recovered by hand and stored in self-seal bags with white write-on panels on site before being removed for processing and assessment.

2.3.2 **Processing:** artefacts were washed, naturally air-dried, and packaged appropriately in self-seal bags with white write-on panels.

2.3.3 **Assessment and recording:** the finds were assessed through visual examination, identified where possible by comparison with published examples, and a list of them was compiled (see *Appendix 3*).

2.3.4 **Environmental Samples:** no samples were collected as no suitable deposits were encountered.

2.4 Archive

2.5.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design, and current ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2014c). The paper and digital archive and a copy of this report will be deposited in the Cumbria Archive Centre in Carlisle after the completion of the project. On completion of the project a copy of this report will be provided for the client and a copy will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition a digital copy will be provided to the Historic Environment Record at Cumbria County Council, and a record of the project will be made on the OASIS scheme.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The desk-based assessment is intended to place the results of the evaluation in their local historical and archaeological context and primarily involved the examination of early maps and consultation of published histories of the area.

3.2 Map Regression

3.2.1 **Early maps:** although there are early, typically county-wide, maps that include the area, they are generally very small scale and are not included in this section as they are not detailed enough to be useful in understanding the development of the proposed development site. The most useful maps for understanding the development of the site date from the mid-19th century onwards.

3.2.2 **Tithe map 1837:** this is the earliest detailed map of the area (NA IR/29/7/129 1837). The site occupied parts of two fields, separated by a north/south field boundary close to the centre of the area (Plate 2). The field to the west is labelled 262 and the one to the east is labelled 263, details of which are recorded in the accompanying schedule (NA IR 29/7/129 1837; summarised in Table 1).

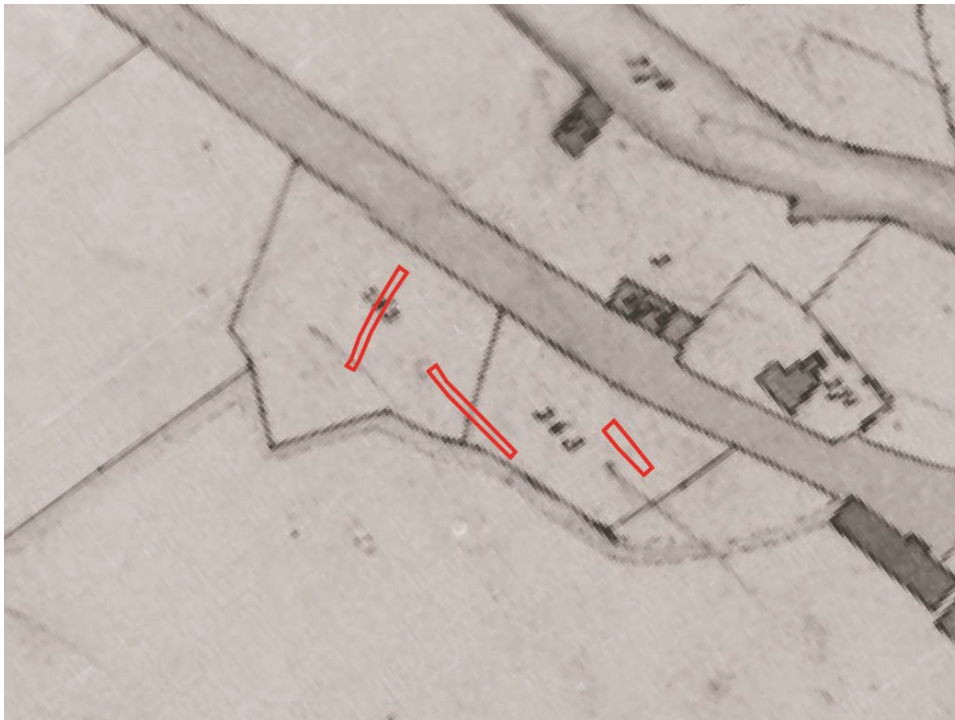


Plate 2: Extract from the tithe map of 1837, showing evaluation trench locations

Plot	Name	Owner	Occupier	Description
262	Miller Garth	Lord Lonsdale	John Brunskill	Arable
263	Bessy Garth	William Dawson	Thomas Nicholson	Pasture

Table 1: Details extracted from the tithe schedule for Dalton in Furness, 1840 (NA IR 29/7/129 1837)

3.2.3 **Ordnance Survey c1861:** this is the first edition Ordnance Survey map at a scale of 1:2,500 and it shows the site in substantially more detail than the earlier tithe map (Plate 3; cf. Plate 2); there is a path marked to the western edge of the area and a possible watercourse across the centre runs adjacent to the field boundary which is also marked on the earlier map.

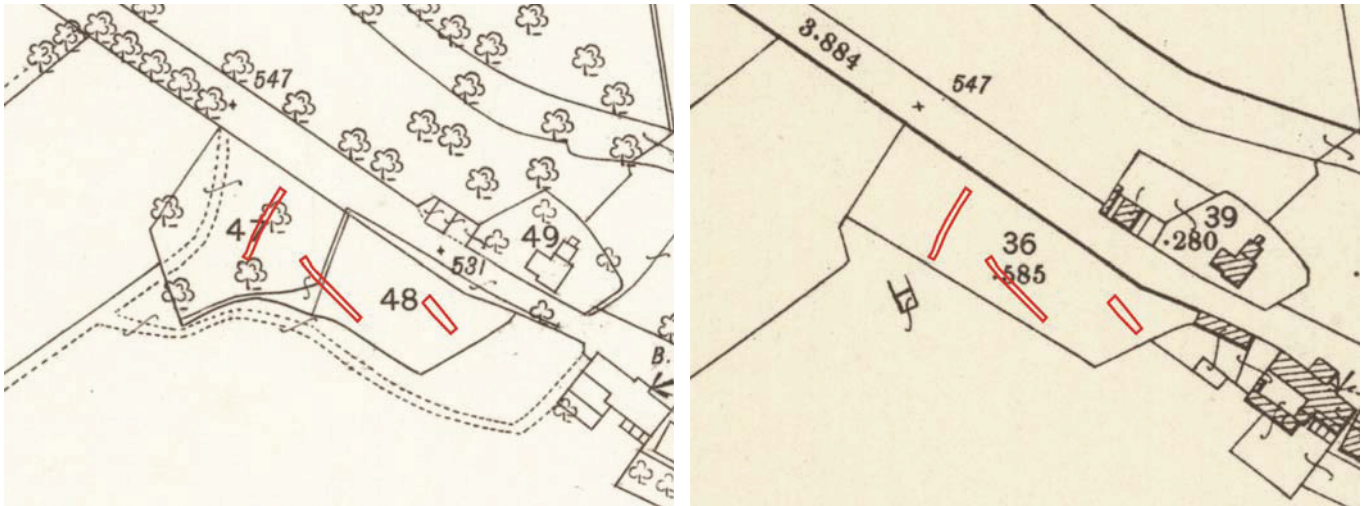


Plate 3 (left): Extract from the 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map of c1861, showing evaluation trench locations

Plate 4 (right): Extract from the 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map of 1900, showing evaluation trench locations

3.2.4 **Ordnance Survey 1900:** neither the path to the west or the possible watercourse across the centre of the area are shown on the 1900 edition of the Ordnance Survey map (Plate 4 cf. Plate 3).

3.2.5 **Ordnance Survey 1925:** the site is unchanged (Plate 5).

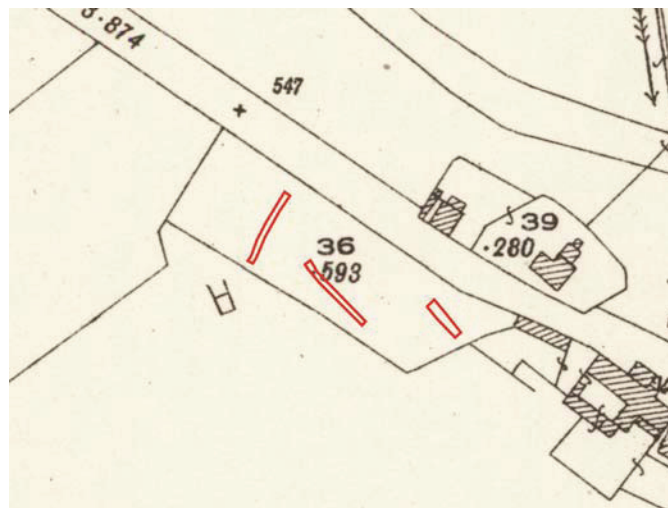


Plate 5 (left): Extract from the 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map of 1925, showing evaluation trench locations

3.3 Site History

3.3.1 **Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1st century AD):** while there is limited evidence for activity in the county in the period immediately following the last Ice Age, this is typically found in the southernmost part on the north side of Morecambe Bay. Excavations of a small number of cave sites have found artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type and the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country (Young 2002), with human remains found in one of these caves also dated to the end of this period (Smith *et al* 2013). A small group of bone harpoon points found near Crosby-on-Eden perhaps belongs to this period, in which case they would be the closest examples to the site (Hodgson 1895). The county was also clearly inhabited during the following period, the Mesolithic (c8,000 – 4,000 BC), as large numbers of artefacts of this date have been discovered during field walking and eroding from sand dunes along the coast, but these are typically concentrated in the west coast area and on the uplands around the Eden Valley (Cherry and Cherry 2002). More recent work has identified an extensive area of Mesolithic activity on the River Eden near Carlisle (Clark 2010) and field walking elsewhere on the same river has provided further evidence (Clarke *et al* 2008), perhaps demonstrating the importance

of the Eden and its tributaries. These discoveries demonstrate that river valleys, lakesides, and coastal areas are a common place for such remains to be discovered (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152) and further remains of similar date are likely to exist in the local area.

3.3.2 In the following period, the Neolithic (c4,000 – 2,500 BC), large scale monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles begin to appear in the region and one of the most recognisable tool types of this period, the polished stone axe, is found in large numbers across the county, having been manufactured at Langdale (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). Probable Neolithic remains closer to the site include the large stone circle at Gamelands near Orton, and the Shap Avenue (Clare 1978; 2007, 80-83; Barrowclough 2010, 109-110), and a timber circle that continued in use into the Bronze Age (Turnbull and Walsh 1997), and the wider area is otherwise prolific in the number of stone circles it contains (Turner 1986). During the Bronze Age (c2,500 – 600 BC) monuments, particularly those thought to be ceremonial in nature, become more common still, and it is likely that settlement sites thought to belong to the Iron Age (c600 BC – 1st century AD) have their origins in this period. These have been identified across the upland parts of Cumbria, and are defined by clearance cairns and associated boundaries present across the county (Quartermaine and Leech 2012). The majority of these sites have not seen modern excavation and so their exact dating is uncertain, but, in some cases at least, they are likely to have originated in at least the Bronze Age and continued to be occupied until the Roman period and perhaps beyond. Sites that can be specifically dated to the Iron Age are very rare and there is likely to have been a considerable overlap between the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Romano-British period; it is evident that in this part of the country, initially at least, the Roman invasion had a minimal impact on the native population in rural areas (Philpott 2006, 73-74).

3.3.3 **Romano-British to Early Medieval Period: (1st century AD – 11th century AD):** the Roman military presence in the North West is apparent from the existence of forts, which in many cases led to the formation of associated civilian settlements (*vici*), and the supply network of roads and coastal trade, as well as the incidence of Roman artefacts such as coins (Philpott 2006, 71). The Lune and Eden valleys provided a route of access to Carlisle for the Roman advance (*ibid.*, 63) and the route northwards is still apparent along the modern A6 between Carlisle and Penrith (Shotter 2004, 31), although the main routes north/south in this area are thought to have passed to the east of the site via Brougham and Old Penrith (Shotter 2004, 53). A large proportion of the identified Romano-British settlement sites in Cumbria are located to the south and east of Penrith (Philpott 2006, 75) and there are extensive field systems around the wider Eden Valley area that are likely to have been in use in this period and beyond, although they may have earlier origins (Higham and Jones 1975; 1991). The status and manner of use of the settlement sites is debatable, although the discovery of a Roman parade helmet on a supposedly 'native' site at Crosby Garrett suggests potentially close contacts with quite high status members of the Roman military (Breeze and Bishop 2013; Breeze 2018).

3.3.4 Following the cessation of Roman administration in the early fifth century the region fragmented into smaller kingdoms and it is difficult to form a coherent picture of the nature of political control. Much of what is now Cumbria probably came under the control of Rheged, a kingdom that seems likely to have extended across the border between what became England and Scotland and whose central territory may have been focussed on the nearby Lynvennet valley (Clarkson 2010, 68-78; Breeze 2012). However, by the mid-seventh century the area seems to have been securely under Northumbrian rule (Kirkby 1962, 80-81). Firmly dated archaeological evidence for the immediate post-Roman period in the county is sparse due in part to poor site visibility, which often consists of traces of rural settlements which have been heavily truncated (see discussion in Philpott 2006, 59). Furthermore, there is inevitably a great deal of uncertainty with dating settlement sites on stylistic grounds alone given the persistence of traditional styles from the Roman to the early medieval period. However, a rectangular building with earth-fast timber posts excavated at Shap has tentatively been attributed to the seventh to eighth century on the basis of loom weight fragments (Heawood and Howard-Davis 2002, 157-8). In the wider context of possible Anglian settlement at Fremington and Brougham (although again the evidence for this classification is slight), a settled rural hinterland around the foci at Dacre and Penrith is suggested for the early medieval period (*ibid.*, 168).

3.3.5 The arrival of Norse settlers between perhaps the late ninth and early 10th century had a considerable effect on the area, in particular on the local place-names (Edwards 1998, 7-8). Physical

evidence for settlement is rare, although an increasing number of burials of Norse type from both rural and urban contexts are known (see Paterson *et al* 2014; McCarthy and Paterson 2015; McCarthy *et al* 2015) with a furnished Viking burial known at Hesket-in-the-Forest, north of Penrith perhaps the closest to the site (Edwards 1998, 10-12). Several complete and fragmentary 'Viking Age' (late ninth and early 10th century) silver brooches have also been found in the Penrith area, most notably on Flusco Pike, three miles to the west of Penrith (Edwards 1998, 33-36; Richardson 1996). Place-name evidence indicates that there was a complicated mixture of people settled in the area that is now Cumbria, and within the local area containing examples primarily of Old English and Norse origin (Armstrong *et al* 1950). Politically the area remained very mixed though, with a considerable resurgence in the 'British' population during the 9th and 10th century due to the expansion of Strathclyde southward from its base in what is now south-west Scotland, although the exact area that they directly controlled is debated (see Elsworth 2018).

3.3.6 Medieval Period (11th century AD – 16th century AD): the medieval period in general in Cumbria was one of considerable initial growth, followed by serious decline in the 14th century as a result of the combined effects of Scottish raids and disease in both people and animals (Winchester 1987, 46-47). A settlement at Newton Reigny is first recorded in the late 12th century, although the element 'newton' suggests it was a newly created settlement some time before this date (Armstrong *et al* 1950, 227-228). A manor of Newton Reigny, named after the Reigny family who held it, is recorded from at least the 12th century (Winchester 2016, 232). The core of the village is located to the south of the site, although Catterlen Hall, a peel tower considered to date to c1460 (Curwen 1907), is a short distance to the north, although this was more likely associated with the village and manor of the same name, which formed a township within the parish of Newton Reginy (Winchester 2016, 92). The evidence of the tithe map indicates that the site originally comprised two small fields denoted by the term 'garth', which derives from a Norse word *garðr* meaning enclosure (Armstrong 1952 *et al*, 474). The Lidar data shows a number of earthworks to the south of the site that perhaps relate to the remains of the medieval village of Newton Reigny (HER No. 6767), and there are more recorded to the north associated with Catterlen Hall (HER No. 6766) and a possible moated site of medieval date to the south-east of Newton Reigny (HER No. 2924).

3.3.7 Post-medieval Period (16th century AD – present): by the end of the medieval period there was a gradual economic improvement across the region (Winchester 1987, 48). In general it was not until the beginning of the post-medieval period that rural areas such as this began to see any substantial new development as the population began to rise and demand for land and the need for new housing saw a considerable amount of building (Pearsall and Pennington 1989, 256). This continued to increase throughout the Industrial Revolution, although rural areas were perhaps less noticeably affected by this and Newton Reigny continues to be economically dominated by agriculture with a relatively static population throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries (Winchester 2016, 232).

3.4 Lidar

3.4.1 Lidar data is freely available for the area (Plate 6). Three features were identified as being of possible archaeological interest within the site boundary: an east/west aligned feature close to the north-west of the centre of the site, a sweeping curved earthwork, which continues across the centre of the area from the field to the south, and a rectangular feature of a similar size and shape to some of the nearby buildings at Bank Foot Farm in the south-east corner.



Plate 6: Lidar image of the site (houseprices.io 2018),

3.5 Conclusion

3.5.1 Maps show that the site changed very little until the very end of the 19th century, when what was originally two fields was combined into one. Lidar imagery shows a number of earthwork features of potential archaeological interest within the proposed development site, which do not correspond to anything in the early mapping.

3.5.2 The history of the local landscape demonstrates that there is evidence for occupation in the wider region dating back to the end of the last Ice Age, but more locally it is dominated by activity between the Neolithic and Roman periods. The village of Newton Reigny is at least medieval in origin, although its name suggests it was a 'new' creation some time before the 12th century.

4. Fieldwork Results

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 This very undulating trench was shifted to the north-west of its proposed location to avoid clipping the existing stone spring head and trough. It was orientated north-east/south-west and measured c21m long by 1.7m wide. The silty-clay topsoil (**100**) was between 0.10m and 0.20m thick on top of an orange sandy-clay subsoil (**101**). There was a darker patch with charcoal in it across the trench between c3m and 7m from the north-east end corresponding to a wet patch caused by ground water, which filled a small part of the north-east end of the trench. The subsoil (**101**) was up to c0.10m thick but not very evident at the north-east end of the trench. The underlying natural (**102**) was a firm pinkish orange sandy-clay (Plate 7 and Plate 8).



Plate 7 (left): Trench 1 viewed from the south-west



Plate 8 (right): Trench 1 viewed from the north-east

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 This trench was moved to the south of the proposed trench location due to the steepness of the slope and wet ground along the north-east edge of the site. It was aligned north-east/south-west and was c23m long and 1.7m wide. The soft, silty-clay topsoil (**200**) was 0.10m to 0.15m thick. Below that was a similarly thick layer of orangey-brown sandy-clay subsoil (**201**) on top of the reddish-orange natural (**202**) (Plate 9 and Plate 10).



Plate 9 (left): Trench 2 from the north-west

Plate 10 (right): Trench 2 from the south-east

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 This trench was widened and shortened relative to the proposed trench due to the wet ground along the north-east edge of the site. It was c2.7m wide and 12m long and orientated north-west/south-east. The silty-clay topsoil (**300**) was 0.10m to 0.15m thick above the orangey-brown silty-clay subsoil with frequent flecks of charcoal (**301**) and reddish-orange sandy-clay natural (**303**) (Plate 11 and Plate 12). There was a row of rounded boulders at the north-west end on top of a slightly raised bank of subsoil (**302**) (Plate 13 and Plate 14), which corresponded to the earthwork visible immediately to the north-east. Generally, the subsoil was 0.20m to 0.30m thick, being slightly thicker to the south-east of the 'bank'.



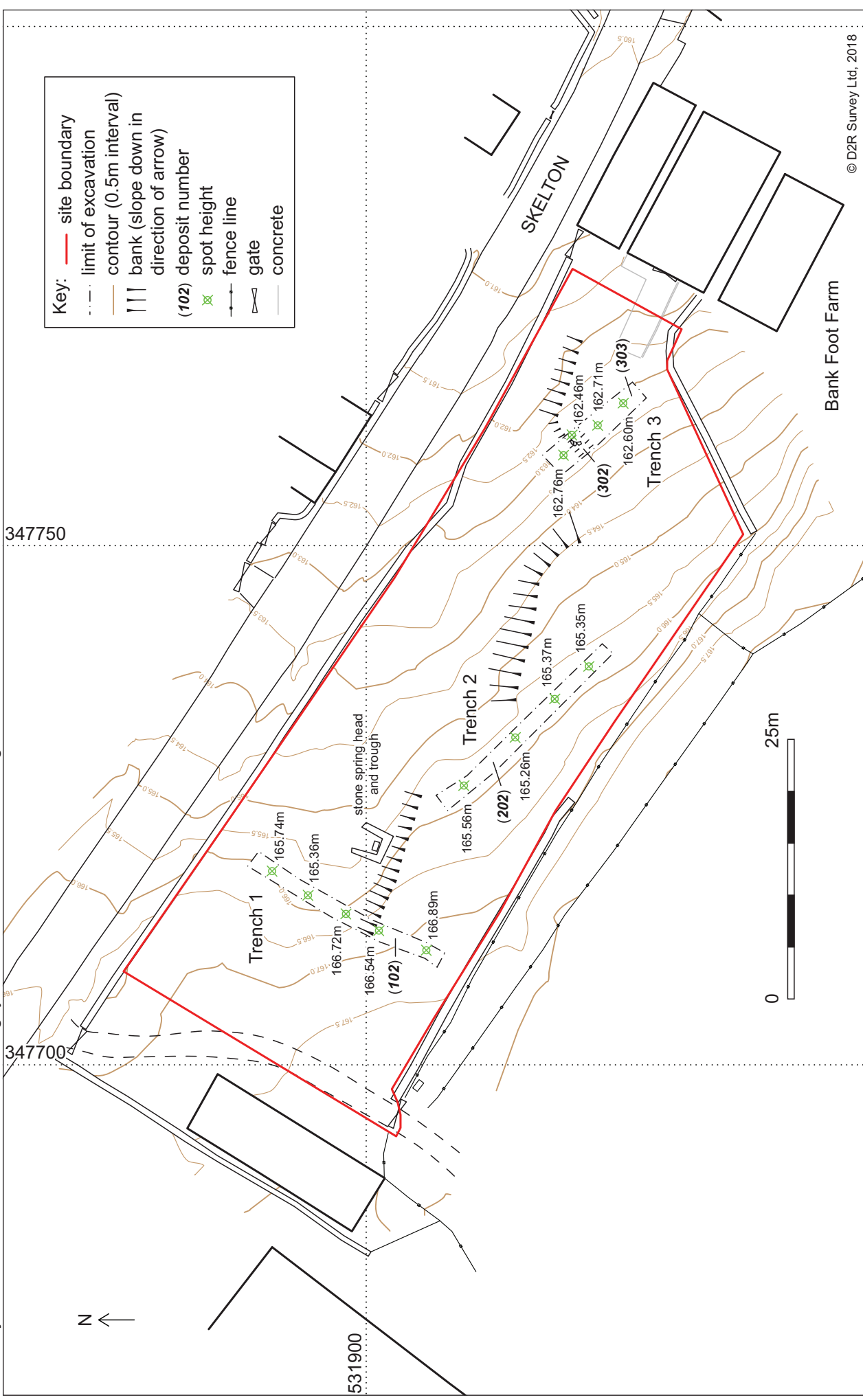
Plate 11 (left): Trench 3 from the south-east
Plate 12 (right): Trench 3 from the north-west



Plate 13: Stony 'bank' (302) viewed from the north



Plate 14: Trench 3 section in area of 'bank' (302), viewed from the south-west



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Figure 2: Site plan

Client: Eddie Robson

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4.3 Finds

4.3.1 **Introduction:** in total, 31 finds were recovered by hand during the evaluation, the majority comprising pieces of post-medieval pottery recovered from topsoil deposits **100**, **200**, and **300**. All of the finds are post-medieval in date, and a list of the finds is presented in *Appendix 3*.

4.3.2 **Pottery:** a total of 25 fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered during the evaluation. They all appeared to be domestic in nature, with the earliest fineware fabric present being white salt-glazed stoneware, dated to the late 17th to 18th century. Vessel types included utilitarian (probable crocks and dishes in brown-glazed or black-glazed red earthenware) and tableware (dinnerware such as blue shell edge plates, and teaware/breakfastware such as Broseley transfer-printed base fragment). Some of the pottery is illustrated in Plates 15 to 18.

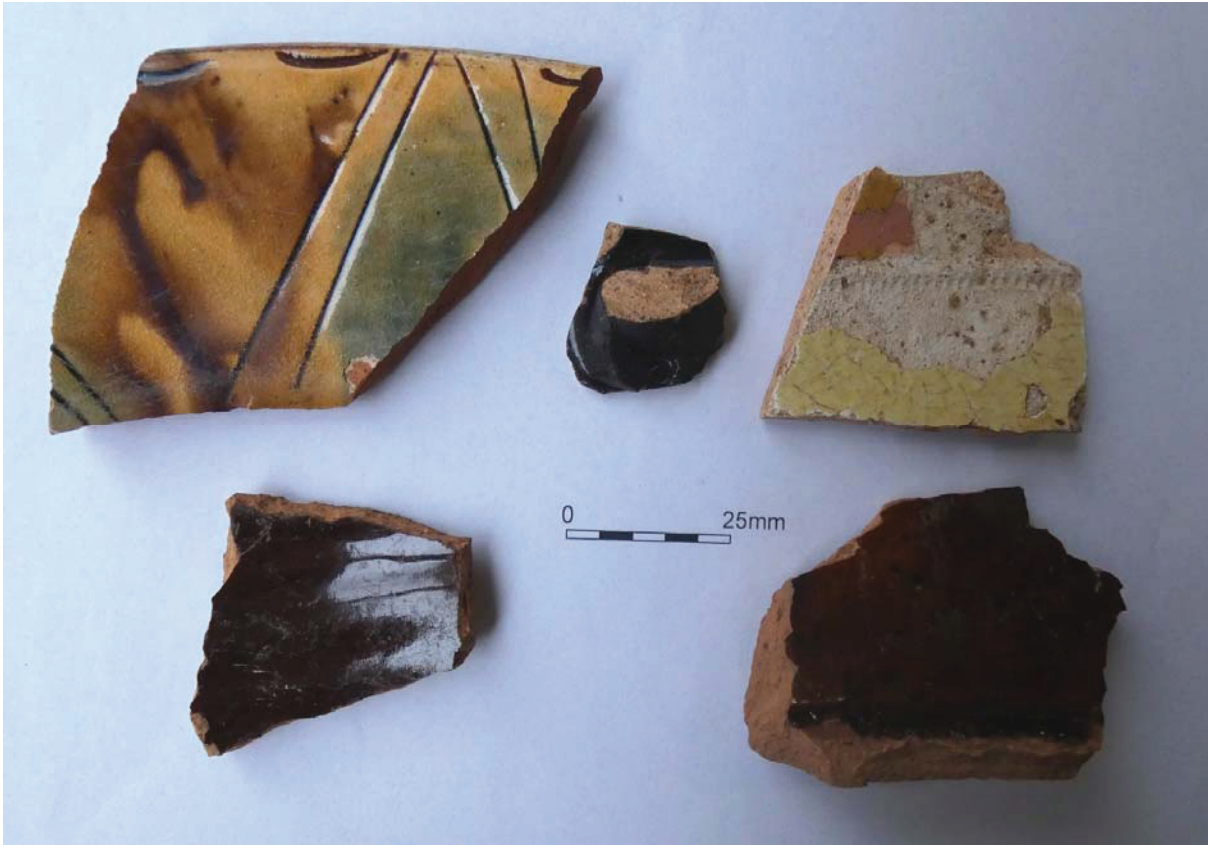


Plate 15: Glazed earthenware from topsoil **100**. Top row left to right: dish rim with incised line decoration; red slip-coated cup/mug handle terminal; press-moulded dish with white slip coating and coloured slip within relief-moulded lines. Bottom row: hollow-ware body and base fragments



Plate 16: White salt-glazed stoneware from topsoil **100**. Left to right: saucer rim, iron-dipped mug rim, and hollow-ware body fragment



Plate 17: Pearlware from topsoil 300. Left to right: blue shell edge plate rims, and Common Cable carinated bowl body



Plate 18: Pearlware from topsoil 300, showing both sides of fragments. Left: rim from unusual Chinoiserie patterned transfer-printed cup (?). Right: Broseley transfer-printed base fragment with impressed maker's mark in the form of a crown

4.3.3 **Ceramic building material:** a single fragment of ceramic drainage tile was recovered from Trench 2 (**200**). It is impossible to be certain of its complete form but it was clearly either circular or U-shaped in section. Such tiles were in widespread use throughout the region from the 1830s until the early 20th century when there was a general movement at improving agricultural land (Davis and Davis 2013).

4.3.4 **Glass:** a single fragment of glass was recovered during the evaluation, from a green bottle of 18th to early 19th century date.

4.3.5 **Clay tobacco pipe:** the assemblage is very small, one plain stem fragment was recovered from **200** and one from **300**, so it is difficult to make chronological judgments with any degree of confidence in terms of stem-bore analysis, yet the fairly narrow boreholes (5/64" and 6/64") would be consistent with an 18th to 19th century date (after Davey 2013).

4.3.6 **Animal bone:** an unidentified long bone fragment, possibly from a cattle-sized animal, was recovered from **100**. There were no butchery marks on this small fragment. It was unburnt and did not appear to have been gnawed.

4.3.7 **Stone:** a single piece of haematite worn to a blade-like edge at one side and snapped off at the other was recovered from the 'bank' in Trench 3 (**302**). While a naturally occurring stone it is not local to the area, haematite typically being found on the west coast of Cumbria and in Furness. It was, however, used as 'ruddle' to mark sheep (Rollinson 1997, 135) and so was presumably transported to other areas for this purpose.

4.3.8 **Discussion:** the small assemblage of finds includes pottery fragments that are of interest in their own right, as examples of items in use in the local area at the time. It is possible that some of these may be identified further at a future date, if included with other similar finds from other sites in a suitable journal.

5. Discussion

5.1 Results

5.1.1 The same general sequence of deposits was encountered in each trench, with just a shallow topsoil overlying the underlying subsoil and natural. The topsoil in each trench (**100**, **200**, and **300**) was consistently 0.10m to 0.20m and comprised soft orange/grey/brown silty-clay with 5-10% rounded gravel and cobbles. The subsoil (**101**, **201**, and **301**) was usually an orangey-brown sandy-clay with 2-10% rounded gravel, varying in thickness across the site from 0.10m to 0.30m thick. The natural (**102**, **202**, and **303**) across the area was a firm pinkish/reddish-orange sandy-clay with 30-50% rounded gravel and cobbles. No features of archaeological interest were encountered, with the exception of the bank of material in Trench 3 (**302**), which was broadly similar to the subsoil **301** but contained large boulders not generally seen elsewhere on site.

5.1.2 The majority of the finds recovered from the topsoil were relatively late in date and represent typical rubbish and casual losses of the post-medieval period. However, it is noticeable that many are relatively early within this period and of high quality reflecting the relative wealth of the local population. Some unusual forms are also present, including a possibly unrecorded Chinoiserie transfer printed cup rim and a dish rim with incised decoration.

5.1.3 The evaluation was not able to date the earthworks visible on site and in the Lidar data, although they presumably pre-date the post-medieval period because they do not correspond to any of the boundary features shown in the early mapping and due to the presence of only post-medieval finds in the topsoil. They are, however, likely to be anthropogenic in origin, especially given the evidence in Trench 3, and most probably derive from cultivation of the land forming small terraces, with the larger boulders forming part of **302** cast to the edge as a result of this. In the absence of direct dating evidence they are difficult to assess in more detail, but they could have been formed as early as the late prehistoric period, with terraces of broadly this type (albeit typically much larger) recorded in many parts of the local area (High and Jones 1975; 1991).

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 While it is apparent that a settlement at Newton Reigny existed from at least the medieval period and that there are earthworks of uncertain date and origin present, the evaluation did not reveal any evidence for activity at the site before the early post-medieval period. This is in part likely to be due to the difficulty of dating such earthworks and the general absence of finds from such features. Nevertheless, the evaluation did allow the opportunity for these to be recorded in more detail for future reference.

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Appendix 1: Project Design

LAND ADJACENT TO BANKFOOT FARM, NEWTON REIGNY, PENRITH, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Evaluation Project Design



Client: Eddie Robson

NGR: 347725 531890 (centre)

Planning Application Ref: 17/1095

November 2018

Client: Eddie Robson

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application (Ref. 17/1095) for the construction of four dwellings on land adjacent to Bankfoot Farm, Newton Reigny, Penrith, Cumbria (centred on NGR 347725 531890) a condition was placed on the decision notice by Eden District Council, following advice from the Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, requiring that the site be subject to an archaeological evaluation. This was to comprise the excavation of an area totalling 110 square metres, prior to the construction of the proposed new buildings on the site. Greenlane Archaeology was appointed by Eddie Robson (hereafter 'the client') to carry out the archaeological evaluation and this project design was produced in response.

1.1.2 The site is located in the edge of the village of Newton Reigny, which is of medieval origin, first recorded in the late 12th century, although the element 'newton' suggests it was a newly created settlement some time before this date (Armstrong *et al* 1950, 227-228).

1.2 Greenlane Archaeology

1.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology is a private limited company based in Ulverston, Cumbria, and was established in 2005 (Company No. 05580819). Its directors, Jo Dawson and Daniel Elsworth, have a combined total of over 30 years continuous professional experience working in commercial archaeology, principally in the north of England and Scotland. Greenlane Archaeology is committed to a high standard of work, and abides by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct. The various elements of the project will be carried out according to the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a-c).

1.3 Project Staffing

1.3.1 The project will be managed by **Dan Elsworth (MA (Hons), ACIfA)**, who will also supervise the evaluation with appropriately experienced assistance. Daniel graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1998 with an honours degree in Archaeology, and began working for the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, which became Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in 2001. Daniel ultimately became a project officer, and for over six and a half years worked on excavations and surveys, building investigations, desk-based assessments, and conservation and management plans. These have principally taken place in the North West, and Daniel has a particular interest in the archaeology of the area. He has managed a large number of recent projects in the North of England, primarily Cumbria and Lancashire, including several archaeological building recordings, ranging from small-scale domestic properties to large industrial complexes. He has also managed numerous archaeological evaluations and excavations over the last 12 years, including large industrial complexes, medieval urban areas, and prehistoric cremation burials.

1.3.2 All artefacts will be processed by staff at Greenlane Archaeology, and it is envisaged that they will initially be assessed by Jo Dawson, who will fully assess any of post-medieval date, and Tom Mace, who will fully assess any medieval pottery. Other types of finds will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate, for example Roman pottery would be examined by Ruth Leary, and substantial or complex amounts of animal bones by Naomi Sewpaul.

1.3.3 Environmental samples, and faunal or human remains will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology. It is envisaged that the flots from any environmental samples would be assessed by staff at Headland Archaeology, Other remains, such as industrial material, will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate.

2. Objectives

2.1 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 To examine early maps of the site and any other relevant primary and secondary sources in order to better understand the site, and set it in its historic context.

2.2 Archaeological Evaluation

2.2.1 To excavate evaluation trenches totalling 110 square metres across the site, in order to identify the presence of any archaeological deposits, features, and structures on the site and establish their form, function, and date where possible.

2.3 Report

2.3.1 To produce a report detailing the results of the evaluation, which will outline the form and date of any archaeological features encountered.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the project.

3. Methodology

3.1 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

3.1.1 A rapid examination of easily available sources, particularly maps, relating to the site will be carried out. These will include:

- **Cumbria Archive Centre (Carlisle):** the majority of original and secondary sources relating to the site are deposited in the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle. Of principal importance are early maps of the site, particularly Ordnance Survey maps but also the Tithe Map, but other relevant primary sources such as the census, taxation records, parish registers, wills, deeds and other documents will also be consulted. In addition relevant secondary sources will also be consulted and all of this information will be utilised to better understand the historical and archaeological development of the site and set it in context;
- **Cumbria Historic Environment Record:** this is a list of all of the recorded sites of archaeological interest recorded in the county, and is the primary source of information for a study of this kind. Each site is recorded with any relevant references, a brief description and location related to the National Grid. The HER will be consulted and relevant information relating to any sites in close proximity to or within the proposed development area. In addition, relevant secondary sources, particularly previous archaeological investigations in the immediate area and aerial photographs, will also be examined;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** a number of copies of maps and local histories are held by Greenlane Archaeology. These will be consulted in order to provide information about the site.

3.2 Archaeological Evaluation

3.2.1 It is anticipated that three evaluation trenches each c22m long by 1.7m wide (a standard excavator bucket width) will be excavated. The evaluation methodology, which is based on Greenlane Archaeology's excavation manual (Greenlane Archaeology 2007), will be as follows:

- The trenches will be excavated with regard to the position of any known constraints, focussing on the areas of high archaeological interest or potential, and avoiding areas which are likely to have been severely damaged or truncated by later activity, unless they are considered to have a high potential;
- The overburden, which is unlikely to be of any archaeological significance, will be removed by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist until the first deposit beneath it is reached;
- All deposits below the overburden will be examined by hand in a stratigraphic manner, using shovels, mattocks, or trowels as appropriate for the scale. Deposits will only be sampled, rather than completely removed, below the first identified level of archaeological interest, unless specified by CCCHES, with the intension of preserving as much *in situ* as possible;
- The position of any features, such as ditches, pits, or walls, will be recorded and where necessary these will be investigated in order to establish their full extent, date, and relationship to any other features. Negative features such as ditches or pits will be examined by sample excavation, typically half of a pit or similar feature and approximately 10% of a linear feature;
- All recording of features will include hand-drawn plans and sections, typically at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10, respectively, and photographs in colour digital and 35mm colour print format;
- All deposits, trenches, drawings and photographs will be recorded on Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- All finds will be recovered during the evaluation for further assessment as far as is practically and safely possible. Should significant quantities of finds be encountered an appropriate sampling strategy will be devised;

- All faunal remains will also be recovered by hand during the evaluation, but where it is considered likely that there is potential for the bones of fish or small mammals to be present appropriate volumes of samples will be taken for sieving;
- Deposits that are considered likely to have, for example, preserved environmental remains, industrial residues, and/or material suitable for scientific dating will be sampled. Bulk samples of between 20 and 60 litres in volume (or 100% of smaller features), depending on the size and potential of the deposit, will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (e.g. gullies, pits and ditches) and occupation deposits such as hearths and floors. An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of samples of suitable deposits by specialist sub-contractors (see *Section 1.3.3* above), who will examine the potential for further analysis. All samples will be processed using methods appropriate to the preservation conditions and the remains present;
- Any human remains discovered during the evaluation will be left *in situ*, and, if possible, covered. The CCCHES will be immediately informed as will the local coroner. Should it be considered necessary to remove the remains this will be carried out under the guidance of the local coroner, and a licence obtained from the Ministry of Justice, under Section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857;
- Any objects defined as 'treasure' by the Treasure Act of 1996 (HMSO 1996) will be immediately reported to the local coroner and securely stored off-site, or covered and protected on site if immediate removal is not possible;
- The evaluation trenches will be backfilled following excavation although it is not envisaged that any further reinstatement to its original condition will be carried out.

3.2.2 Should any significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the evaluation these will immediately be brought to the attention of the Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) so that the need for further work can be confirmed. Any additional work will be carried out following discussion with the CCCHES and subject to a new project design, and the ensuing costs will be agreed with the client.

3.3 Report

3.3.2 The results of the evaluation will be compiled into a report, which will provide a summary and details of any sources consulted. It will include the following sections:

- A front cover including the appropriate national grid reference (NGR);
- A concise non-technical summary of results, including the date the project was undertaken and by whom;
- Acknowledgements;
- Project Background;
- Methodology, including a description of the work undertaken;
- Results of the rapid desk-based assessment;
- Results of the evaluation, including finds and samples;
- Discussion of the results including phasing information;
- Bibliography;
- Illustrations at appropriate scales including:
 - a site location plan related to the national grid;
 - a plan showing the location of the evaluation trenches in relation to nearby structures and the local landscape, and the features revealed during the geophysical survey;
 - plans and sections of any features discovered during the evaluation;
 - photographs of any features encountered during the evaluation and general shots of the evaluation trenches;
 - extracts from historic mapping.

3.4 Archive

3.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the evaluation trenches, formed during the project, will be stored by Greenlane Archaeology until it is completed. Upon completion it will be deposited with the Cumbria Archive Centre in Carlisle, together with a copy of the report. The archive will be compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the ClfA (ClfA 2014c). In addition details will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public.

3.4.2 A paper and digital copy of the report will be provided to the client and a digital copy of the report will be provided to the Cumbria Historic Environment Record. In addition, Greenlane Archaeology Ltd will retain one copy.

3.4.3 The client will be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to a suitable museum. Any finds recovered during the evaluation will be offered to an appropriate museum, most likely Tullie House museum in Carlisle. If no suitable repository can be found the finds may have to be discarded, and in this case as full a record as possible would be made of them beforehand.

4. Work timetable

4.1 Greenlane Archaeology will be available to commence the project from **15th November 2018**, or at another date convenient to the client. It is envisaged that the elements of the project will be carried out in the following order:

- **Task 1:** rapid desk-based assessment;
- **Task 2:** archaeological evaluation;
- **Task 3:** processing and assessment of finds and samples;
- **Task 4:** production of draft report including illustrations;
- **Task 5:** feedback on draft report, editing and production of final report;
- **Task 6:** finalisation and deposition of archive.

5. Other matters

5.1 Access and clearance

5.1.1 Access to the site will be organised through co-ordination with the client and/or their agent(s).

5.2 Health and Safety

5.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology carries out risk assessments for all of its projects and abides by its internal health and safety policy and relevant legislation. Health and safety is always the foremost consideration in any decision-making process.

5.3 Insurance

5.3.1 Greenlane Archaeology has professional indemnity insurance to the value of **£1,000,000**. Details of this can be supplied if requested.

5.4 Environmental and Ethical Policy

5.4.1 Greenlane Archaeology has a strong commitment to environmentally and ethically sound working practices. Its office is supplied with 100% renewable energy by Good Energy, uses ethical telephone and internet services supplied by the Phone Co-op. In addition, the company uses the services of The Co-operative Bank for ethical banking, Naturesave for environmentally-conscious insurance, and utilises public transport wherever possible. Greenlane Archaeology is also committed to using local businesses for services and materials, thus benefiting the local economy, reducing unnecessary transportation, and improving the sustainability of small and rural businesses.

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Appendix 2: Summary Context List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Deposit	0.1-0.2m thick, mid orangey-grey soft silty-clay, with 5% rounded cobbles and some flags; there was a darker area with lots of charcoal towards the north-east end corresponding to a wet patch	Topsoil
101	Deposit	0.1m thick, firm, mid orange sandy-clay, not really evident at the north-east end of the trench, with 2% rounded gravel inclusions	Subsoil
102	Deposit	Firm pinkish orange sandy-clay with 50% rounded gravel and 10% rounded cobble inclusions	Natural
200	Deposit	0.1-0.15m thick, soft, mid brownish-orange silty-clay, with 10% rounded gravel inclusions	Topsoil
201	Deposit	0.1-0.15m thick firm orangey-brown sandy-clay, with 5% rounded gravel inclusions	Subsoil
202	Deposit	Firm, mid reddish-orange sandy-clay, with 30% rounded cobbles	Natural
300	Deposit	0.1-0.15m thick, soft, mid greyish-brown silty-clay, with 10% rounded cobbles	Topsoil
301	Deposit	Mid orangey-brown, firm silty-clay, with 10% rounded gravel; 0.2m thick to north-west of 302 and up to 0.3m thick to the south-east	Subsoil
302	Deposit	Row of rounded boulders and other rounded stones on a slightly raised bank of natural; it was revealed to be just a bank of subsoil in section	Stony bank of subsoil
303	Deposit	Firm reddish orange sandy-clay with 30% rounded gravel	Natural

Appendix 3: Summary Finds List

Context	Type	Qty	Description	Date range
100	Pottery	7	Glazed light orange/buff earthenware: four refitting fragments from hollow-ware base with brown-glazed interior; brown-glazed hollow-ware body fragment; press-moulded dish body fragment with decoration in relief, with white slip coating and pinkish orange slip decoration within relief-moulded line; red slip-coated cup/mug body with lower handle terminal	Late 17 th - early 18 th century
100	Pottery	1	Brown-glazed red earthenware dish/plate rim with white slip coating, with incised line decoration revealing the brown below the slip coating, and green and brown decoration in the glaze	Late 17 th - early 20 th century
100	Pottery	3	White salt-glazed stoneware: saucer rim, hollow-ware body fragment, and mug rim with iron-dipped rim	Late 17 th - early 18 th century
100	Pottery	1	Creamware hollow-ware body fragment from mug or similar	Mid - late 18 th century
100	Pottery	1	White earthenware plate (?) base fragment with blue transfer-printed pattern	19 th - early 20 th century
100	Glass	1	Green bottle body base fragment	18 th – early 19 th century
100	Animal bone	1	Long bone fragment from large mammal	Not closely dateable
200	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware dish (?) base	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
200	Pottery	4	White earthenware: Willow transfer-printed base fragment, two rim fragments from same saucer with black transfer-printed floral pattern and blue flown into the glaze, and plain hollow-ware fragment	19 th century
200	Clay tobacco pipe	1	Plain stem fragment, 59mm long, with a slightly oval-shaped section (6.5mm-8.0mm) and fairly central 5/64" diameter borehole	Probably 19 th century
200	Ceramic building material	1	Red earthenware ridge tile or drain pipe fragment	Mid-19 th to early 20 th century
300	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware coarseware strap handle fragment	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
300	Pottery	1	Creamware (?) plain base fragment	Mid – late 18 th century?
300	Pottery	5	Pearlware: two blue shell edge plate rim fragments, of which one is fire damaged; Broseley (?) transfer-printed very thin base fragment with impressed maker's mark on underside apparently in the form of a crown; blue Chinoiserie transfer-printed cup (?) rim in an unusual pattern, with the border most similar to that shown Copeland 1980, 127 fig 7; and Common Cable factory-produced slipware carinated bowl body fragment	Late 18 th – early 19 th century
300	Clay tobacco pipe	1	Plain stem fragment, 24mm long, with a slightly oval-shaped section (4.5mm-5.5mm) and fairly central 6/64" diameter borehole	18 th to 19 th century
302	Stone	1	Lump of haematite worn to a 'blade' at one end and broken at the other	Not closely dateable